

# Contents

Prologue	vii
Acknowledgements	xi
1. Understanding Literal Meaning	1
2. Literal Meaning, Hermeneutics and Islamic Legal Theory	26
3. The Emergence of Literal Meaning in Early Islamic Thought	63
4. Literal Meaning in Early Islamic Legal Theory	94
5. Early Shī'ī Conceptions of Literal Meaning	126
6. Zahirism, Literalism and Ibn Ḥazm	146
7. Literal Meaning in Modern Muslim Legal Theory: Two Examples	175
Bibliography	197
Index	209