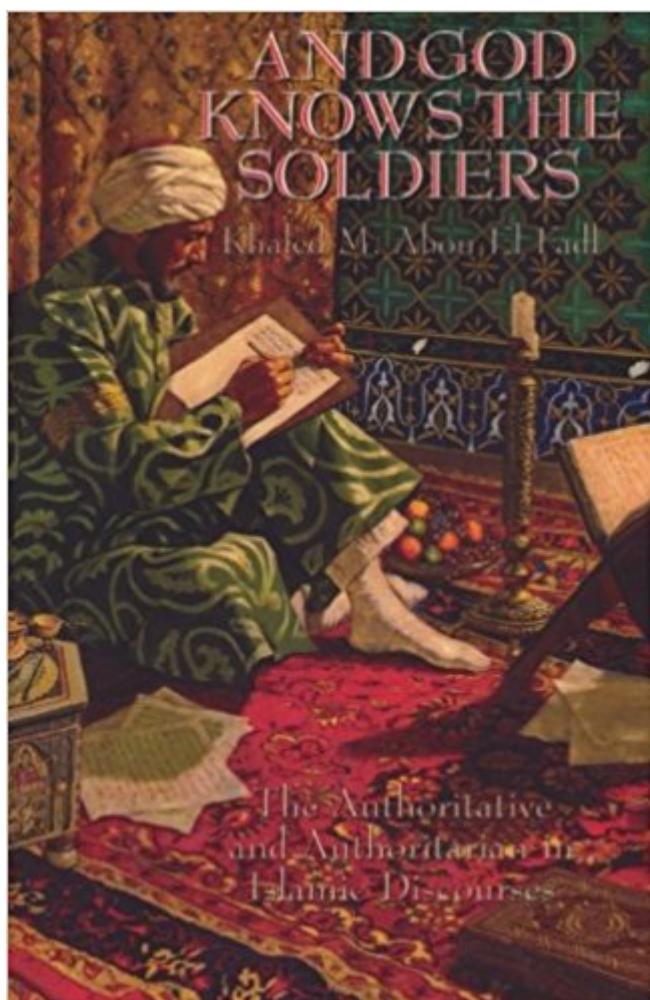


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# And God Knows The Soldiers: The Authoritative And Authoritarian In Islamic Discourses



## **Synopsis**

This is a substantially expanded edition of the author's seminal work *The Authoritative and Authoritarian in Islamic Discourses: A Contemporary Case Study*. Beginning with the case study of a Muslim basketball player who refused to stand up while the American national anthem was playing, the author documents the disintegration of the Islamic juristic tradition, and the prevalence of authoritarianism in contemporary Muslim discourses. The author analyzes the rise of what he describes as puritan and despotic trends in modern Islam, and asserts that such trends nullify the richness and diversity of the Islamic tradition. By declaring themselves the true soldiers of God and the defenders of religion, Muslim puritan movements are able to degrade women, eradicate critical thinking, and empty Islam of its moral content. In effect, the author argues, the self-declared protectors of Islam become its despots and oppressors who suppress the dynamism and vigor of the Islamic message. Anchoring himself in the rich Islamic jurisprudential tradition, the author argues for upholding the authoritativeness of the religious text without succumbing to authoritarian methodologies of interpretation. Ultimately, the author asserts that in order to respect the integrity of the Divine laws it is necessary to adopt rigorous analytical methodologies of interpretation, and to re-investigate the place of morality in modern Islam.

## **Book Information**

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This short, brilliant, and timely book distinguishes between the authoritative and authoritarian in Islamic discourses. . . a brilliant use of the traditions of Islamic jurisprudence in arguing for an anti-authoritarian and anti-elitist position in Islamic hermeneutics. . . Extensive footnotes and bibliography; HIGHLY RECOMMENDED for upper-division undergraduates and above. (L.H.

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Khaled M. Abou El Fadl is Professor of Law at UCLA School of Law where he teaches Islamic Law, Immigration, Human Rights, Terrorism, and National Security Law.

Great book which helped me to open and widen my horizons and also break off limiting bonds imposed on me.

Dr. Khaled Abu El Fadl is brilliant, Mashallah. I read everything of his that I can get my hands on. He possesses an amazing clarity of thought and the ability to explain his ideas to readers in a straight forward and logical way. He supports his arguments with concise explanations, and gives copious citations and footnotes which show that he really knows where he is coming from and what he is talking about. "And God Knows the Soldiers" is a much needed look at how the modern puritanical movement in Islam (Wahhabism and its offshoots)has usurped authority and has blatantly ignored much of the rich discourse from the history of Islamic thought, especially in terms of jurisprudence. Dr. Abu El Fadl intelligently and respectfully attacks the methods used by the contemporary self-appointed authorities, and shows how they are used deviously to homogenize Islam and Muslims, mostly to the detriment of women, but also at the expense of basic moral values. After reading Dr. Abu El Fadl's works, especially this one, I feel that I have a revived love for the Islamic tradition and a deeper understanding of the message of the Quran and of the actions and behavior of our Beloved Prophet (saw).If you care about the state of Islam and Muslims in the world today, you must read this book.

Dr. Abou El Fadl's books are all great. This one is a bit like "The Great Theft". He talks about moderate Islam as being true Islam, and takes on the extremists with much knowledge. Alhamdulillah!!!!

A brilliant analysis of contemporary muslim discourses on islamic law and morality.

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