

Can a woman be a judge?

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Question: Is it permissible for a woman to be a judge?

Answer: Shaykh al-Albaanee (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ)¹: It is not permissible for a woman to be a judge. And whoever claims that passing judgement is merely informing a religious ruling, then he has limited its meaning, because judgement is more than (just) Iftaa (passing fataawaa or religious verdicts). This is since not everyone who issues fataawaa is a judge and likewise, not everyone who judges passes religious verdicts. But sometimes they are both combined in a person.

Indeed, the judge is like the ruler (haakim), he is commanded to execute the religious verdicts (given by the muftee). As for the muftee, then he has no executive power to enforce the religious verdicts.

And the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم)² has informed us that any people who entrust their affairs to a woman will never prosper. This is established in Saheeh al-Bukhaaree from the hadeeth of Aboo Bakrah (رضي الله عنه)³.

¹ (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ) (rahimahullaah) May Allaah have mercy on him

² (صلى الله عليه وسلم) May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him

³ (رضي الله عنه) (rad iyallaahu `anhu) May Allaah be pleased with him

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