الجزيري، عبد الرحمن. *كتاب الفقه على المذاهب الأربعة*. القاهرة: المكتبة التجاریة الکبری، ۱٩۳۱، ٧٤۲ ص.

Al-Jaziri, ʻAbd al-Rahman. *Kitab al-Fiqh ʻala al-Madhahib al-Arbaʻah*. Cairo: Al-Maktabah al-Tijariyyah al-Kubra, 1931, 742pp.

**ABSTRACT**

**The Book of Jurisprudence on the Four Schohols of Islam**

*كتاب الفقه على المذاهب الأربعة*

This abstract is based on the second edition of this book, published in 1931 with several amendments suggested by scholars following their review of the first edition.

This work comes in response to the wish of Fu’ad the First, King of Egypt, who believed that instruction within mosques should undergo reform so that Egyptians could receive correct guidance in religious practices. To accomplish this, the Department of Mosques, under the Ministry for Religious Endowments, established a scholarly committee composed of a Sheikh from each of the major Sunni schools (al-Shafi‘i, Hanafi, Hanbali, and Maliki) at al-Azhar Mosque. The committee prepared a comprehensive book on rulings concerning religious practices within the four schools.

The Ministry entrusted Sheikh ‘Abd al-Rahman al-Jaziri to arrange the rulings as a uniform text. The rulings have been organised into chapters. Rulings agreed by two or more imams are inscribed at the top of the page while conflicting rulings are found at the bottom. Disagreements among the committee are noted at the top of the page with relevant details at the bottom. In many cases, evidence is provided based on the Qur’an, prophetic traditions (*al-sunna*), consensus (*al-ijma’*) and analogy (*al-qiyas*) in order to illustrate the imams’ varying points of view and to explain the circumstances of their disagreements.

The book contains the introduction to both first and second editions. The first introduction describes the five pillars of Islam and emphasises that Muslims should be aware of relevant juristic opinions. It introduces the committee who prepared the work and explains the book’s methodology. The second introduction provides an account of Prophet Muhammad, the Rightly Guided Caliphs (*al-Rashidun*), and the Prophet’s companions, as well as their knowledge, characteristics and methods in issuing formal legal opinions (*fatwa*). The introduction then presents each of the four schools, including their histories relating to Egypt.

The book covers the topics of ritual purity, prayer, fasting, almsgiving and pilgrimage. In addition, it discusses the juristic rulings issued by the four schools relating to these five focuses. The book incorporates some juristic issues deemed important for the public to know about, including slaughter, sacrifice, food and drink, and the wearing of gold and silver.

The writing style is simple and straightforward. The work is a comprehensive university reference for those interested in the jurisprudence of religious practice. It will spare students the trouble of searching through the reference works of individual schools.

Dahlia Sabry

Translated by Hugh Lovatt