

Primary Source Assignment 1
HY364/History of Islamic Civilization to 1453
Fall 2010

Please write a two to three (2-3) page essay analyzing “Al-Kulaynī on Temporary Marriage” found in *Classical Islam* – Chapter 3.6. Your essay should include three sections: summary, context, and analysis. Each of these sections should be indicated by a sub-heading. The summary section should be quite short and should simply give a brief description of what the primary source is saying. The context section should describe the time and place in which the document was written and the identity of the author. Special attention should be paid to those events that may have impacted the wording of the document. The analysis section will be the most important, since this is where you will indicate your argument regarding the author’s intentions and the larger importance of the document for the period in which it was written, as well as its importance for the overall history of Islamic Civilization.

You are limited to two sources for this assignment: the Hitti text and your primary source reader. My main concern for this assignment is your analysis of the document listed above. Thus, I should not see any information from other books, websites, etc. You must cite your sources as you would in any paper, using the Turabian citation system (Chicago Manual of Style). Please avoid any use of the first person, as well as such phrases as “I think, I feel, I believe,” since as a historian I do not care how you think, feel, or believe, but simply care about what you can prove. This is where analysis differs from opinion. Make your argument and back it up using direct quotes from the primary source itself.

If you are concerned that your footnotes are taking up too much space, please note that I would much rather your paper spill over onto a third or fourth page than have you plagiarize. Use of shortened citations and Ibid will help with space concerns. Do not use endnotes, only footnotes. Also, please put the page number on all but the first page.

The paper should be typed, double-spaced, with 1” margins on all sides. On the first page only, in the upper right-hand corner should be your name, HY364-101, Writing Assignment 1, and the date. The paper should be stapled (upper left-hand corner) and I would prefer that you not use title pages or report covers.

The completed assignment is due on **Friday, September 24, 2010** by the end of the class period. We will be discussing this primary source during class on that day. If you are unable to attend class but are able to turn in your assignment on that day or a subsequent date, please place it in my mailbox in the History Department office (HUMB 344). Please ask the secretary to mark the date and time that you placed it in my mailbox. Remember that late papers will be docked five points for each class day after the due date.