

## In The Name Of Allah

:Ayatollah Saanei

We have to publicly declare that there is neither oppression nor denial of rights in ...“ Islam and all human beings are honored and respected, as Allah the Almighty says, .”“We have honored the children of Adam

Thus, there is no racial discrimination in Islamic laws and the black and the white are .”equal. Nor is there sexism and discrimination on the grounds of nationality

### The Biography of the Great Religious Authority

Grand Ayatollah Saanei

Grand Ayatollah Saanei is one of the disciples of the late Imam Khomeini the leader of Iran's Islamic movement. He was born in Neekabad, Esfahan Province in 1937 His grandfather, Ayatollah Haj Mulla Yousef, had been among the devout and highly respected clerics of his own time. Haj Mulla Yousef had been tutored in divine philosophy by the well-known Iranian Philosopher, Jahangir Khan, and in jurisprudence, he had been among the pupils of Grand Ayatollah Mirza Habibollah Rashti

One of the considerable fulfillments of Haj Mulla Yousef was the propagation of Mirza-ye-Shirazi's movement concerning the “tobacco movement”. Ayatollah Saanei's father, the late Hujjat-ul-Islam sheikh Muhammad Ali Saanei too, was a cleric acclaimed for his piety and virtues

Ayatollah Saanei entered the Esfahan Seminary in 1946, and in 1951, he entered the Qom Seminary to continue his studies. His smartness and exemplary diligence led the great Shiite religious authority, Grand Ayatollah Borujerdi, to award him special commendation. From 1955 to 1963 (i.e., the time when Imam Khomeini was exiled from Iran), Ayatollah Saanei, successively and actively attended Imam Khomeini's seminary sessions on Kharij lecture and was one of his loyal disciples.

Ayatollah Saanei reached the rank of Ijtihad (the authority to deduce the Islamic rules from the relevant sources and references) at the age of 22, and this by itself, was indicative of his scientific authority and capability and also of his indigence. Then, in 1975, he began teaching Kharij lecture (seminary lecture not based on reading text books) offering a course on the Book of Zakaat(alms) at the age of 38.

This has been the trend for more than thirty years now, and the outcome of all attempts at teaching, studying and understanding Islam's concepts and its jurisprudential aspect in particular, is the novel and up-to-date religious rules which place him among neo-thinking religious authorities.

Some of His Eminence's jurisprudential views:

- ١ Masculinity is not a condition for being a religious authority.
- ٢ Masculinity is not a condition for occupying any ruling position.
- ٣ Masculinity is not a condition for serving as a judge.
- ٤ Men and women are equal in blood vengeance and retaliation for wounds.
- ٥ Men and women are equal in blood money and compensation for injury.
- ٦ If a man does not have any heirs other than his wife, the wife will inherit his entire legacy after his death.
- ٧ When a man dies, his wife will inherit from all his property, including movable property and also from the value of the immovable property.
- ٨ It is not forbidden for a woman to leave the house and go out without her husband's permission as long as it does not threaten the man's dignity and provided that it does not violate his right of enjoyment and pleasure from his wife.

- ٩ It is not necessary for a woman to obtain her husband's permission for making a vow as long as the vow concerns the woman herself or if she is financially independent and possesses her own property; however, this will only be the case if her vow does not violate the husband's right of enjoyment and pleasure from his wife.
- ١٠ The authority to divorce is in the hands of the husband but if a woman forgoes her marriage portion in return for getting divorced, it will be obligatory for the husband to divorce her .
- ١١ Temporary marriage pertains to special circumstances and it is not considered as parallel to permanent marriage .
- ١٢ Birds droppings are pure.
- ١٣ The leather which is imported from non-Muslim countries is pure since it is not of dead animals.
- ١٤ Removing an impurity from the surface of a solid thing is a way to purify it, unless the religion has specified a particular way to purify it, such as purifying the urinary outlet, and also applying soil onto a vessel which has been licked by dogs or in which dogs have drunk water or any other liquid .
- ١٥ Sewage becomes pure after being treated with chemicals and thus cleaned provided that there remains no solid impurity in it.
- ١٦ Just like a Muslim, a non-Muslim inherits from a Muslim.
- ١٧ The life and property of a non-Muslim are respected just as those of a Muslim.
- ١٨ Muslims and non-Muslims are equal in compensation and blood money.
- ١٩ Muslims and non-Muslims are equal in retaliation.
- ٢٠ It is not forbidden for a man to shave his beard.
- ٢١ The music which does not contain laxity and immorality is not illegal.
- ٢٢ Sculpture and painting portraits, animals and objects are not illegal.
- ٢٣ It is not seen as a condition for a judge to be a religious jurist (Mujtahid) and it would suffice if they simply have the knowledge of the laws.
- ٢٤ The interest paid on depreciation (Istihlaaki) is considered as usury and is illegal but the one paid on gainful employment of the principal (Istintaaji) is legal.
- ٢٥ It is not forbidden to abort a fetus younger than four months of age if it is due to unbearable distress and hardship such as the fetus's illness.
- ٢٦ It is not forbidden to use contraceptives for family planning; nor is it illegal for either of the parents to make themselves permanently infertile if they already have many children.
- ٢٧ In case of any unbearable distress and hardship for a child and their step mother or stepfather, it will not be illegal to touch and look at each other .
- ٢٨ Any given ritual bathing (Ghusl) whether obligatory or recommended, would remove the necessity of ablutions (Wudhu) in practicing legal obligations.
- ٢٩ In the absence of the signs of puberty, girls are considered to have reached puberty at thirteen lunar years of age.
- ٣٠ The criterion for being an oft-traveler -who must offer full prayers and also keep their fasts- is merely their frequent traveling, whether traveling is their job or it is for any other purpose (An oft-traveler is one who travels a legal distance at least once every ten days (before a ten-day stay is over.))
- ٣١ It is permissible for the disabled warriors to be the leader of the congregational prayer provided that they can offer prayer in standing position.
- ٣٢ The time for legal sunset is the same common sunset, that is, when the sun goes down and it is not necessary that the redness in the East should be disappeared.
- ٣٣ Just as fathers, mothers are also exempted from retaliation for murdering their children unless it is committed for personal purposes such as enmity, greed for

possessions and power, or preventing them from revealing their crimes and betrayals etc. where the general rule for retaliation will apply to both mothers and fathers.

-۳۴ Intellectual property rights such as authorship, copyright etc., are respected.

-۳۵ If there is no contract of gambling and betting, mere playing with the relevant instruments is not forbidden.

-۳۶ In the absence of a father, the mother will be the guardian of the children and their property and she takes precedence over their paternal grandfather in this regard.

-۳۷ It is permissible to fertilize an egg in vitro and transfer it into the womb.

Basically, the books compiled by great religious jurists -who are considered as protectors of religion as a heritage of the tradition age in the new age- cover their specialist field and scientific findings and practices .

Few religious jurists would enter areas other than their area of specialty. However, the realm of religious authority is the realm of scientific research and writing and as it is evident, the neo-thinking Shiite jurist Grand Ayatollah Saanei is not an exception to this principle. Especially, this has been the trend among Iranian religious authorities in the new age, to extend their studies and practices to other areas such as politics, society, culture, economics etc .

The following is a list of His Honor's books on specialist issues of jurisprudence and general religious subjects, including the books whose printing is in progress:

#### Books in Persian:

- ۱ Towdheeh-ul-Masaa'il (Treatise of Islamic Laws (
- ۲ Majma'-ul-Masaa'il (three volumes(
- ۳ Muntakhab-ul-Ahkaam (A Selection of Islamic Rules(
- ۴ Istifta'at on Judicial Issues (two volumes(
- ۵ Istifta'at on medical Issues
- ۶ Hajj Rites
- ۷ Rules Concerning Hajj (for woman(
- ۸ Istifta'at on Hajj and Umra
- ۹ Rules of Umra Mufrada (The Lesser Pilgrimage (
- ۱۰ Rules Concerning Women's Issues
- ۱۱ Rules Concerning Teenagers' Issues
- ۱۲ Women's Testimony in Islam
- ۱۳ A Selection of Hajj Rites and Practices
- ۱۴ Biography

#### Books in Arabic:

- ۱ Misbaah-ul-Muquallidin (Arabic Treatise(
- ۲ Feqh-ul-Thaqualayn (Book of Divorce(
- ۳ Feqh-ul-Thaqualayn (Book of Retaliation (
- ۴ Feqh-ul-Thaqualayn (Book of Inheritance(
- ۵ Annotations to Tahreer-ul-Waseelah
- ۶ Annotations to Urwat-ul-Wuthqua (Four Volumes(
- ۷ Muntakhab-ul-Ahkaam (A Selection of Islamic Laws(
- ۸ Hidaayat-ul-Nasikeen min Al-Hujjaj wa Al-Mu'tamireen min Risaalati Najat-ul-Ibad
- ۹ Manasik-ul-Hajj (Hajj Rites(

- ۱ • Daleel-ul-Nasik
- ۱ ۱ Masabeeh-ul-Ahkaam
- ۱ ۲ Risaalatun Fee Al-Ribaa
- ۱ ۳ Muntakhab-ul-Aa`mal walmanasik min Al-Hajj

Books in English:

-A Selection of Islamic Laws

The collections of His Eminence's jurisprudential views have been compiled & published by Fiqh-ul-Thaqalain Institute of Art & Culture. Some of these collections are as follows:

- ۱ Jurisprudence & Life (1): on the interest paid on gainful employment of the principal.
- ۲ Jurisprudence & Life (2): Equality between men and women and between Muslims & non-Muslims in Retaliation.
- ۳ Jurisprudence & Life (3): Equality between man & women and also between Muslim & non-Muslims in compensation & blood money.
- ۴ Jurisprudence & Life (4): Mother's guardianship over children.
- ۵ Jurisprudence & life (5): Wife's inheritance from her husband (in cases where she is the only inheritor)
- ۶ Jurisprudence & Life (6): Gambling, competitions and amusement .
- ۷ Jurisprudence & Life (7): Girl's Puberty
- ۸ Jurisprudence & Life (8): The Obligation of Khula` Divorce upon Men.

A Brief Introduction of the website of

Grand Ayatollah Saanei's office

[www.saanei.org](http://www.saanei.org)

Since very old times, man has been thinking of slaking his natural thirst for understanding and realizing facts and realities, because one of the original and fundamental instincts within man is the instinct for truth-seeking and the boundless and insatiable sense of curiosity whose satisfaction is, in itself, boundless and one of his mental and spiritual needs.

Even though this instinct is not active equally in all individuals, it is neither completely inactive in any of them.

Basically, scientific rivalries and intellectual challenges of scientists and researchers through out the past ages and times that is, since the beginning of man's existence, have been practiced for no other purpose but to get to know about the realities of the world-all beings except God-and the rules governing them, and also to discover the mystery of existence and reveal its ultimate secret.

Interestingly, Quranic doctrines and consequently the supreme teachings of the Holy Prophet's Progeny have lauded the seekers of truth as we read, "so give good news to my servants who listen to the word [of Allah] and follow the best [sense] of it. They are the ones whom Allah has guided, and it is they who possess intellect" (Al-Zumar: 17-18) When God says His servants are the followers of the best word, it means that they seek the truth owing to their inborn natural structure which encourages man's growth and evolution. This becomes even more evident when in a dilemma, to make a choice between "right" and "wrong" and also between "deviation" and "evolution", man would certainly choose "right" and "evolution" and would definitely choose "better" between "good" and "better."

Today, however, regarding the needs of the time, confluence of thoughts and ideas,

and thoughtful explanation of the ongoing events, man is facing some questions which have occupied his mind in terms of criticism .

Among the questions concerning man's knowledge and different fields of science, there exist critical questions on the philosophy of jurisprudence, philosophy of law, human rights and the like which are to be answered by those scholars and religious jurists who have the knowledge of time. Even though such answers, despite being helpful and unraveling, have not proven satisfactory as to slake man's thirst for the truth, they have, within the measures of man's capacities and of the boundaries of his thought, been praiseworthy .

Taking all the said points into consideration, and also regarding today's requirements and circumstances and the issues which have occupied Muslim's minds and brought up many new questions and doubts, Grand Ayatollah Saanei's website has been presented in a new shape and scheme .

In this regard, the identification and classification of the internet users, and giving careful attention to their feelings and desires is of great importance. We hope this great importance is manifested in selection, organization and placement of the images and also in the selection of news headlines and the manner of reporting Ayatollah Saanei's meetings and interviews. This website is available in four languages, namely, Persian, Arabic, English, and Urdu. On the home page, there are four separate sections each of which has some subsections. The revolving strip at the top of the page bears Ayatollah Saanei's short and important statements and His messages of congratulation and condolence on religious occasions.

The column on the left is composed of four sections, namely, website news, website newsletter, search, and SMS; users may search their favorite issues in this column . In the right column, there is Grand Ayatollah Saanei's treatise of Islamic Rules (Towdheeh-ul-Masaa'il), Istifta'at (religious queries), and personal box for Istifta'at; this latter box is more of use and help to those users who have more personal queries but do not have an E-mail address. To take the advantage of this personal box, however, is possible for more professional users of the internet. It should be said that both, the Istifta'at section and the personal box for Istifta'at, have the same functions. On the home page, there also exists a "Photo Gallery" which contains some collections of His Eminence's photos. In the same section, there is an "Audio Library" which can play some of Grand Ayatollah Saanei's religious speeches and also the ones offered in some funerals.

Another part of this column is the "video Gallery" which plays the videos of His Eminence's views one after the other .

Another tab in this column is "Women's Rights" which consists of His Honor's jurisprudential views on women's rights. To make the best of this website, users may click the "Site Map", or "Site Guide". "Online Answering" is another tab on the home page through which users may receive the answers to their religious questions. The last tab to be introduced is the tab for "Istikhaara" (seeking divine guidance by referring to the Holy Quran or otherwise.)

Before introducing the fifth section of the home page, it would be interesting to take a look at the designed menus at the top of the page.

These six menus present six ways for the users to connect to the site. The first is a connection to the biography of the neo-thinking religious authority Grand Ayatollah Saanei.

The second & third connect the user to the contents and texts of it His Eminence's books and lectures. The fourth is the general menu for Istifta'at. The fifth opens His Honor's statements and meetings, and the sixth is the "Contact Us" tab through which

users can contact the office of His Eminence.

In the center of the home page, there are four separate sections. In fact, these four sections provide the users with new and up-to-date issues. Here, the user can see the most recent Istifta'at, statements, meetings, today's issues and also the reflections to the views and attitudes of His Eminence in written or online articles of other scientists and researchers .

The website of Feqh-ul-Thaqalain  
Institute of Art & Culture  
[www.feqh.org](http://www.feqh.org)

The website of Feqh-ul-Thaqalain institute of art and culture is another part of the online activities offered together with Ayatollah Saanei's website, in order to introduce and propagate His Eminence's jurisprudential ideas and thoughts.

Feqh-ul-Thaqalain institute is a collection of His Eminence's students and some of researchers and authorities holding views and attitudes which are close to those of Ayatollah Saanei and their responsibility is to study and analyze the views and jurisprudential books of Ayatollah Saanei.

The outcome of their activities is the compilation of the services, "Jurisprudence & Life", which analyze His Eminence's views in separate books as arranged by subject. It should be said that these views and rules as issued by His Honor, are mostly in conflict to the common views of other religious jurists which, of course, are based on the basic principles of rule deduction in Shiite jurisprudence.

The said series consist of about one hundred jurisprudential issues out of His Honors views. These books are on issues such as "Equality of Men and Woman's testimony", "Justness in Testimony", "Backbiting", "Gambling Instruments", "Profane Signing", "Necessity of Khula' Divorce (the divorce granted at wife's request against compensation)", "Equality of Man & Woman's Blood Money and Compensation", "Duress in Murder", "Mother's Guardianship", "An Unbeliever's Inheritance from A Muslim", "Wife's Inheritance from Her Husband (when she is the only inheritor)" etc., some of which have been published many times so far.

For instance, on the issue of equality in retaliation, based on jurisprudential and Quranic documentation, it has been pointed out that it is not right to establish any inequality between men and women or Muslims and non-Muslims in retaliation. Emphasizing the principle of illegality of usury, highlighting the differences between the interests paid on depreciation and the one paid on gainful employment of the principal, and considering the different philosophies, causes and outcomes of these two kinds of interest, has led His Eminence to account the interest paid on gainful employment of the principle as legal.

The series "Jurisprudence and life", as mentioned earlier, have been compiled based on Ayatollah Saanei's jurisprudential views and verdicts, and along with the collection of civil and judicial queries (Judicial Istifta'at) comprise the content of Feqh-ul-Thaqalain website.

The collection of civil queries have been compiled in eleven sections which discuss His Honor's views on "property and possession, liability and civil responsibility, endowment, contracts and conventions, will, inheritance, marriage, divorce, incapacity, guardianship and miscellaneous issues of civil law, respectively .