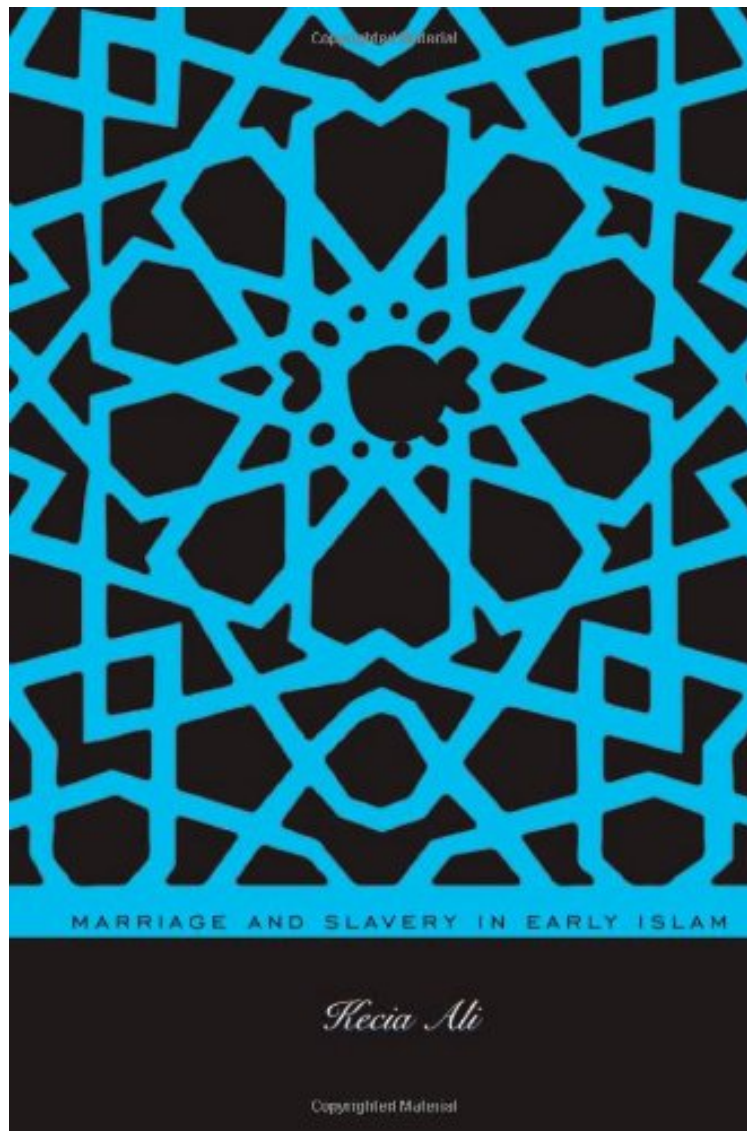


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Marriage and Slavery in Early Islam

Kecia Ali

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Kecia Ali : Marriage and Slavery in Early Islam before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Marriage and Slavery in Early Islam:

What did it mean to be a wife, woman, or slave in a society in which a land-owning woman was forbidden to lay with her male slave but the same slave might be allowed to take concubines? Jurists of the nascent Maliki, Hanafi, and Shafii legal schools frequently compared marriage to purchase and divorce to manumission. Juggling scripture,

precedent, and custom on one hand, and the requirements of logical consistency on the other, legal scholars engaged in vigorous debate. The emerging consensus demonstrated a self-perpetuating analogy between a husband's status as master and a wife as slave, even as jurists insisted on the dignity of free women and, increasingly, the masculine rights of enslaved husbands. *Marriage and Slavery in Early Islam* presents the first systematic analysis of how these jurists conceptualized marriage's rights and obligations using the same rhetoric of ownership used to describe slavery. Kecia Ali explores parallels between marriage and concubinage that legitimized sex and legitimated offspring using eighth- through tenth-century legal texts. As the jurists discussed claims spouses could make on each other including dower, sex, obedience, and companionship they returned repeatedly to issues of legal status: wife and concubine, slave and free, male and female. Complementing the growing body of scholarship on Islamic marital and family law, Ali boldly contributes to the ongoing debates over feminism, sexuality, and reform in Islam.

Brilliant, eloquent and insightful ... It is difficult to overstate the contribution of this book to our understanding of gender, marriage and slavery in Islam. --Yossef Rapoport, author of *Marriage, Money, and Divorce in Medieval Islamic Society* [T]his work's analytical clarity, conceptual sophistication, and penetrating analysis of dense legal texts will make it the standard against which future works in Islam and gender are measured. -- Mohammad Fadel, Associate Professor of Law, University of Toronto
About the Author Kecia Ali is Associate Professor of Religion at Boston University.