





Al-Mustafa International
Translation and Publication Center

THE EMERGENCE OF SHI'ISM
From the Beginning up tp the End of the
Minor Occultation of Imām Mahdī (A.S)

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Publisher's Forward

To begin and execute a research is like walking in the path of development and evolvement. When the seeds of the “questions” are planted, in the soil of the mind of the researcher, this phase initiates, and its end is culminated when the result and the outcome of knowledge and wisdom is gained.

Evidently, this end is a new chapter in itself, for growth, and announces beforehand this good news to humans. For the result of all those mental efforts will not only bring the blooming and flowering of talent and all kinds of Blessings to humans, but it also makes the mind of the researcher to ponder and shape new, more questions.

This will produce a great collection of growing plants and flowers for the seeking mind... Those “questions” are in fact, the seeds, which according to the necessities of Time and the strength of the researchers will grow and bloom by themselves. They will make Culture and Civilization to move forward.

In like manner, the increasing rate of transferring oneself from one place to another place and the decrease of the distances will make those seeds travel miles and miles, to faraway places, in order to install them inside the curious mind of other seekers. This will bring an amazing diversity and a novelty for another civilization...

It is true then, that the presence of knowledge and a good, capable management will help this project to develop itself and one has to admit indeed, that it has always played an important role...

Al-Mustafa International Publication and Translation Center, because of its global mission, and its special position among the Religious Schools and the colorful human diversity that it has developed inside itself, sees it as a moral duty to procure all the appropriate conditions for any research works, and takes its role in this matter, most seriously. To procure all kinds of necessary grounds, with an excellent management of all the existing possibilities and talents, and to care and protect all its researchers in religious fields; these are the most crucial responsibilities of the Department of Research in this International center.

We dearly hope that by being attentive to all these autonomous scientific movements, and by fortifying all the existing motives, we shall be able to witness the blooming of the Religious Culture in every part of this wide world!

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Preface

Direct and unveiled encountering the reality and truth is one of man's most fundamental rights of which man can be deprived by no authority. It is application of this right that opens new horizons to man, prepares the ground for logical and sound cooperation between man on the one hand and man, society, nature, and God on the other, and results in a thorough and moderate growth of man and human values.

However, the way to attaining the truth and reality is not that simple. History bears evidence of this fact, for there has always been some voluntary and involuntary obstacles to man's attaining such a goal. Unfortunately, such obstacles have become more complicated, influential, and widespread in modern times.

One of the realities and truths which has always been a victim of such obstacles is Islam. Ironically, what makes the situation more painful is that despite man's new communicational inventions and achievements which make ways of attaining truths easier, man's attaining the reality of Islam has become more difficult. Enemies of

PREFACE

Islam have made every effort to draw an unreal and fearful picture of this great religion for non-Muslims of the entire world in general and western world in particular in the recent decades.

A major reason for such determined, unprecedented efforts is that super powers have realized that Islamic teachings can stand against their unlimited greed for rapacity and sucking wealth and blood of the oppressed. That is why they made every direct and indirect effort to cause hatred against Islamic inasmuch as they showed it a horrible religion so that they may prevent truth-seekers from embracing Islam on the one hand and introduce such perspectives which have no relation with the true Islam and introduce some people either they have raised themselves or they have indirectly supported who have nothing to do but terrorism and intimidation as representatives of Islam on the other.

Survey of motivations of such efforts can manifest some terrible truths of satanic plans of enemies of Islam. However, this is something else which should be dealt with in another situation. The responsibility of cultural institutes in this regard is to prepare the ground for familiarity of all people who are in search for the truth and cultural development in the entire world with the reality of Islam in a direct way without being influenced by western media. Doubtless, knowledge of invaluable human, ethical, and axiological teachings of the holy Qur'an and those of the holy Prophet can prepare the ground for inclination of truth-seekers towards this most

perfect symbol of truth, i.e., Islam, as it guided so many great thinkers to the truth in the past.

In this connection, Al-Mustafa International Research Institute (M.I.R.I.) attempts to take some steps towards establishment of a relation between English speaking readers and Islamic truths through preparing simple, conceivable texts so that it may prepare the ground for their fair judgment on Islam. It is hoped that readers' fair reflection could help them overcome obstacles to attaining the truth as well as removing incorrect images attributed unfairly to Islam so that they may become capable of judging Islam fairly.

The present book – which is an adaption of four parts of the book *Tārīkh Tashayyu'* (*History of Shi'ism*) published in Farsi by the Research Institute of Hawzah and University (R.I.H.U) and whose full English translation would, God willing, be soon published – is an example of such works in which the authors have attempted to indicate at once in a scholarly and documented way and a simple language the emergence of Shi'ism from the early Islam up to the end of the Minor Occultation of Imām Mahdī (A.S.), a period when Shi'ite Imāms bore severe difficulties to introduce pure Islam both in teaching and practice.

We hope that this book would be an invaluable contribution to the Islamic thought and of great benefit for all readers in general and people of researcher in particular.

We take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the

P R E F A C E

Research Institute of Hawzah and University (R.I.H.U) for producing the original book and Islam and West Research Centre Ltd for preparing the English translation and publishing it, and hope that the latter should form a link showing the way for those who seek advancement.

Al-Mustafa International Research Institute (M.I.R.I.)