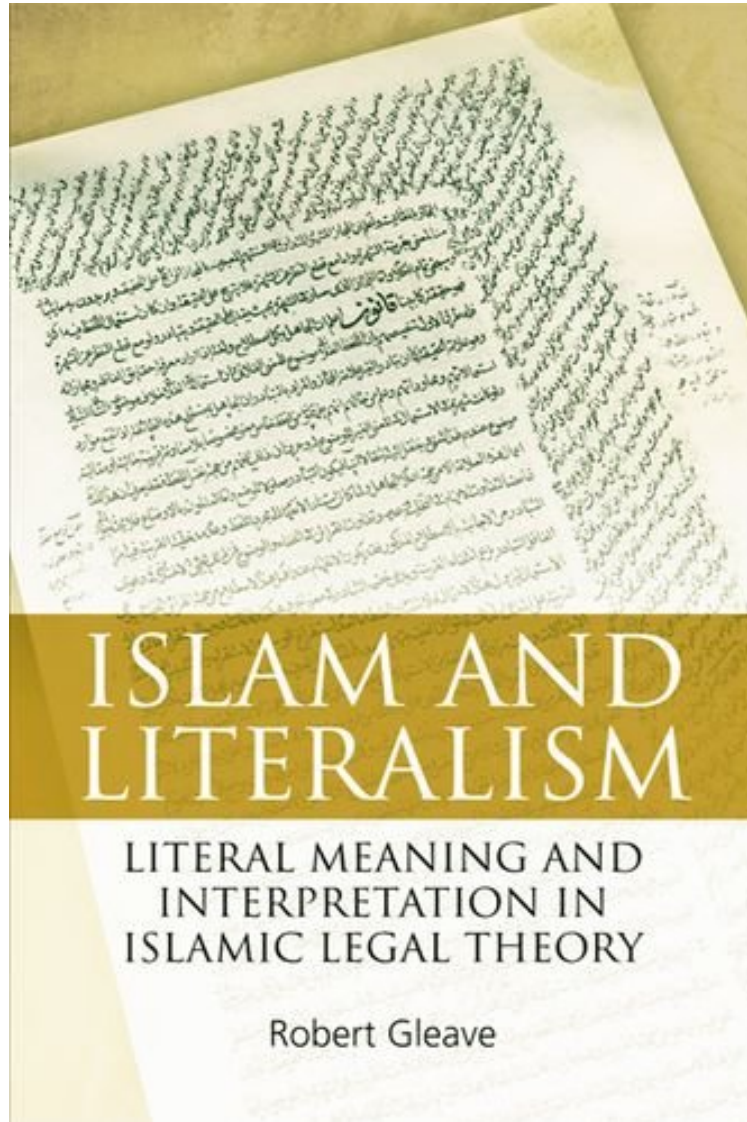


Islam and Literalism: Literal Meaning and Interpretation in Islamic Legal Theory

Robert Gleave

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Robert Gleave : Islam and Literalism: Literal Meaning and Interpretation in Islamic Legal Theory before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Islam and Literalism: Literal Meaning and Interpretation in Islamic Legal Theory:

In this reading of Islamic legal hermeneutics, Robert Gleave explores various competing notions of literal meaning, linked to both theological doctrine and historical developments, together with insights from modern semantic and pragmatic philosophers. Literal meaning is what a text means in itself, regardless of what its author intends to convey or the reader understands to be its message. As Islamic law is based on the central texts of Islam, the idea of a literal meaning that rules over human attempts to understand God's message has resulted in a series of debates amongst modern Muslim legal theorists.

"Listing hermeneutic nuances was helpful; specific Qur'anic examples were insightful. The bibliographic technique of key reference followed by full citation was innovative and useful. Lucidly written and well-researched, *Islam and Literalism* is an invaluable contribution. It is a must read for graduate students and scholars interested in *usul al-fiqh*." - Rolin Mainuddin, North Carolina Central University, Middle East Media and Books "Gleave's close textual analysis, attention to nuance, and theoretical acumen allow for a robust debate about the nature of Islamic legal theory in light of literary theory with the potential to enrich both. This leads to the tantalizing prospect that *usul al-fiqh* might contribute something important and essential to modern literary theory. Gleave has elevated the discourse about *usul al-fiqh*, adding theoretical sophistication to studies within and, one hopes, beyond the genre." -- Rumea Ahmed, *Journal of the American Oriental Society* About the Author Robert Gleave is Professor of Arabic Studies at the University of Exeter. He is author of *Inevitable Doubt: Two Theories of Shi'i Jurisprudence* (E. J. Brill, 2000) and editor of *Religion and Society in Qajar Iran* (Routledge, 2004) and co-editor (with E. Kermeli) of *Islamic Law: Theory and Practice* (I. B. Tauris, 1997; paperback edition 2000).