

## SHIA IS ONE OF THE SECTS IN ISLAM

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### ABSTRACT

Islam as a religion has many branches of teachings, one of which is Shia. Shia is a sect of Islam based on the views of Sayyidina Ali (the fourth caliph) and his descendants. This sect emerged at the beginning of Khulafaurrasyidin's leadership and has loyal followers. They believe Sayyidina Ali should become the successor caliph to the Prophet Muhammad SAW based on the Prophet's will. Shia has developed into various sects and has become an issue that requires exceptional understanding and attention in Islamic studies. Debates and polemics often arise around Shiism, so it is essential to understand its various types and doctrines. This literature research discusses four Shiite sects: Shiite Itsna Asyariah, Shiiah Sab'iah, Shiiah Zaidiah, and Shiiah Ghulat. Shia Itsna 'Asyariah is a sect that recognizes twelve imams as Islamic community leaders and has the most prominent followers. Shiite Sab'iah recognizes seven imams. The Zaidiyah Shiites, whose name is Zaid bin Ali Zainal Abidin, have a moderate attitude in dealing with the issue of Ali bin Abi Talib's leadership and in assessing the three previous caliphs. Meanwhile, the Ghulat Shiites tend to be extreme in supporting Ali. Abu Zahrah explained that the Ghulat Shiites are a group that places Ali in a position like God; some even have a higher concept than the Prophet Muhammad. This research aims to provide a broader understanding of various Shia sects. Understanding these schools provides many perspectives on how religious thought is formed, which needs to be considered.

**Keywords:** *Islam, Sects, Shia.*

### INTRODUCTION

Shia thought that various factors undoubtedly influence the development of the world. These factors could be in the form of dissemination efforts by Shia figures who deliberately convey their thoughts in the form of philosophy or ideology, or they could also be unexpected factors such as someone's interest and interest in learning and understanding more about Shia thought (Aisyah Rahadianti, 2022 p. 86). History records that Shia has existed since the death of the Prophet Muhammad SAW. Abu Bakar was elected caliph at that time through open discussions at the Tsaqifah hall, but this process did not involve Ahl al-bait. They feel neglected and believe that Muslims have taken away their rights as heirs of the Prophet Muhammad SAW.

There is also an opinion that the movement to appoint Ali and the spread of the issue that Ali ibn Abi Talib has the right to be caliph has existed since the caliphate of Uthman Ibn Affan. This movement was led by Abdullah ibn Saba', a Jew who professed Islam. He spread the rumor that before he died, the Prophet Muhammad SAW had given a will that Ali had the right to replace him as leader of the Muslim community. Therefore, the three previous caliphs were considered not entitled to be caliphs. They were considered to have stolen Ali's rights and betrayed the Prophet's will. Since their inception, the Shiites have brought powerful teachings, namely the issue of Imamate or leadership, which differentiates them from other political sects. However, this teaching also caused the Shiites to split into several streams or sects as time passed (Zulkarnaen, 2008 p. 22).

These factors allowed the spread of Shia ideology, which was then divided into several sects.

Each stream has a different understanding. Of the various existing Shia sects, there are four main sects: Shia Itsna Asyariah, Shia Sab'iah, Shia Zaidiah, and Shia Ghulat. These four Shia sects have characteristics; some tend to be extreme, and some are moderate. This article will discuss these sects, from Shia origins to their doctrine, aiming to understand the Shia context more broadly.

## RESEARCH METHODS

This research was carried out using the library research method, which relies on written data sources. Data was obtained by examining information related to Shia, which includes primers in the form of books that review Shia's understanding in the realm of definition, background, and Shia sects, as well as secondary data obtained from internet media. Data analysis was carried out qualitatively.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### Background to the emergence of the Shia

There are differing opinions among Islamic chroniclers about when the Shiites first appeared. Some argue that Shi'ism emerged immediately after the death of the Prophet Muhammad Shallallahu Alaihi Wasallam, namely when there was a power conflict between the Muhajirin and Ansar at the Bani Saidah Saqifah Hall. At that time, the voices of the Bani Hashim and a small number of Muhajirin emerged, demanding the caliphate for Ali bin Abi Talib.

Some others argue that Shi'ism emerged at the end of Uthman bin Affan's caliphate or the beginning of Ali bin Abi Talib's caliphate. The most popular opinion is that Shiism emerged after the failure of negotiations between Caliph Ali's forces and Muawiyah bin Abu Sufyan's rebel forces in Shiffin, known as the Tahkim and Arbitration incident. This failure caused some of Ali's troops to rebel against his leadership and leave Ali's troops. They were called Khawarij, and those who remained loyal to Caliph Ali were called Shia Ali or followers of Ali.

Both groups were enemies of the Umayyads, who cruelly fought them. There is no doubt that the Battle of Karbala and the death of Al-Husain (61 AH) was one of the most significant political and spiritual events in Islam that sparked hostility in which supporters of the Alawites were full of hatred and revenge. This event was followed by Zaid bin Ali's rebellion (121 AH) against Hisyam bin Abdul Al-Malik, followed by his brother, Yahya (125 AH). However, Hisyam succeeded in crushing and even killing the two rebels. The crimes of the Abbasids against the Alawiyyin were no less than those committed by the Amawiyyin, mainly because they were closer and knew more about the secrets of the Alawiyyin. Much of the Abbasid propaganda was carried out under the auspices of the Alawiyyin. To face these constant attacks, Shiites argue that they must protect themselves with the teachings of Al-taqiyyah.

For this reason, they established secret movements and campaigns that were organized and serious about carrying out studies. They interacted with various cultures, took what was necessary, and incorporated it into their religious teachings. They succeeded in collecting a number of teachings and opinions that became the basis of the sect. They managed to penetrate the Abbasid Daula's weaknesses so they could rule. They founded states in the east and west, the peak of which was the Daulah Fatimah (Mila Febrianti, 2020 p. 88)

Shia is a crucial aspect that must be understood and paid attention to. Shia itself is divided into various streams and sects. Within the Shia sect are groups with varying degrees of extreme, moderate, and liberal. Among the extreme groups, some place Sayyidina Ali in the rank of prophethood; some even consider Ali to be God. After the war between Jamal and Shiffin, Ali's troops split into four groups:

The first group is the Shiites, who follow Sayyidina Ali without condemning their companions. They have a sense of love and respect for the companions of the Prophet Muhammad SAW. They realized that they were fighting against their brothers. Therefore, they stopped fighting and accepted the decisions made by other groups. The second group is those who believe Sayyidina Ali has a higher rank than the other friends. This group is called Tafidhiliyah. Ali warned them about these beliefs and threatened to punish those still holding them. The Shia group currently represents this group.

The third group is those who believe that all the Prophet's companions were infidels and had great sins. They are called Sabaiyah and are followers of Abdullah bin Saba'. The fourth group is the most heretical and heretical among the abovementioned groups. They argue that Allah has become a part of the Prophet Isa.

### **Syiah Itsna Asyariah**

The Shia Itsna Asyariah (Twelver Shia/Imamiyah Shia) are so named because they believe in twelve imams as religious and political leaders, where Ali has the right to become caliph not only based on his abilities or moral excellence but also because he was appointed through the text and is worthy of being heir to the leadership of the Prophet Muhammad SAW.

Shia Itsna Asyariah agrees that Ali was the recipient of the will of the Prophet Muhammad, as shown in the NAS. Apart from Ali bin Abi Talib, the following will recipients were descendants of Fatimah's line, namely Hasan bin Ali and then Husain bin Ali, as agreed. (Silfiatus Solehah, 2018).

### **Shia Itsna Asyariah doctrines**

#### **Tawhid**

Tawhid is the belief that God is one both in essence and existence. God exists by himself and does not depend on space and time. God is All-Knowing, All-Hearing, and All-Knowing of all languages. The Oneness of God is infinite. In Shia Itsna 'Asyariyah, humans are expected to understand themselves through the knowledge of Allah. In the monotheism of Allah, reason (philosophy) and belief are used. There is no doubt that Allah is the creator of the universe (Aisyah Rahadianti, 2022 p. 95).

#### **Justice**

Shia Itsna' Asyariyah strives hard to uphold justice. They believe justice will only be realized with a priest who corresponds to Allah's valid justice owner. This school also teaches that God gave humans reason to distinguish between good and evil. Humans have freedom of will and are responsible for their actions. Shia Itsna' Asyariyah calls on its followers to be spreaders of truth and encourage the creation of peace in this world and the hereafter (Aisyah Rahadianti, 2022 p. 95).

### Nubuwwah (Apostleship)

Apostles are accurate guidance God sends to distinguish between good and evil. Shia Itsna 'Asyariyah believes God has sent 124,000 Messengers to guide humans. They believed in the teachings of monotheism and prophethood from Prophet Adam to Prophet Muhammad, and there were no Prophets or Messengers after Muhammad. They also believe in the purity and authenticity of the Koran, which is free from changes or additions (Aisyah Rahadianti, 2022 p. 96).

### Ma'ad (The Last Day)

Ma'ad is the final day (Doomsday) where every Muslim will face God's justice. Every Muslim must believe in the existence of the apocalypse and life after it. Life in this world is a transit process to the afterlife. A correct understanding of Ma'ad will encourage fear of Allah and encourage us to walk by His Shari'a. Knowledge about Ma'ad has excellent educational value for human happiness (Aisyah Rahadianti, 2022 p. 96).

### Imamah (The Divine Guidance)

The imamah is an integral part of religion and must be recognized and followed. Faith will not be complete without a priest. The Imamate is an institution established by God to guide humans chosen from the descendants of Muhammad as the last Prophet and Messenger. The Imamate is a fundamental doctrine in Shia, and one cannot be called a Shia without believing in it (Aisyah Rahadianti, 2022 p. 97).

### Shia Sab'iah

Shiite Sab'iah is a Shiite sect that only recognizes seven imams: Ali, Hasan, Husain, Ali Ja'far, and Isma'il bin Ja'far as-Sadiq. They are also known as Shia Isma'iliyah. In terms of Shiite Sab'iah doctrines, Qadi an-Nu'man (974 AD) explained them as follows:

1. Faith in Allah as the only God, faith in Muhammad as the messenger of Allah, faith in heaven, hell, the day of resurrection, the day of judgment, the Prophets and Apostles, as well as faith in the imams and belief, knowledge and recognition of the imam's era.
2. A priest must have the nature of walayah, namely the esoteric ability to guide humans.
3. Other teachings in Shiite Sab'iah are the same as other Shiite sects. The difference lies in the concept of the priest's infallibility, the existence of an inner aspect in every birth, and the rejection of al-Mahdi al-Muntazar (Silfiatus Solehah, 2018).

### Shia Zaidiyah

The Shia Zaidiyah sect is attributed to Imam Zaid bin Ali bin Al-Husain bin Ali bin Abu Talib. Imam Zaid was involved in the war against the caliph Hisham ibn Abd Malik and was finally crucified in Kufa. During his life, Zaid was involved in the world of science and had good relations with the scholars of his time, including Washil ibn 'Atha' and Abu Hanifah.

Compared to other Shia groups, the Zaidiyah Shia are more moderate and closer to the ideology of Ahlussunnah wal Jama'ah. They did not elevate priests to be prophets, not even close to that. They believe imams are the most important people after the Prophet Muhammad. They also believed their companions, especially those who had pledged allegiance to Ali Ra., acknowledged

their leadership. Zaidiyah believes Sayyidina Ali is the most suitable person to be an Imam after Rasulullah SAW because he is closest and similar to the qualities mentioned by Rasulullah previously. Moreover, Imams after Ali must be from Fatimah's descendants. Those are the best qualities of an Imam.

### **Shia Zaidiyah doctrines:**

1. Zaidiyah Shiites have a doctrine regarding the permissibility of taking allegiance to two imams in two different jurisdictions as long as both have the legal qualities to become imams and as long as the ahl al-hall wa al-`aqq freely chooses them. They do not justify having two imams in one territory because this would cause the people to pay allegiance to two imams, which authentic hadith prohibits.
2. In the doctrine of aqeedah, they believe that people who commit major sins will remain in hell forever if they do not repent with true repentance. In this case, they followed Mu'tazilah's thinking. This happened because Washil ibn Atha', a Mu'tazilah figure, was Imam Zaid's teacher. However, this relationship also made some Shiite followers angry with Zaid because Washil was hesitant to determine Ali's position in Jamal's war against Mu'awiyah's supporters from Syria. Washil was not wholly convinced that Ali was in the correct position. (Ahmad Atabik, 2015 p. 339)

### **Shia Ghulat**

Etymologically, "ghulat" comes from "ghali" which means excessive or exceeding the limit. Ghulat Shiites are people who exaggerate in giving rights or attributing divine qualities to their imams. They even liken God to creatures.

Jewish and Christian religious conceptions influence the identification or identification of their priests with divinity. The Jewish conception equates God with creatures, while the Christian conception equates creatures with creatures. Therefore, the ulama gave them the name "ghulat" because their teachings had exceeded the limits of permitted tolerance. They are considered to have left Islam or at least deviated from Islamic teachings. They were not sincere supporters of Ali but rather a group that wanted to influence Ali's followers. What they did was contrary to Ali's mission as caliph. Ghulat Shiites are considered an extreme group because of their excessive attitude towards the Imams. They assigned divine qualities to the Imam beyond the limits, likening God or likening God to creatures.

### **Ghulat Shia doctrines**

The teachings or doctrines that various Ghulat Shia groups adhere to do not originate from Islamic teachings. However, they are teachings from outside that were incorporated into Islam, such as Hinduism, Zoroastrianism, Judaism, Christianity, and ancient Arab beliefs. Their teachings revolve around the concepts of tasbih (likening God to creatures), Tanakh (reincarnation), bada' (change of destiny), and rajah (reanimation). They have left the actual teachings of Islam, so it is natural for scholars to assume that Shia Ghulat has left Islam (Ris'an Rusli, 2015 p. 209).

## CONCLUSION

Based on the explanation above, Islamic historians have different opinions regarding the history of the emergence of Shiism. Some consider that Shia emerged immediately after the death of the Prophet Muhammad *sallallaahu alaihi wasallam*, namely when there was a power dispute between the Muhajirin and Ansar groups at the Saqifah Bani Saidah Assembly Hall. At that time, the Bani Hashim and a few Muhajirin demanded leadership from Ali bin Abi Talib. Meanwhile, some others believe that Shia emerged at the end of Uthman bin Affan's caliphate or the beginning of Ali bin Abi Talib's caliphate. There are four Shia sects, namely:

1. Shia Itsna 'Asyariyah, which recognizes the existence of twelve imams who have the right to lead the Muslim community and is the sect with the most significant number of followers.
2. Shia Sab'iah, which recognizes the existence of seven imams.
3. Zaidiyah Shia, attributed to Zaid bin Ali Zainal Abidin, is the fifth imam in the hierarchy of the Zaidiyah imamate. The Zaidiyah Shiites tend to be moderate in dealing with the problem of Ali bin Abi Talib's caliphate and assessing the three previous caliphs, considering them to be the most praiseworthy and best imams.
4. Shia Ghulat is a group of Ali supporters with excessive or extreme attitudes. Some Ghulat Shia groups place Ali in a divine position; some even elevate him to a higher prophetic level than the Prophet Muhammad.

Shia is an important concept that needs to be considered and understood. Shia consists of various streams and sects. Among the Shiite sects, there are extreme, moderate, and liberal groups. Some extreme groups even place Sayyidina Ali in the rank of prophethood; some even elevate him to the rank of divinity. Therefore, special attention needs to be paid to Shia so that various Shia sects do not follow heretical sects.

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