

**Contemporary Issues
in**

Islamic Law

Abdul Haseeb Ansari



Serials

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN ISLAMIC LAW

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SERIALS PUBLICATIONS
NEW DELHI (INDIA)

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Edition: 2011

ISBN: 978-81-8387-257-7

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Published by
SERIALS PUBLICATIONS
4830/24, Prahlad Street, Ansari Road
Darya Ganj, New Delhi-110002 (India)
Phone : 23245225. Fax : 91-11-23272135
E-mail: serials@sipu.com

Islamic Law and Modernity Conflict and Reconciliation

Hikmatullah Babu Sahib

Introduction

Recent years have witnessed increased enquiries into Islam and its laws. Questions have been raised about the rationality, applicability and compatibility of Islamic law vis-a-vis modernity. Equally remarkable is the emerging Islam-consciousness and readiness of some Muslim women to challenge the male dominated religious orthodoxy and their authorities. What is saddening, however, is that many a time these challenges have turned out little more than ugly, often scathing and generally irrational condemnation of Muslim scholars. The challenges to and criticism of Muslim scholars speak volumes about the misunderstanding of the true nature of both Islamic Law and Modernity. In a bid to understand the relationship between these two concepts, people seem to have unwittingly fallen into the trap of needlessly categorizing Muslim scholars as fundamentalists and liberals; fanatics and moderates; religionists and secularists. Such classifications do not help resolve the confusion in the Muslim mind over the significance of those two concepts and their relations with one another. Some educated Muslims feel that Islamic Laws are to be interpreted in the light of modernity, whereas some academicians stress that rather modernity has to be treated in the light of Islamic Law. Essentially, Islamic Law demands of Muslims to maintain its sanctity in every situation