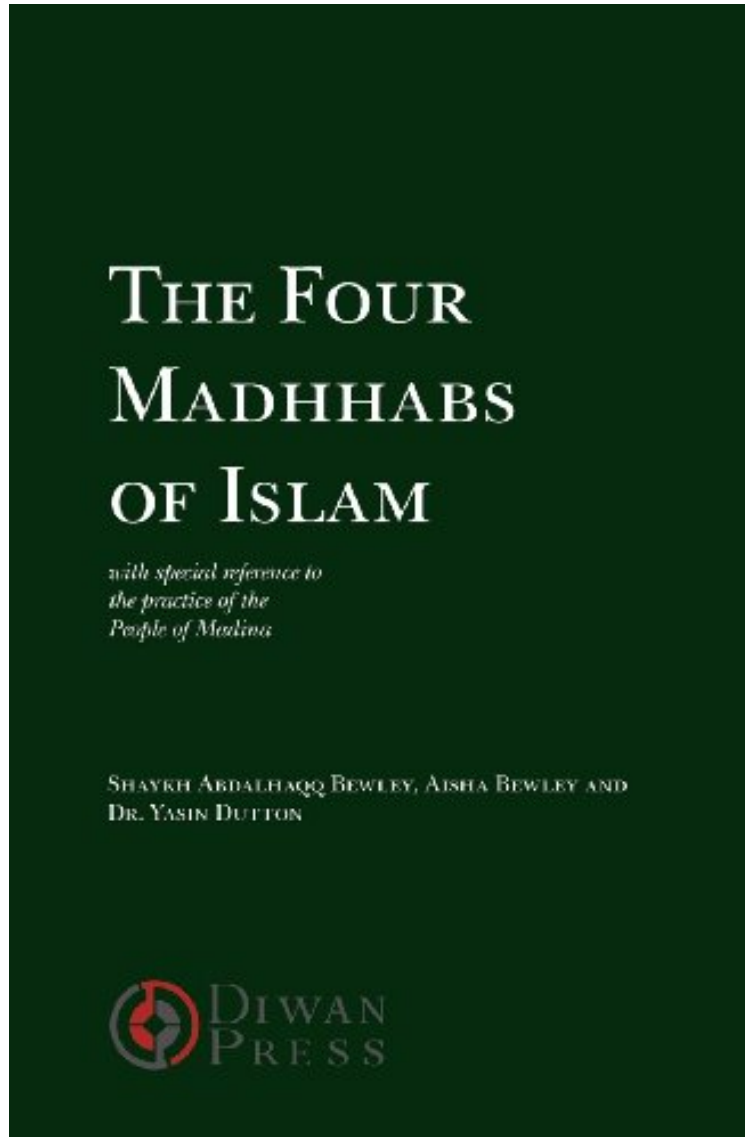


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The Four Madhhabs of Islam

Abdalhaqq Bewley, Aisha Bewley, Yasin Dutton
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Abdalhaqq Bewley, Aisha Bewley, Yasin Dutton : The Four Madhhabs of Islam before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Four Madhhabs of Islam:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A Good IntroductionBy Mr. Tahir HussainIf you're looking for a brief introduction to how and why the four madhhabs came in to being and why they should be followed then this book or at least the first chapter is a good introduction for that purpose. It does have a strong emphasis on the School of Medinah as all three authors are Mlik so do not expect an even number of pages on each madhhab, the Mlik School

is given the main treatment as stated in the sub-heading of the title, "with special reference to the practice of the People of Madinah". It has three distinct chapters by each author which are as follows: Preface by Abdassamad Clarke Chapter 1: The Four Madhhabs of Islam and their Relationship with the Present Time by Shaykh Abdalhaqq Bewley Chapter 2: The `Amal of Madinah by Aisha Bewley Chapter 3: The Importance of Mlik and the Mlik Madhhab Today by Dr. Yasin Dutton Postface by Abdalhaqq Bewley The first chapter presents an historical perspective of the time which is helpful in introducing the background of the environment to appreciate the origin of the schools. It is a concise explanation of how Islam has been transmitted over the centuries to the present day. Though it doesn't present a complete picture of any of the schools as the author concedes, it is still a refreshing read. It highlights the salient features of each school and most importantly contends that each and every one of them comprises in itself an authentic transmission of the religion down to our time. The author rightly so, in my opinion, states that each of them must be taken as a whole and applied as they have come down in their accepted form. He warns against the haphazard mix and match approach of some unqualified Muslims which we find in our day and age, whereby they choose rulings from each madhhab to suit their situation. He does also argue that since we have fallen into disrepair and decadence and we are in need of renewal, the madhhab of the `amal ahl al-Madinah i.e. the Mlik School represents a position which is pure Book and Sunnah with no controversy in it whatsoever and is the madhhab on which all Muslims could come together. This logically leads on to the second chapter about the practice of the people of Madinah and an excellent explanation of the terms `amal and adth which should not be freely interchangeable with the term Sunnah as we find today. The final chapter is a further emphasis on the non-textual lens of the `amal of Madinah beginning with Imam Mlik (d.179/795) and his Muwatta and then the `amal of Madinah to the sources the madhhab is based upon. Dr. Yasin Dutton concludes his chapter by giving examples from the Muwatta of the explanation of the Sunnah from the `amal. The ultimate argument is that the `amal of the people of Madinah is stronger than adth. The works are well written and make strong arguments, well worth reading.

This collection tackles the four madhhabs of Islam in a thought-provoking way. Together, the four contributions show that recovery of transmitted practice backed by scholarship is a dynamic and liberating way that can lead to a new flowering of the deen in every age.