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The hanafi, maliki, Shafi & hanbali systems of Islamic law are four different understandings of the Quran & sunnah

These schools of law contain thousands of scholars and the schools developed over centuries.

The uneducated mutazzilite/Mushabiha mind may present the argument of why four when Islam is one, we have one final prophet ? and one Quran.

This argument is flawed.

The Quran itself was revealed initially in seven different Ahruf. It was not one, nor is there one qiraat.

If you get that with the primary source, which is the Quran, you will no doubt get different understandings from the primary source.

“Ask the people of remembrance if you do not know”

Quran, 16, 43.

The orthodox way of thought revolves around this verse of the Quran.

All human beings accept this principle in all other forms of education, nobody would refer to those who don't know.

The common objections to following one of the four madhabs by the mushabiha (modern day claimants of following the Quran & sunnah only) are as follows.

“We've now reanalysed”

“We only follow Quran & sunnah”

“We follow the strongest opinion”

The four schools of law have an unbroken chain going back to Rasoolallah ? and over a thousand years of scholarship.

