

An introduction to shi'ism the history and doctrines of twelver shi'ism

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What is the meaning of Shia in Islam? The word Shi'a means "adherents" or "collective," referring to those first Muslims who became followers of Ali Ibn Abi Talib, with the conviction that only he and his descendants were the rightful authority to rule the Muslim community.

What are the main beliefs of Shia Islam? Shia Muslim people believe many of the same things as Sunnis, including all the core tenets of Islam (a monotheistic faith system, an infallible God, etc.). Shia Muslims' core difference from Sunnis is their belief that only Prophet Muhammad's direct descendants can be leaders of the Islamic faith.

What makes Shia Islam different? Shias, a term that stems from shi'atu Ali, Arabic for "partisans of Ali," believe that Ali and his descendants are part of a divine order. Sunnis, meaning followers of the sunna, or "way" in Arabic, of Mohammed, are opposed to political succession based on Mohammed's bloodline.

What do Twelver Shia believe? The Twelvers is a branch of Shi'a Islam whose followers believe that there were twelve imams after the death of Muhammad. The twelfth imam, however, has been kept alive by God and is hidden somewhere on Earth. Shi'a Muslims believe the twelfth imam will one day make himself known and bring equality to all.

What are the five principles of Shia?

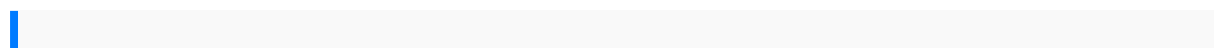
Do Shias believe in the 5 pillars? All Muslims follow the Five Pillars of Islam. For Sunni Muslims, the Five Pillars are the core duties of Islam. Shi'a Muslims follow the

Five Pillars plus five additional duties, and together these are called the Ten Obligatory Acts.

Why do Shias pray on a rock? Following instruction from the Qur'an, the Shia Imam Ja'far al-Sadiq stated that "prostration must be performed on pure earth or what grows on it, provided that it is not eaten or worn." (like leaves, wood, stone/marble so on).

Why do Shias hit themselves? Some Shia may also perform tatbir on other occasions as well. The practice of Tatbir includes striking oneself with a talwar, a type of sword, on the head, causing blood to flow in remembrance of the pain felt by Husayn ibn Ali. Some also hit their back and/or chest with blades attached to chains.

Can a Sunni marry a Shia? Inter-marriages within Shia and Sunni sects are not unheard of, though some sectarian clerks and families prohibit it all together (Alatas 2022).



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