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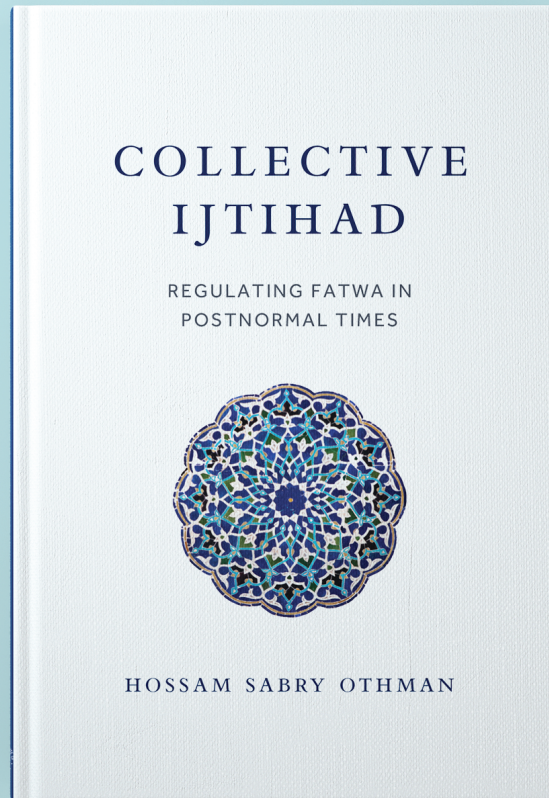
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COLLECTIVE IJTIHAD

REGULATING FATWA IN POSTNORMAL TIMES

BY HOSSAM SABRY OTHMAN



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THE CONTEMPORARY postnormal world is posing for Muslims ever strange ethical, financial, and medical dilemmas for which modern jurists are expected to provide a suitable theological response. Yet even with an encyclopedic knowledge of Islamic law, the task facing them is daunting. In the real world this level of complexity has led to chaos in fatwa issuance with many scholars voicing concern at the direction to which things are moving and calling for the process to be regulated. This book critiques fatwa issuance in the modern context and calls for application of a synthesized approach using the mechanism of collective ijti had to formulate rulings and overcome current weaknesses. It carefully examines central juristic concepts and puts forward consultative ijti had as a viable alternative to the controversial classical ijma' approach which may be difficult to realize in the contemporary world.

Hossam Sabry is a faculty member at Al-Azhar University in Egypt, College of Languages and Translation, Department of Islamic Studies. His main research interests include Islamic legal theory, contemporary Fiqh issues, and Western Quranic Studies. He has a long history of translating academic papers and books from English to Arabic and vice versa. His Arabic translation of François Déroche's *Qurans of the Umayyads: A First Overview* was recently published. He also co-translated *The Oxford Handbook of Qur'anic Studies*, which will be published soon.

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