Contemporary Issues in Islamic Law

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Introduction

Prominent Muslim jurists are divided along juridical lines. They generally respect one another. Yet, they view their own respective schools of jurisprudence as the most valid and strongest of all. Hanafi scholars consider the views of Abu Hanifah, Abu Yusuf and other founders as superior to those of non-Hanafi schools of fiqh. Experts of Shafi'i school believe in the preeminence of the decrees of al-Shafi'i over the others. Followers of Ahmad ibn Hanbal are satisfied with their leader's approach. Maliki authorities feel exultant with the fatwas of Malik ibn Anas and others of Maliki school. These intellectuals have also tried to justify their respective fiqhi schools. For that matter, they have interpreted the Qur'an accordingly. As a result, there has come up many a legal exegesis of the Islamic Scripture. One such exegesis is Akhbar al-Qur'an by Ibn al-`Arabi. It represents Maliki school of Islamic law. It is deemed as an important source not only for the students and teachers of Maliki denomination but also for those interested in Islamic law as a whole. This article attempts to introduce this source of Islamic law, on the one hand and evaluate its legal significance, on the other. It is not possible to accommodate in this short article all the legal views of Ibn al-`Arabi. The scope of this research is limited to some