

Ethical Values in the Mahdist State: Foundations and Principles

Sheikh Hussein Abd al-Ridha al-Asadi

Abstract

This research highlights the ethical application within the Mahdist state, positing it as the supreme model for achieving justice and high human values. It aims to explore the principles and foundations upon which this state will be built to ensure upright moral conduct across all spheres of life. The paper discusses practical examples of these values, ranging from prioritizing obligatory duties over recommended ones to establishing comprehensive justice, social solidarity, and political ethics. It emphasizes that these values stem from innate human nature (*fitra*) and religious teachings that balance rights and duties, leading to an ideal society governed by mercy and equity.

Keywords: ethics, values, Imam al-Mahdi's rule, justice, equality.

Imam al-Mahdi (a) and the Divine Promise: An Exegetical Study

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Abstract

This exegetical study focuses on proving the Imamate of Imam al-Mahdi and his rule on earth as a core doctrinal issue related to the divine promise. By analyzing the opinions of commentators from both Shiite and Sunni schools regarding the verses of succession, the research aims to identify the true caliph promised by God to inherit the earth and establish the state of truth in the End Times. The paper attempts to delve into the linguistic and cognitive implications of the Quranic text to determine if the verse alone is sufficient to identify the true example of this caliph, or if supplementary narrations are necessary to pinpoint the complete manifestation of this divine promise.

Keywords: succession, the Promised Imam (a), the divine promise.

The Clash of Mahdism and Messianism in New Orientalism

Qasim Shu'ayb

Abstract

This paper analyzes “new Orientalism,” a post-colonial intellectual current that, despite criticizing traditional Orientalism, reproduces stereotypical images of the East to present political Islam and the Mahdist doctrine as sources of extremism and chaos. The author argues that New Orientalism supports secular-branded “Messianism” (specifically regarding Israel) as a democratic right while ignoring its ideological connections to violence, yet simultaneously exaggerating the threat of a “clash of civilizations” posed by Islam. The research posits that Mahdism represents the core of the Quranic concept of Imamate and that the West views its potential cultural and civilizational resurgence as an existential threat. It suggests that the current geopolitical offensive in the Middle East is driven by a desire to preempt the Mahdist appearance and facilitate the Zionist “Greater Israel” project, which serves a politicized Messianic agenda.

Keywords: new Orientalism, Zionism, political Islam, Mahdism, Messianism.

Mahdism and Salvation in Chinese Thought: A Critical Strategic Reading

Mujtaba al-Sada

Abstract

This study explores the concept of salvation in two distinct civilizations—the Islamic Mahdist vision and the modern Chinese vision—through a critical, comparative strategic reading. It contrasts the Mahdist perspective, which views salvation as a divine promise linked to justice and the spiritual destiny of humanity, with the modern Chinese perspective, which pursues salvation as a secular project focused on material development and nationalism without a metaphysical horizon. The research analyzes the similarities and differences between these two visions regarding the questions of destiny and deliverance, concluding that while the Mahdist model integrates the divine promise with comprehensive justice, the Chinese project seeks a worldly salvation through power and economic planning.

Keywords: salvation, Chinese thought, materialism, Confucianism, Taoism, Mohism, Buddhism, Mahdism, savior.

Belief in al-Yamani: According to the Reports from the Ahl al-Bayt and the Sunni School

Rasul Kazim Abd al-Sadah

Abstract

This research examines the character of al-Yamani, considered one of the most prominent figures associated with the reappearance of Imam al-Mahdi (a) and described in some traditions as his minister or the one who assumes command after him. The study highlights the paradox between the critical importance of al-Yamani's role and the ambiguity surrounding his specific name and lineage in the textual heritage; he is identified by description rather than designation. The author questions whether the title "al-Yamani" refers to a quality of faith (based on the saying "Faith is Yemeni") or a geographical origin. The research argues that the available texts provide a comprehensive solution to this problematic ambiguity, suggesting that Al-Yamani is a figure prepared by Ahl al-Bayt to test the loyalty of their followers in the End Times.

Keywords: al-Yamani, al-Mahdi, al-Qāim, al-Khurasani, Kufa, al-Sufyani.

Jurisprudential Signed Letters of Imam al-Mahdi (a) between Religious Guidance and Reinforcing Imami Jurisprudence

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Abstract

This study investigates the jurisprudential signed letters (tawqī'āt) of Imam al-Mahdi as a primary means of communication utilized by the Infallible Imams (a) to guide their followers when direct access was impossible. It highlights the pivotal role these letters played in guiding the Shiite community and serving as reliable sources for inferring legal rulings during the Minor Occultation. The research analyzes the content of these letters—which cover diverse topics such as worship, financial dues (khums), endowments, transactions, and personal status—demonstrating that despite the security constraints that sometimes necessitated ambiguous wording, these documents established a solid foundation for the continuity of jurisprudential deduction and reinforced the link between the Shiite community and religious authority.

Keywords: jurisprudential signed letters, Imam al-Mahdi, Imami jurisprudence, Minor Occultation, ijtiihad, deduction of rulings.

Self-Refinement in the Signed Letters of Imam al-Mahdi (a)

Sayyid Amir al-Mayali

Abstract

Recognizing that waiting for Imam al-Mahdi (a) and preparing for his arrival requires more than mere belief, this paper highlights the importance of self-refinement and purification as derived from the Imam's own hadiths and signed letters. It argues that the Imam's words serve as a beacon for believers during the darkness of the Occultation. The research is structured around the importance of ethics in Islam, the specific commandments found in the Imam's letters, and an objective analysis of the key ethical concepts within his instructions supported by Quranic evidence, concluding that adhering to these moral precepts is crucial for building the character of the believer in the era of Occultation.

Keywords: Imam al-Mahdi, ethics, instruction, signed letter.

A Reading of the Educational Method in the Signed Letters of Imam al-Mahdi (a)

Ali Harran Abd al-Wahid

Abstract

This research posits that the instructions of Imam al-Mahdi represent a vital element of continuous divine guidance and a comprehensive methodology for the Islamic community across various life domains. It addresses how these instructions contribute to the upbringing of the Muslim individual and the achievement of social progress amidst the challenges of the Major Occultation. The study divides its analysis into identifying the linguistic and terminological concepts of education, exploring the general role of the Imams in educating the individual and society, and focusing specifically on the high moral content of the relevant instructions to explain their role in the educational refinement of the believer.

Keywords: education, Imam al-Mahdi (a), Ahl al-Bayt (a).

Political and Social Effects of the Signed Letter to Ishāq b. Ya‘qūb

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Abstract

This article examines the phenomenon of signed letters (tawqī‘āt) during the Minor Occultation, specifically focusing on the letter addressed to Ishāq ibn Ya‘qūb which directed believers to refer to jurists for new events. The research analyzes the political and social dimensions of this directive, hypothesizing that politically, the letter aimed to create political awareness among the populace by defining the characteristics of the deputy leadership and protecting society from political deviation. Socially, the study argues that the letter intended to foster social unity, regulate the movement of society, and prevent chaos.

Keywords: Imam al-Mahdi, Ishāq ibn Ya‘qūb, deputy leadership, political awareness, social unity.

From the Guidance of Occultation to Anticipating the Appearance: Social and Political Milestones in Imam al-Mahdi 's Testaments

Muhammad Rida al-Khaqani

Abstract

This research explores the social and political milestones extracted from the testaments, signed letters, and supplications of Imam al-Mahdi (a), seeking to highlight their manifestations in contemporary reality. It begins by contextualizing the Minor Occultation and the challenges posed by the Abbasid authorities, which necessitated the development of the agency system (wikala) and the Four Deputies. The paper emphasizes the importance of religious leadership represented by scholars, the call for social unity and financial independence through religious dues like khums, and the rejection of sectarian division. It addresses the concept of "active awaiting," defining it not as passivity but as a state of preparedness characterized by piety, patience, and supplication, concluding that embodying these Mahdist values requires a collective effort to reform reality and pave the way for the future state of divine justice.

Keywords: Imam al-Mahdi, Occultation, signed letters, social milestones, political milestones, justice, wikala system, religious authority, active awaiting.

The Identity of the Titles “al-Qā’im” and “al-Mahdi”

Sheikh Hussein Kamel Harb

Abstract

This work investigates the title “al-Qā’im” and its association with Imam al-Mahdi (a), presenting the linguistic implications and fundamental meanings of the term. It traces the history of its usage among Shiite sects, affirming that “al-Qā’im” and “al-Mahdi” refer to the same individual in the Imami perspective. The research analyzes relevant narrations and interpretations regarding the naming, refuting claims that distinguish between two separate figures by demonstrating the weakness of such arguments. The study concludes that the identity of these titles is textually and doctrinally established, and that understanding the title “al-Qā’im” is essential for grasping the Imam's reformist and messianic mission.

Keywords: al-Qā’im, al-Mahdi, occultation, Mahdism, Imami narrations.

The Reason for Imam al-Mahdi's Occultation and the Command to Refer to Scholars: An Analytical Study in Light of Ishāq b. Ya‘qūb's Report

Sheikh Muhammād Ghāzī al-Uqābī

Abstract

This research analyzes Ishāq b. Ya‘qūb's report, considering it a foundational text regarding the Minor Occultation that elucidates the doctrinal and legislative nature of the era of the Imam's absence. The study addresses the critical answers provided in the narration regarding the reason for the occultation and the authority to whom believers must refer for new events. It highlights the significance of the command to refer to the narrators of Hadith, establishing a clear methodology for the Shi'a during the Major Occultation and defining the features of the religious authority that substitutes for the Imam's direct presence. Furthermore, it explores the cognitive and functional dimensions of this directive, touching upon the Imam's relationship with authority and the divine approach to managing the Imamate amidst tests of faith.

Keywords: occultation, signed letters, Ishāq b. Ya‘qūb, transmitters of Hadith.

The Return of al-Mahdi (a) between Miracles and Divine Norms

Sheikh Ammar al-Baghdadi

Abstract

This research addresses a central issue in the doctrine of al-Mahdi (a) concerning the relationship between the necessity of the Imam's return and the divine laws (sunan) governing history and humanity. It discusses whether the return will occur through a supernatural miracle or according to a system of natural causes. The main themes of the study include:

- The dialectic of determinism and choice: The study affirms that the Qur'an combines immutable divine norms with the impact of human will in shaping the future.
- Al-Mahdi's rule and the promised return: The appearance of Imam al Mahdi (a) is a divine promise whose fulfilment is not subject to change. However, its timing is not arbitrary; rather, it depends on objective conditions, including the presence of a faithful elite and the readiness and receptivity of society.
- The duality of fixed and variable appointed terms: The Qur'an presents two concepts of "appointed term": a variable term dependent on people's preparedness, and a fixed term that is unavoidable. This duality applies to the reappearance of al-Mahdi (a): either humanity advances toward it proactively, or it is imposed upon them through painful historical trajectories.
- Miracles: A miracle serves to establish divine proof; it is not a substitute for divine norms. The Imam (a) is supported by miracles, yet preparing for his appearance requires human effort and readiness.
- The long occultation and its wisdom: The occultation is not an exclusion of the Imam (a); rather, it is a necessary context for the maturation of human experience and for preparing the community to accept the project of divine justice.

Keywords: Al-Mahdi's rule, miracles, divine norms, occultation, awaiting.