

Read Book The Spirituality Of  
Shii Islam Beliefs And Practices  
Ismaili Texts And Translations

**The Spirituality  
Of Shii Islam  
Beliefs And  
Practices Ismaili  
Texts And  
Translations**

*The Language of Tears  
details the engaging five-  
year experience of a gifted  
American scholar  
throughout her journey  
teaching and participating in  
a Shi'a Muslim community in  
Southern California. As a  
teacher in a Muslim school,  
she participates in the lives*

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*of Iranian, Iraqi, and Pakistani women as they perform their religious rituals. Initially thought to be an FBI informant, Blomfield builds trust as she participates in every aspect of their lives. Only a few weeks after she starts teaching, the fifth-grade girls invite her to attend a religious ritual after school. Sitting, covered in black, she starts to engage: hearing the laments of the women, she too starts to weep. She is invited into the women's homes, where they share their hopes, dreams,*

*and fears. She dances at weddings, baby showers, and a Mother's Day "women's only" swim party. She is deeply honored when she is invited to ritually wash and bury an old Iranian woman's body, erupting a love for her own mother and her imminent death. Finally, she travels to Iran for a surreal religious pilgrimage where she becomes Shi'a "in her heart," becoming more fully human.*

*Light upon Light: Essays in Islamic Thought and History in Honor of Gerhard*

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*Bowering brings together studies that explore the richness of Islamic intellectual life in the pre-modern period.*

*"The three-volume work titled *The Presence of the Prophet in Early Modern and Contemporary Islam*, is the first attempt to explore the dynamics of the representation of the Prophet Muhammad in the course of Muslim history until the present"--*

*During the formative period of Islam, in the first centuries after Muhammad's death, two particular*

*intellectual traditions emerged, Sunnism and Shi'ism. Sunni Muslims endorsed the historical caliphate, while Shi'i Muslims, supporters of 'Ali, cousin of the Prophet and the fourth caliph, articulated their own distinctive doctrines. The Sunni-Shi'i schism is often framed as a dispute over the identity of the successor to Muhammad, whereas in reality, Sunni and Shi'i Muslims also differ on a number of seminal theological doctrines concerning the nature of*

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*God and legitimate political and religious authority. This book examines the development of Shi'i Islam through the lenses of belief, narrative, and memory. It also covers a wide range of Shi'i communities from the demographically predominant Twelvers to the transnational Isma'ilis to the scholar-activist Zaydis. The portrait of Shi'ism that emerges is that of a distinctive and vibrant community of Muslims with a remarkable capacity for reinvention and adaptation, grounded in a unique*

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*theological interpretation of Islam.*

*The present work is a summarized version of Shi'i Islam: Origins, Faith and Practices (2003, ICAS Press) by the same author. This shorter version aims to briefly address main issues related to Islam in general, and Shi'i Islam in particular. These two works represent a modest attempt to fill some of the gaps that exist in the field of Islamic studies in general, and Shi'i studies in particular. Though simply and clearly written, they are outcomes of more than*

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*twenty years of involvement in Islamic studies, and based to some extent on two series of lectures about Shi'i Islam delivered to English-speaking audiences: a first set of some fifty lectures delivered at Jami'at al-Zahra (a prominent Islamic seminary for women) in Qum, Iran in 1995 and 1996, and a second set of some thirty lectures delivered at the Manchester Islamic Institute and the Shi'a Welfare Centre in Manchester, England in 1998 and 1999. The first chapter begins by*



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*expounding both the literal and technical meanings of the term "Shi'a", and references are made to statements of famous scholars in this regard. Then it proceeds to study the origins of Shi'i Islam and how it became established. The second chapter studies the sources of Shi'i thought, i.e. the Qur'an, the Sunnah, reason and consensus. Discussing 6 the status of the Qur'an, the chapter goes on to establish that the Shi'a like other Muslims believe that the Qur'an which is present today is an*

*embodiment of divine revelation to the Prophet Muhammad. The chapter continues by explaining the second most important source, i.e. the Sunnah, which includes the sayings and actions of the Prophet Muhammad. The Qur'an itself asks Muslims to take the Prophet as their role model, to refer to him to judge and settle their conflicts, and speaks of the Prophet as the one who recites, teaches and explains the Qur'an. In this chapter there is also a discussion about the household of the*

*Prophet (Ahlul Bayt) and their role in presenting the Sunnah. Then there follows a discussion about the importance of reason and its role in understanding Islamic beliefs, values and practical laws. Finally there is a discussion about legal consensus and how it is viewed with respect to the Sunnah in the Shi'i teachings. The third chapter studies fundamental doctrines of the Shi'i faith. Along with Unity of God, prophethood and resurrection which constitute the principles of*

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*religion for Islam and other divine religions, some important additional doctrines such as divine justice and imamate are studied. These doctrines may partly be shared by other Muslims, but the Shi'a are those who believe in all of them. The fourth chapter is a very brief account of Shi'i practices along with brief references to the objectives and principles underlying them. These practices are in principle shared by all Muslims, though there may be some differences in particulars*

*among different Islamic schools. The fifth and final chapter is a short discussion about the Shi'a world today. This chapter starts with a brief account of 7 the latest statistics about the present Muslim and Shi'i population of the world. There is also a breakdown of religious affiliations of some countries with a long history of Shi'i presence. Although there are no accurate and approved statistics on the current Shi'a population in the world, efforts have been made here to collect the best available.*

*Discovering Shi'i Islam*

*From Religion to Revolution*

*An Introduction to 'irfan*

*My Journey Into the World  
of Shi'i Muslim Women*

*Concerning the Wayfaring  
and Spiritual Journey of the  
People of Intellect (Risāla-yi*

*Lubb al-Lubāb dar Sayr wa  
Sulūk-i Ulu'l Albāb) A Shi'i*

*Approach to Sufism*

*Jurisdictional*

*Exceptionalisms*

In this concise, scholarly work,  
Mohammad Ali Shomali outlines the  
distinguishing features of the  
Twelver Shia school of Islamic  
thought, which is based on the  
teachings of the Household of the

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Prophet. He focuses on the textual sources of Shii thought and the leading doctrines of Shiism both those which are shared with other Muslims and those that are unique to Shiism, such as the emphasis on divine justice, the imamate, and the infallibility of the Imams.

Concluding with a useful survey of Shia demographics, devotional practices, and holy sites, this readable work answers many common questions about the origins, history, and beliefs of Shii Muslims with an emphasis on spirituality and rationality. Timely and relevant given the focus on Shii Muslims in the world media today.

The Qur'an is the sacramental

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foundation of prayer in Islam. Its inspirational power is perpetually renewed through being recited and meditated upon by Muslims on a daily basis throughout their lives. This succinct monograph provides a unique contemporary insight into the spiritual, intellectual and moral dynamics set in motion by the short Qur'anic chapters recited in their prayers by Muslims of all traditions, but which are particularly recommended within Shi'i Islam. Dr Shah-Kazemi engages creatively with the chapters of the Qur'an, including the 'Opening' (al-Fatiha) chapter, basing his own philosophical reflections on the teachings of Imam 'Ali. He focuses



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in particular on the relationship between the moral and the mystical aspects of the texts. The result is a stimulating philosophical meditation probing the depths of meaning comprised within the verses of a Revelation by which the spiritual quest of Muslims has constantly been inspired, nourished and fulfilled.

Discovering Shi'i Islam is a brief introduction to main issues related to Islam in general and Shi'i Islam in particular. Though simply and clearly written, it is an outcome of more than twenty years of involvement in Islamic studies. The text studies the origins of Shi'i Islam and its sources, i.e. the Qur.an, the

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Sunnah, the reason and consensus. It also studies fundamental doctrines and main practices of Islam. It ends with a brief account of the latest statistics about the present Muslim population of the world along with a breakdown of religious affiliations of some countries with a long history of Shi'i presence therein.

Discovering Shi'i Islam represents a sincere commitment to Islamic unity and is hoped to serve as a modest step towards Muslim brotherhood. Indeed, this book echoes the Qur'anic call for unity which extends to all people of faith to unify their efforts and concentrate on their common ground.

Ranging from the time of the

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infallible Imams, to the contemporary era, this book provides a comprehensive overview of Shi'i religious and political authority, focusing on Iran and Lebanon, without limiting the discourse to Khomeini's version of an Islamic State. Utilising untapped Arabic and Persian sources, Hamid Mavani provides a detailed, nuanced, and diverse theoretical discussion on the doctrine of leadership (Imamate) in Shi'ism from traditional, theological, philosophical, and mystical perspectives. This theoretical discussion becomes the foundation for an analysis of the transmission of the Twelfth Imam's religious and political authority vis-á-

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vis the jurists during his Greater Occultation. Bringing the often overlooked diversity within the Shi'i tradition into sharp focus, *Religious Authority and Political Thought in Twelver Shi'ism* discusses what constitutes an Islamic state, if there is such a notion as an Islamic state. Hamid Mavani further explores the possibility of creating a space for secularity, facilitating a separation between religion and state, and ensuring equal rights for all. This book argues that such a development is only possible if there is a rehabilitation of *ijtihad*. If this were to materialise modern religious, social, economic, political, and cultural challenges could be

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addressed more successfully. This book will be of use to scholars and students with interests ranging from Politics, to Religion, to Middle East Studies.

The American Journal of Islamic Social Sciences (AJISS), established in 1984, is a quarterly, double blind peer-reviewed and interdisciplinary journal, published by the International Institute of Islamic Thought (IIIT), and distributed worldwide. The journal showcases a wide variety of scholarly research on all facets of Islam and the Muslim world including subjects such as anthropology, history, philosophy and metaphysics, politics, psychology, religious law, and

# Read Book The Spirituality Of Shii Islam Beliefs And Practices Ismaili Texts And Translations traditional Islam.

Shi'i Islam

Kernel of the Kernel

A Beginner's Guide

The Origins and Early Development  
of Shia Islam

Religion and Spirituality in Film

Shi'ism

'Alī, son of Abū al-Ḥasan al-Muḥsinī is the Theophanic  
Guide of Shi'i spirituality. Through a  
detailed analysis of different  
categories of sources, this book  
demonstrates that Shi'ism is the  
religion of 'Alī like Christianity is the  
religion of Christ.

Drawing on various perspectives and  
analysis, the Handbook problematizes  
Middle East politics through an  
interdisciplinary prism, seeking a  
melioristic account of the field.

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Thematically organized, the chapters address political, social, and historical questions by showcasing both theoretical and empirical insights, all of which are represented in a style that ease readers into sophisticated induction in the Middle East. It positions the didactic at the centre of inquiry. Contributions by forty-four scholars, both veterans and newcomers, rethink knowledge frames, conceptual categories, and fieldwork praxis. Substantive themes include secularity and religion, gender, democracy, authoritarianism, and new "borderline" politics of the Middle East. Like any field of knowledge, the Middle East is constituted by texts, authors, and readers, but also by the cultural, spatial, and temporal contexts within which diverse intellectual inflections help construct (write–speak) academic

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meaning, knowing, and practice. By denaturalizing notions of singularity of authorship or scholarship, the Handbook plants a dialogic interplay animated by multi-vocality, multi-modality, and multi-disciplinarity. Targeting graduate students and young scholars of political and social sciences, the Handbook is significant for understanding how the Middle East is written and re-written, read and re-read (epistemology, methodology), and for how it comes to exist (ontology).

I.B.Tauris in association with the Institute of Ismaili Studies The world's 200 million Shi'i Muslims express their faith in a multiplicity of ways, united by reverence for the ahl al-bayt, the family of the Prophet. In embracing a pluralistic ethic, fourteen centuries of Shi'i Islam have given rise to diverse



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traditions and practices across varied geographic and cultural landscapes. The Shi'i World is a comprehensive work authored by leading scholars from assorted disciplines, to provide a better understanding of how Shi'i communities view themselves and articulate their teachings. The topics range from Shi'i Islam's historical and conceptual foundations, formative figures and intellectual, legal and moral traditions, to its devotional practices, art and architecture, literature, music and cinema, as well as expressions and experiences of modernity. The book thus provides a panoramic perspective of the richly textured narratives that have shaped the social and moral universe of Shi'i Muslims around the globe. This fourth volume in the Muslim Heritage Series will appeal to specialists and general

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readers alike, as a timely resource on the prevailing complexities not only of the 'Muslim world', but also of the dynamic Shi'i diasporas of Europe and North America.

In recent years there has been a remarkable surge in Iranian films expressing contentious issues which would otherwise be very difficult to discuss publicly inside the Islamic Republic of Iran - such as the role of clergy in Iranian society. Nacim Pak-Shiraz here highlights how many Iranian film directors concern themselves with the content of the religious and historical narratives of culture and society, sparking debate about the medium's compatibility or incongruity with religion and spirituality. She explores the various ways that Shi'i discourse emerges on screen, and offers groundbreaking

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insights into both the role of film in Iranian culture and society, and how it has become a medium for exploring what it means to be Iranian and Muslim after thirty years of Islamic rule. This is invaluable reading students and scholars of Film Studies and contemporary Iranian cinema, but also of the culture and identity of Iran more widely.

From the Civil War in Lebanon to the Iranian Revolution of 1978-79, from the dismantling of the Ba'athist regime in Iraq to the virtual splintering of the country; and from the chaos in Afghanistan to the victimisation of the Hazaras by the Taliban. Shi'i communities around the world have suffered from wars, revolutions and hostility. These problems, in different ways, have all involved a configuration of complicated events, a heritage of

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historical factors and international power politics that defy simplistic explanations. Here, Lloyd Ridgeon brings together an investigation of the nature of contemporary Shi'ism. He and his collaborators here focus on the creation of identities- showing the diversity of thought within the Shi'i world. They demonstrate the transnational nature of Shi'i networks and the forces of tradition and modernity influencing current developments in Shi'i identity both in the Middle East and in the West. This volume looks at both the attempts of authorities to construct a cohesive Shi'i identity (by using, for example, Iranian school books as an indicator of sanctioned facets of what it means to be Iranian) as well as the ways in which identity is created and developed by minority groups in the

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Diaspora. It also offers an analysis of the Hazaras of Afghanistan- so often overlooked when attempts to understand Afghanistan are made. It is this ethnic minority, which was so marginalised and victimised under the Taliban that offers an example of the trend of the rise of Islamism amongst the Shi'a. Moreover, by looking further afield to the Shi'a of Senegal, and asking the question of whether the Alevis of Turkey comprise part of the global Shi'i community, this book emphasizes the ways in which traditional patterns of social organisation are being transformed. Shi'i Islam and Identity highlights these global networks, and shows that it is inaccurate to speak of a 'Shi'i Crescent'; rather, Shi'i worlds range from Senegal, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Lebanon, Iran and Iraq, to Turkey,

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Albania and to European capitals such as London and Berlin. This book is thus of interest to those looking at modern religion and its contemporary forms, as well as those researching Shi'ism more specifically.

The Study of Shi'i Islam  
From Ali to Post-Khomeini

The Language of Tears

Spiritual Quest

Twelve Infallible Men

Shi'i Islam and Sufism

There are over two million Shi'is, who differ from Sunni Muslims in their understandings of the early line of succession after Muhammad, in the United States. With community roots going back sometimes close to one hundred years, the Shi'i community can be found in major cities like New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Washington, and Dearborn, Michigan.

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Early in the century, Shi'is and Sunnis sometimes arrived at the same time, worshipped together, shared similar experiences, and confronted the same challenges despite their sectarian differences. Both tracing the early history and illuminating the more recent past with surveys and interviews, Takim explores the experiences of this community. Filling an important scholarly gap, he also demonstrates how living in the West has impelled the Shi'i community to grapple with the ways in which Islamic law may respond to the challenges of modernity. Shi'ism in America provides the first general overview of this United States religious community, from religious, cultural, and political institutions to inter-group relations and the experience of African American Shi'is. Liyakat Nathani Takim is

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Sharjah Chair in Global Islam at  
McMaster University in Hamilton,  
Ontario, Canada. A native of Zanzibar,  
Tanzania, he is the author of many  
works, including The Heirs of the  
Prophet: Charisma and Religious  
Authority in Shi'ite Islam

This book is one of the many Islamic  
publications distributed by Mustafa  
Organization throughout the world in  
different languages with the aim of  
conveying the message of Islam to the  
people of the world. Mustafa  
Organization is a registered  
Organization that operates and is  
sustained through collaborative efforts  
of volunteers in many countries around  
the world, and it welcomes your  
involvement and support. Its objectives  
are numerous, yet its main goal is to  
spread the truth about the Islamic faith  
in general and the Shi`a School of



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Thought in particular due to the latter being misrepresented, misunderstood and its tenets often assaulted by many ignorant folks, Muslims and non-Muslims. Organization's purpose is to facilitate the dissemination of knowledge through a global medium, the Internet, to locations where such resources are not commonly or easily accessible or are resented, resisted and fought!

Examines a complex global legal problem to demonstrate a compelling method for comparative legal, cultural, and social understanding.

I.B.Tauris in association with the Institute of Ismaili Studies Shi'i

Muslims have played a crucial role, proportionally greater than their relative size, in furthering the civilizational achievements of Islam.

Indeed, the Shi'i scholars and literati of

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various branches and regions, including scientists, philosophers, theologians, jurists and poets, have made seminal contributions to Islamic thought and culture. There have also been numerous Shi'i dynasties, families or individual rulers who patronized scholars, poets and artists as well as various institutions of learning in Islam. In spite of its significance, however, Shi'i Islam has received little scholarly attention in the West, and when it has been discussed, whether in general or in terms of some of its subdivisions, it has normally been treated marginally as a 'sect' or a 'heterodoxy'. The present book draws on the scattered findings of modern scholarship in the field, attempting to explain the formative era of Shi'i Islam, when a multitude of Muslim groups and

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schools of thought were elaborating their doctrinal positions. Subsequent chapters are devoted to the history of the Ithna'asharis, or Twelvers, the Ismailis, the Zaydis and the Nusayris (now more commonly known in Syria as the Alawis), the four communities that account for almost the entirety of the Shi'i Muslim population of the world. The result is a comprehensive survey of Shi'i Islam that will serve as an accessible work of reference for academics in both Islamic and Middle Eastern studies, as well as the broader field of the History of Religions, and also more general, non-specialist readers.

For the public at large Shi'ism often implies a host of confused representations, suggesting more often than not obscurantism, intolerance, political violence and other

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ignominies running hot or cold in response to world events. In fact for many people, Shi'ism stands for "radical Islam", or – worse – "Islamic terrorism". In some respects, nothing is more familiar than Shi'ism, and yet nothing is more misunderstood. For some twenty years the media have increased their coverage of the phenomenon. Never, or only rarely, do they formulate the question we ask here: what is Shi'ism? What is this belief that inspires millions of people dispersed throughout the world? This book provides a broad based introduction to Shi'i Islam. It examines what the Shi'i believe, how they see themselves and how they view the world. It includes a thorough examination of doctrine, philosophy, the Shi'i approach to the Qur'an and the historical evolution of Shi'ism as a

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branch of Islam. Too often, and too quickly, the conclusion is drawn that Shi'ism is a marginal heretical sect, fundamentally alien to the deeper truth of the great religion of Islam, thrust by historical accident onto the political stage. Shi'ism either speaks the truth of Islam, meaning that it is a truth of terror, or it is entirely foreign to Islam and, therefore, merits outright rejection, as Islamic fundamentalists and some individuals repeatedly claim. This book intends to explain why such common misunderstandings of Shi'ism have taken root. Written in an accessible format and providing a thorough overview of Shi'ism, this book will be an essential text for students and scholars of Islamic Studies or Iranian Studies.

Spiritual Body and Celestial Earth  
Ali.the Well-Guarded Secret: Figures

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of the First Master in Shi'i Spirituality

The Iranian Metaphysicals

The Oxford Handbook of Islamic  
Theology

Origins, Faith and Practices

Religion, Politics, and Iran's

Revolutionary Guards

Iran's Revolutionary Guards are one of the most important forces in the Middle East today. As the appointed defender of Iran's revolution, the Guards have evolved into a pillar of the Islamic Republic and the spearhead of its influence. Their sway has spread across the Middle East, where the Guards have overseen loyalist support to Bashar al-Assad in Syria and been a staunch backer in Iraq's war against ISIS-bringing its

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own troops, Lebanon's Hezbollah, and Shiite militias to the fight. Links to terrorism, human rights abuses, and the suppression of popular democracy have shrouded the Revolutionary Guards in controversy. In spite of their prominence, the Guards remain poorly understood to outside observers. In Vanguard of the Imam, Afshon Ostovar has written the first comprehensive history of the organization. Situating the rise of the Guards in the larger contexts of Shiite Islam, modern Iranian history, and international affairs, Ostovar takes a multifaceted approach in demystifying the organization and detailing its

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evolution since 1979. Politics, power, and religion collide in this story, wherein the Revolutionary Guards transform from a rag-tag militia established in the midst of revolutionary upheaval into a military and covert force with a global reach. The Guards have been fundamental to the success of the Islamic revolution. The symbiotic relationship between them and Iran's clerical rulers underpins the regime's nearly unshakeable system of power. The Guards have used their privileged position at home to export Iran's revolution beyond its borders, establishing client armies in their image and extending Iran's



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strategic footprint in the process. Ostovar tenaciously documents the Guards' transformation into a power-player and explores why the group matters now more than ever to regional and global affairs. The book simultaneously serves as a history of modern Iran, and provides a crucial and engrossing entryway into the complex world of war, politics, and identity in the Middle East.

The Spirituality of Shi'i  
Islam Beliefs and Practices I.B.  
Tauris

What do the occult sciences, séances with the souls of the dead, and appeals to saintly powers have to do with rationality? Since the

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late nineteenth century, modernizing intellectuals, religious leaders, and statesmen in Iran have attempted to curtail many such practices as "superstitious," instead encouraging the development of rational religious sensibilities and dispositions. However, far from diminishing the diverse methods through which Iranians engage with the immaterial realm, these rationalizing processes have multiplied the possibilities for metaphysical experimentation. The Iranian Metaphysicals examines these experiments and their transformations over the past century. Drawing on years of

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ethnographic and archival research, Alireza Doostdar shows that metaphysical experimentation lies at the center of some of the most influential intellectual and religious movements in modern Iran. These forms of exploration have not only produced a plurality of rational orientations toward metaphysical phenomena but have also fundamentally shaped what is understood as orthodox Shi'i Islam, including the forms of Islamic rationality at the heart of projects for building and sustaining an Islamic Republic. Delving into frequently neglected aspects of Iranian spirituality, politics, and intellectual inquiry, The Iranian

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Metaphysicals challenges widely held assumptions about Islam, rationality, and the relationship between science and religion. Attempts to explain the bewildering events in the Middle East.

An English translation of a seminal book on Sufism from a Shi'i perspective by an eminent Muslim thinker.

Shi'i Islam and Identity

The Presence of the Prophet in Early Modern and Contemporary Islam

Routledge Revivals: Medieval Islamic Civilization (2006)

Pathways in Tradition and Modernity

DISCOVERING SHI'I ISLAM

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An Encyclopedia -

It may be that the world which our authors here describe in symbolic language as the "eighth climate" will be seen by Western people as the "lost continent". Should some of them be searching for it, the Spiritual Masters whom the present book seeks to interpret will perhaps serve as their guides.

Published in association with the Institute of Ismaili Studies. The second largest branch of Islam, with between 130 and 190 million adherents across the globe, Shi'i Islam is becoming an increasingly significant force in

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contemporary politics,  
especially in the Middle East.  
This makes an informed  
understanding of its  
fundamental spiritual beliefs  
and practices both necessary  
and timely. Mohammad Ali  
Amir-Moezzi is one of the most  
distinguished scholars of Shi'i  
history and theology, and in  
this volume he offers a wide-  
ranging and engaging survey  
of the core texts of Shi'i Islam.  
Examining in turn the origins  
and later developments of Shi'i  
spirituality, t.

This book is one of the many  
Islamic publications  
distributed by Ahlulbayt  
Organization throughout the

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world in different languages with the aim of conveying the message of Islam to the people of the world. Ahlulbayt Organization is a registered Organisation that operates and is sustained through collaborative efforts of volunteers in many countries around the world, and it welcomes your involvement and support. Its objectives are numerous, yet its main goal is to spread the truth about the Islamic faith in general and the Shi`a School of Thought in particular due to the latter being misrepresented, misunderstood and its tenets often assaulted by many

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ignorant folks, Muslims and non-Muslims.

In the tenth century Shi'a scholars assembled accounts of twelve imams' lives, portraying them as miracle workers who were betrayed. These biographies invoked shared cultural memories, shaped communal responses and ritual practices of mourning, and inspired Shi'a identity and religious imagination for centuries to come, Matthew Pierce shows. Shi'i Islam in Iranian Cinema The Spirituality of Shi'i Islam The Bloomsbury Companion to Islamic Studies An Introduction



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## Shi'a Islam

### From Mazdean Iran to Shi'ite Iran

Shí'ism or Shí'a Islam is the second largest sect of the Muslim world. The central theme of Shí'a theology is the position, rights, and qualities that the Imams of Ahlul Bayt possess. Sayyid Muhammad Rizvi starts with a brief discussion on the origin of the Shí'a Islamic faith, and whether it was political in nature or religious. In Chapter II, he surveys the self-censorship exercised by Muslim historians at early as well as modern eras, and how events related to Shí'ism were suppressed in order to appease the rulers. Chapter III expounds on how the Orientalists have dealt with the Ghadír Khumm event: either it is ignored or if quoted, then interpreted to safeguard the interest of

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the majority Muslims. S.M. Rizvi also discusses the literal and contextual meaning of "mawla" which has great bearing on the issue of Imāmat and khilāfat of 'Ali bin Abí Tālib. Chapter IV, he surveys the current dispute on the explicitness versus implicitness of 'Ali's appointment to the position of imāmate and Khālifat. This is followed by a chapter on the concept of 'Ahlul Bayt' in the Qur'ān and the sunnah. Chapter VI deals with the wilāyat, the position and authority of the Imam, and its scope from the Qur'ānic point of view. The treatise ends with a discussion on the esoteric knowledge that the Prophets and the Imams possess and its relevance to their personal life.

The Bloomsbury Companion to Islamic Studies is a comprehensive one volume reference guide to Islam and

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study in this area. A team of leading international scholars - Muslim and non-Muslim - cover important aspects of study in the field, providing readers with a complete and accessible source of information to the wide range of methodologies and theoretical principles involved. Presenting Islam as a variegated tradition, key essays from the contributors demonstrate how it is subject to different interpretations, with no single version privileged. In this volume, Islam is treated as a lived experience, not only as theoretical ideal or textual tradition. Featuring a series of indispensable research tools, including a substantial A-Z of key terms and concepts, chronology and a detailed list of resources, this is the essential reference guide for anyone working in Islamic Studies.

Islamic civilization flourished in the

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Middle Ages across a vast geographical area that spans today's Middle and Near East. First published in 2006, *Medieval Islamic Civilization* examines the socio-cultural history of the regions where Islam took hold between the 7th and 16th centuries. This important two-volume work contains over 700 alphabetically arranged entries, contributed and signed by international scholars and experts in fields such as Arabic languages, Arabic literature, architecture, history of science, Islamic arts, Islamic studies, Middle Eastern studies, Near Eastern studies, politics, religion, Semitic studies, theology, and more. Entries also explore the importance of interfaith relations and the permeation of persons, ideas, and objects across geographical and intellectual boundaries between

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Europe and the Islamic world. This reference work provides an exhaustive and vivid portrait of Islamic civilization and brings together in one authoritative text all aspects of Islamic civilization during the Middle Ages. Accessible to scholars, students and non-specialists, this resource will be of great use in research and understanding of the roots of today's Islamic society as well as the rich and vivid culture of medieval Islamic civilization.

This is an anthology of the most significant writing on the doctrinal, intellectual, and spiritual dimensions of Shicim. The works included here foster an interpretive understanding of Shicim in its dogmatic and cognitive aspects. The intent of this book is to balance the attention that has been focused on the political aspect of

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Shicism. Shicism is often seen, not only as an essentially political phenomenon, but as a creed of violence. Understanding Shicism in its total reality will encourage a more balanced approach to issues which are viewed mostly politically. While not denying the importance of political manifestations, this book offers an understanding of the often neglected religious beliefs and spiritual practices of this world community.

Within the field of Islamic Studies, scientific research of Muslim theology is a comparatively young discipline. Much progress has been achieved over the past decades with respect both to discoveries of new materials and to scholarly approaches to the field. The Oxford Handbook of Islamic Theology provides a comprehensive and authoritative survey of the current

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state of the field. It provides a variegated picture of the state of the art and at the same time suggests new directions for future research. Part One covers the various strands of Islamic theology during the formative and early middle periods, rational as well as scripturalist. To demonstrate the continuous interaction among the various theological strands and its repercussions (during the formative and early middle period and beyond), Part Two offers a number of case studies. These focus on specific theological issues that have developed through the dilemmatic and often polemical interactions between the different theological schools and thinkers. Part Three covers Islamic theology during the later middle and early modern periods. One of the characteristics of this period is the

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growing amalgamation of theology with philosophy (Peripatetic and Illuminationist) and mysticism. Part Four addresses the impact of political and social developments on theology through a number of case studies: the famous mihna instituted by al-Ma'mun (r. 189/813-218/833) as well as the mihna to which Ibn 'Aqil (d. 769/1367) was subjected; the religious policy of the Almohads; as well as the shifting interpretations throughout history (particularly during Mamluk and Ottoman times) of the relation between Ash'arism and Maturidism that were often motivated by political motives. Part Five considers Islamic theological thought from the end of the early modern and during the modern period.

The Shi'i World

Reflections on Quranic Prayer

According to the Teachings of Imam



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Ali

History, Theology and Law

Shi'ism in America

Routledge Handbook of Middle East  
Politics

Vanguard of the Imam

The Ismailis represent an  
important Shi'i Muslim

community with rich

intellectual and literary

traditions. The complex

history of the Ismailis

dates back to the

second/eighth century when

they separated from other

Shi'i groups under the

leadership of their own

imams. Soon afterwards, the

Ismailis organised a

dynamic, revolutionary

movement, known as the da'wa

or mission, for uprooting

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the Sunni regime of the Abbasids and establishing a new Shi'i caliphate headed by the Ismaili imam. By the end of the third/ninth century, the Ismaili d???, operating secretly on behalf of the movement, were active in almost every region of the Muslim world, from Central Asia and Persia to Yemen, Egypt and the Maghrib. This book brings together a collection of the best works from Farhad Daftary, one of the foremost authorities in the field. The studies cover a range of specialised topics related to Ismaili history, historiography, institutions, theology, law

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and philosophy, amongst other intellectual traditions elaborated by the Ismailis. The collation of these invaluable studies into one book will be of great interest to the Ismaili community as well to anyone studying Islam in general, or Shi'i Islam in particular.

From infallible Imams to Ayatollahs in Iran, Shi'ism has long been a prominent, if misunderstood, branch of Islam. It regards Ali, Muhammad's son-in-law, as the Prophet's legitimate successor. But theological differences between the Shi'ah and Sunni Muslims have led to sectarian

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violence, massacres and the desecration of holy sites. In this Beginner's Guide, Dr Moojan Momen offers an accessible and comprehensive overview of Shi'ism, tracing the history of the community, its leadership and doctrines, from its inception to modern times. Packed with useful tables, family trees and text boxes, this engaging and up-to-date guide is a perfect introduction to the historical and geopolitical causes of religious tensions still troubling the Middle East today. This full length text is a very detailed and comprehensive history of the

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early stages of Shi'ism. The author has extensively used primary historical sources as well as more recent academic works in order to present one of the most detailed accounts of early Shi'ism that is available in the English language today. Offering new perspectives on the relationship between Shi'is and Sufis in modern and pre-modern times, this book challenges the supposed opposition between these two esoteric traditions in Islam by exploring what could be called "Shi'i Sufism" and "Sufi-oriented Shi'ism" at various points in history. The chapters are based on new research in textual

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studies as well as fieldwork from a broad geographical areas including the Indian subcontinent, Anatolia and Iran. Covering a long period stretching from the early post-Mongol centuries, throughout the entire Safawid era (906-1134/1501-1722) and beyond, it is concerned not only with the sphere of the religious scholars but also with different strata of society. The first part of the volume looks at the diversity of the discourse on Sufism among the Shi'i "ulama" in the run up to and during the Safawid period. The second part focuses on the social and intellectual

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history of the most popular Shi'i Sufi order in Iran, the Ni'mat Allahiyya. The third part examines the relationship between Shi'ism and Sufism in the little-explored literary traditions of the Alevi-Bektashi and the Khaksariyya Sufi order. With contributions from leading scholars in Shi'ism and Sufism Studies, the book is the first to reveal the mutual influences and connections between Shi'ism and Sufism, which until now have been little explored. Shi'i Islam, with its rich and extensive history, has played a crucial role in the evolution of Islam as both a major world religion and

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civilization. The prolific achievements of Shi'i theologians, philosophers and others are testament to the spiritual and intellectual wealth of this community. Yet Shi'i studies has unjustly remained a long-neglected field, despite the important contribution that Shi'ism has made to Islamic traditions. Only in recent decades, partially spurred by global interest in political events of the Middle East, have scholars made some significant contributions in this area. The Study of Shi'i Islam presents papers originally delivered at the first international colloquium



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dedicated exclusively to Shi'i studies, held in 2010 at The Institute of Ismaili Studies, London. Within the book are eight sections, namely, history, the Qur'an and its Shi'i interpretations, hadith, law, authority, theology, rites and rituals, and intellectual traditions and philosophy. Each section begins with an introduction contextualizing the aspects of studying Shi'i Islam particular to its theme, before going on to address topics such as the state of the field, methodology and tools, and the primary issues with which contemporary scholars of

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Shi'i studies are dealing.

The scope and depth here covered makes this book of especial interest to researchers and students alike within the field of Islamic studies. The volume benefits from the diverse expertise of nearly 30 world-class scholars, including Mohammad-Ali Amir-Moezzi, Meir M. Bar-Asher, Farhad Daftary, Daniel De Smet, Gerald R. Hawting, Nader El-Bizri, Etan Kohlberg, Wilferd Madelung, Andrew Newman, Ismail K. Poonawala, Sabine Schmidtke and Paul E. Walker.

A History of Shi'i Islam  
Doctrines, Thought, and  
Spirituality

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Light upon Light: Essays in  
Islamic Thought and History  
in Honor of Gerhard Bowering  
Classical Views and Modern  
Perspectives

American Journal of Islamic  
Social Sciences 27:4

*The Imam, the Divine Guide,  
is the central point around  
which the Shi'ite religion  
turns. The power of Shi'ism  
comes from the actions of  
the Imam. This title is  
reserved exclusively for the  
sucessors of the prophets in  
their mission. The author  
shows that from the  
beginning of Shi'ite Islam  
until the tenth century, the  
Imam was primarily a master  
of knowledge with*

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supernatural powers, not a jurist theologian. The Imam is the threshold through which God and the creatures communicate. He is thus a cosmic necessity, the key and the center of the universal economy of the sacred. The author presents Shi'ism as a religion founded on double dimensions where the role of the leader remains constantly central: perpetual initiation into divine secrets and continued confrontation with anti-initiation forces. Without esotericism, exotericism loses its meaning. Early Imamism is an esoteric doctrine. Historically, then, at the beginning of

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*esotericism in Islam, we find an initiatory, mystical, and occultist doctrine. This is the first book to systematically explore the immense literature attributed to the Imams themselves in order to recover the authentic original vision. It restores an essential source of esotericism in the world of Islam.*

*The Ritual and Spiritual Purity*

*The Sources of Esotericism in Islam*

*Explorations in Science, Islam, and the Uncanny Religious Authority and Political Thought in Twelver Shi'ism*

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Ismaili Texts And Translations  
*Beliefs and Practices*

*Shí'ism: Imāmate & Wilāyat*