

Abstract: Music, Singing and Dance in Arab Muslim Society: the View of Religious Authorities and Reality Nowadays

The study concerns theoretic and empirical analysis of contemporary Arab Muslims attitudes towards the issue of music, singing and dance performance. The issue is viewed from the perspective of religious authorities in contrast with the view of ordinary Muslims and everyday reality.

Firstly, the theoretical part notes down a wide response spectrum on the question of principle: are the above mentioned activities considered as permitted or prohibited in Islam? The points of view are grounded in excerpts of traditional Islamic texts and legal experts' opinions.

The next part focuses on the elements of music, singing and dance that can be found in Islamic religious practice as well as the real significance of their role in it.

The third and final chapter aspires to show the reality of everyday life in Arab Muslim society. With reference to the first part of the study, it aims to notice the divergence of opinion on this issue. The analysis is based on empirical survey, that notes down opinions and attitudes of a group of selected Arab Muslims. The questionnaire follows the customary methodology of sociological research. The main goal is to find the majority attitude to the performance of music, singing and dance.

The final synthesis of theoretic and empirical analysis includes the results emerging from the respondents' answers and requested additional comments. It aspires to unravel whether the negative or positive attitudes towards the discussed issue is determined by such factors as gender, age, education, country of origin or the practice of Sunni or Shiite Islam.