
Shi'ite Islam

Polity, Ideology, and Creed

Yann Richard

Translated by Antonia Nevill



BLACKWELL
Oxford UK & Cambridge USA

Contents

Series Editor's Preface	viii
Preface	xi
1 A Few Words about Shi'ism	1
Some Statistics on Shi'ism	2
Doctrinal Characteristics	5
Practices	7
In the Paradise of the "Radiant One"	11
2 A Holy Family	15
'Ali, between Glory and Failure	15
The Clan of the 'Alids	22
The Battle of Karbalā	27
From the Massacre to the Myth	29
The Renunciation and the "Martyrdom" of the Imams	33
From Hoseyn to the Hidden Imam	34
The Occultation of the Imam	40
The Imamate and Community Organization	44
Shi'ism and the Holy Family	48
3 A Mystic Theology	49
The Clerical Order and the Disorder of the Mystics	52
Sufism and Shi'ism	55
Mysticism in Early Shi'ism	56
Clerical Shi'ism versus Sufism	58
... And Philosophy	60
Sohravardi	62
Mollā Sadrā	64

	Contemporary Thinkers	65
	The Schisms of Modern Shi'ism	68
	Two New Religions, Bābism and Bahā'ism	72
4	A Destiny Linked with Iran	77
	The Place of the Clergy	78
	The Guide of the Community	81
	Shi'ism "Minus the Clerics"?	86
	The Clergy and the Nation	91
	Mourning and Dancing for the Martyrs	97
	Religious Feeling: From the Ritual to the Myth	101
	Learned or Popular Shi'ism?	109
5	The Shi'ites outside Iran	110
	Iraq	110
	The Arabian Peninsula	119
	Lebanon	121
	From Submission to Revolt	126
	Amal, Hezbollah and Others	131
	Afghanistan	139
	The Indian Subcontinent	142
6	Shi'ism, Women, and Pleasure	148
	The Marriage of Pleasure: The Myth	152
	The Theory	153
	The Ideological Justification	158
	Marriage or Prostitution?	162
	Marriage . . . Unconsummated	164
	Women's Revenge?	165
	Relations between the Sexes	166
7	Islamic Revolutionary Thinking	168
	Clerics and Laymen: Same Struggle?	169
	Non-clerical Shi'ite Thinking	174
	The "Organized Spontaneity" of President Bani-Sadr	180
	The Ideology of a Great Shi'ite Party	183
	A Thinking Cleric and Those Who Are "Clear Thinkers"	189
	The Sermon: Ideological Medium	190
	Ideology: A New Form of Religion	196
	Relations between Shi'ites and Sunnis	198
	Pilgrimage and Its Ideology	204

Is Shi'ism Revolutionary? A New Form of Nationalism?	207 208
Conclusion	212
Chronological Highlights	218
Glossary	221
Bibliography	226
Shi'ism in General	226
As Viewed by Shi'ites	226
As Viewed by Orientalists	227
The Religious Sociology of Shi'ism	228
General	228
Shi'ism in Modern Iran	229
Islamic Revolution	230
Shi'ism outside Iran	231
Modern Shi'ite Ideologists' Writings	231
Women's Rights	232
Index	233