

Koralys De La Cruz

Professor Lyndell O'Hara

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17.3: Legal Opinions (Khayr al-Din Ramli)

This source/document focuses on Khayr al-Din Ramli's judgement which had a "significant influence in his own time and for several centuries afterwards". Ramli was a jurist of the Hanafi school of legal interpretation. He was also a writer and teacher. The judgements in this particular source are about marriage and divorce. This source most importantly "gives insight into women's lives in the provinces of the Ottoman Empire at its height."

In this culture women have control over their own lives when their husband is harmful to them and when their proxy is no longer available. Men act as proxies for females when they are young/minors and virgins. They arrange marriages for them and send them off, sometimes without her consent. However, "if she was given in marriage without her consent, she can reject the marriage and there is no need for the father" (p.62). Women have legal rights as stated in many different occasions/situations in this source, but men have property rights, which unfortunately is more important than a woman's legal rights to an extent.