

Notes on Prominent Figures Cited in the Book

Prominent figures mentioned in the book have been listed in alphabetical order, according to the name by which they are best known. Where years are given according to the Islamic lunar calendar, ‘BH’ refers to the number of years before the *hijrah*. Corresponding years in the Gregorian calendar have been given after the stroke.

ABĀ BAKR IBN ABĪ QURĀH (c. 50 BH – 13 AH /573–634) The Prophet’s father-in-law, an early convert to Islam, and the first caliph after the Prophet’s death; known as ‘al-ḥidīq’ (most truthful). He is buried in Medina.

ABĪ ANĀH, NU‘MĀN IBN THĀBIT (80– 150/699–767) One of the Imams of the four major Sunni schools of law. He was among the Followers (*tābi‘īn*), and attended the lectures of Imam ḥadīq for two years. His school is considered more radical in legal injunctions than the other three schools.

ABĪ JAHL (d. 2/624) ‘Amr ibn Hishām, known as Abu al-ḥakam before Islam, but the Muslims titled him Abū Jahl (‘Father of Ignorance’) for his utmost enmity and cruelty against them. He was killed in the Battle of Badr.

‘ALĪ IBN ABĪ LĪB (c. 23 BH – 40 AH /600–61) The cousin and son-in-law of the Prophet, the first Imam of the Shi’a, and the fourth caliph, who was born in the Ka’bah. The Shi’a use the title Amīr al-Mu’minīn (Commander of the Faithful) exclusively for him. *Nahj al-Balaghah* is a collection of his sermons, letters, and sayings. He is buried in Najaf.

‘ALĪ IBN AL-USAYN AL-SAJJĪD (38– 95/659–713) The fourth Imam of the Shi’a; the only adult male survivor of the battle on ‘Ashūrā’; known for the extent of his worship and prayer. *Al-ḥafah al-Sajjīdiyyah* is a collection of his supplications, and *Risālat al-‘uqq* is an epistle of his description of one’s duties in various regards. He is buried in Medina.

‘ALĪ IBN JA‘FAR (130–220/748–835) The youngest son of the sixth Imam, a reliable transmitter of narrations, and a learned and pious saint to the Shi’a. He saw at least four of the Imams, starting from

his father. He is buried in ‘Arḥḥ near Medina.

‘ALĪ IBN MḤSḤ AL-RIḤḤ (148–203/765–818) The eighth Imam of the Shi’a. He was summoned by al-Ma’mūn (Abbasid caliph) from Medina to Marw by force to be announced as the caliph’s successor, but al-Ma’mūn himself poisoned him. He is buried in Mashhad.

‘MILḤ, BAHḤ AL-DĪN MUḤAMMAD (953–1031/1547–1621) Known as Shaykh BahḤ, and a master of a wide range of disciplines, he was an influential scholar in establishing Shī’ism as the official religion under the Safavid rule in Persia. He has poems in both Arabic and Persian, and among his many works are *Miftḥ al-Falḥ*, *Kashk*, and *Jḥmi’-i ‘Abbḥs*. He is buried in Mashhad.

AMḤNḤ, ‘ABD AL-ḤUSAYN (1320– 90/1902– 70) A scholar who bore much hardship in order to compose *al-Ghadḥr fī al-Kitḥb wa al-Sunnah* (11 vols.) based on narrations reported by Sunni authorities. The book addresses many points of disagreements between Shi’a and Sunni Muslims. He is buried in Najaf.

MULḤ, MUḤAMMAD TAQḤ (1304 –91/ 1887– 1971) A student of Mr Qḥḥ in ethics and of Ayatollah Nḥḥ in law; and a Source of Emulation (*marja’*) in Tehran. He wrote commentaries on Sabzivḥr’s *Manḥmah* and Ibn Sḥn’s *al-Ishḥrḥt wa al-Tanbḥḥt*.

ANḤRḤ, SHAYKH MURTAḤḤ (1214 – 81/1799–1864) A prominent Shi’a scholar, who was unanimously chosen as the Source of Emulation after the death of Ḥḥḥib al-Jawḥir. He was a student of MullḤ Aḥmad Narḥqḥ and Sayyid ‘ḥḥ Shḥshtarḥ in ethics.

QḤ BUZURG ḥHRḤNḤ, MUḤAMMAD MUḤSIN (1293–1389/1875–1970) The author of two major books of reference: *al-Dharḥḥ ilḥ Taḥḥnḥf al-Shḥḥ*, which is an encyclopedia of Shi’a books (26 vols.), and *ḥbaqḥt A’ḥm al-Shḥḥ*, which is an encyclopedia of Shi’a scholars (20 vols.). He is buried in Najaf.

SHTIYḤNḤ, MAHDḤ (1306–72/1889–1953) An expert of a variety of traditional and modern sciences, most notably philosophy. He widely travelled abroad, and has glosses on Sabzivḥr’s *Manḥmah*. He is buried in Qum.

ḥḥIM IBN ABḤ AL-NAJḤD (d. 127/745) One of the Followers (*tḥbi’ḥn*) and the narrator of the most authentic recitation of the Qur’an.

BḤDKḤBAHḤ, SAYYID ḤUSAYN (1293–1358/ 1876–1939) Prominent philosopher in Najaf and the teacher of Muḥammad TaqḤ ḤmulḤ, ‘Allḥmah, and his brother. He is buried in Najaf.

BAHMANYḤR, ABḤ AL-ḤASAN (d. 458/1067) A convert to Islam, a Peripatetic philosopher, and Ibn Sḥn’s student.

BAḤR AL-’ULḤM, SAYYID MAHDḤ (1155–1212/ 1742–97) The most prominent Shi’a scholar of his time, highly spiritual and extremely learned. He was the head of the *ḥawzah* of Najaf, where he passed away.

He is famous for having met Imam Mahdī several times.

BALĠGH NAJAFĠ, JAWĠD (1282–1352/1865 – 1933) An eloquent scholar who dedicated his life to defending Islam and Shi'ism against the doubts and questions raised by other sects and religions. Among his books are *al-Tawġid wa al-Tathlith* (Unity and the Trinity), *al-Raġlah al-Madrasiyyah wa al-Madrasah al-Sayyrah fġ Nahj al-Hudġ* on the Old and New Testaments (3 vols.), and *al-Radd 'alġ al-Wahhġbiyyah* (Refuting Wahhġbism). He is buried in Najaf.

BĠYAZĠD BASĠMĠ (188–261/804–74) A great Sufi master, known as the Sultan of the Mystics, credited with founding the school of intoxication (*sukr*) in Sufism. He is buried in BasĠm.

BIHĠRĠ, MUĠAMMAD (d. 1325/1907) An intimate student of Mullġ ġusayn–Qulġ Hamadġnġ in mysticism. He is the author of *Tadhkirat al-Muttaġġn* (in Persian), a collection of the speeches and letters concerning spiritual wayfaring. He is buried in BihĠr near Hamadġn.

BURĠJIRDĠ, 'ALĠ MUĠAMMAD (1312–95/ 1895–1975) A full-fledged jurist who was transformed when he became a student of the late Qġġġ, whereby he adopted silence and refused to become a Source of Emulation. He lived in simplicity and piety, and is buried in BurĠjird.

BURĠJIRDĠ, SAYYID ġUSAYN (1292–1383 /1875–1963) He studied in Iġfahġn and Najaf and was unanimously accepted as the Source of Emulation by the Shi'a. He was a significant figure in expanding the ġawzah of Qum. A collection of Shi'a narrations was composed under his supervision, titled *Jġmi' Aġġġth al-Shġ'ah* (26 vols.). He is buried in Qum.

CORBIN, HENRY (1903–78) A French thinker who introduced Shi'ism and later Islamic philosophy to the West. He had many interviews with 'Allġmah ġabġġabġ'ġ over several years.

DHI'LAB AL-YAMġNġ (c. 1st/7th century) One of Imam 'Alġ's companions; known for his courage and eloquence.

DHĠ AL-QARNAYN A righteous king of yore, whose story has been mentioned in the Quran (18:83–98).

FĠRĠBĠ, ABĠ NAĠR (257–339/871–950) Muslim Peripatetic philosopher and logician, known as the Second Teacher (second to Aristotle). He was also a political philosopher, following Plato's Republic. He is buried in Damascus.

FĠĠMAH BINT ASAD Imam 'Alġ's mother and the Prophet's guardian for several years. She was an early Muslim, migrated to Medina, and died there before the Prophet.

FĠĠMAH AL-MA'ġMAH (173–201/ 790–816) The daughter of the seventh Imam of the Shi'a, Mġsġ Kġġim. The city and the ġawzah of Qum are centred around her mausoleum.

FĠĠMAH AL-ZAHRĠ' (c. 8 BH–11 AH /615–32) The Prophet's daughter, Imam 'Alġ's wife, and one of

the fourteen Infallibles (*ma'addim*) in Shi'ism. She is buried in Medina.

FAYĀL AL-KĀSHĀNĪ, MUĀMMAD IBN MURTAZĀ (1007– 91/1598–1680) Known as Mullā Muṣṣin; a Shi'a scholar who had mastered law, philosophy, and mysticism. He was Mullā 'Adrās's son-in-law and his student in philosophy. He has many works in various fields like *tafsīr*, *adab*, and ethics; his works include *ḥikmah*, *Aḥkām*, *Wafā*, and *Ma'ajjat al-Bayān*, not to mention his Persian poetry. He is buried in Kashan.

GĤARAWĀ IḤFAĤĀNĀ, MUĀMMAD 'USAYN (1296–1361/1878–1942) Also known as Kumpān; Shi'a scholar and philosopher. He was 'Allāmah 'Ab'ab'ās's teacher of philosophy in Najaf, where he is buried.

GULPĀYIGĀNĀ, SAYYID MUĀMMAD RĪ (1316–1414 /1898–1993) Shi'a scholar and Source of Emulation, who sponsored the building of many schools, mosques, and hospitals. He performed the funeral prayer of 'Allāmah 'Ab'ab'ās. He is buried in Qum.

'ABBĀBĀ, SAYYID MUĀMMAD SA'ĀD (1266–1333/1850–1915) One of the top students of Mullā 'usayn–Qulā HamadānĀ in mysticism; also an adept poet and scholar. He called for holy war against the British army as it invaded Iraq. He is buried in Najaf.

'ĤĤĪ SHĤRĤZĀ, KHĤJĤH SHAMS AL-DĤN MUĀMMAD (726–92/1317– 92) A first-class Persian poet and Sufi critic. His *DĤvĤn* is also used in performing divinations and fortune-telling. He is buried in ShĤrĤz.

HĤMĤDĤNĤ DARJĤZĤNĤ, KHĤND MULLĀ 'USAYN–QULĀ (1239–1311/1824–94) Shi'a scholar and a matchless spiritual master, who trained many individuals such as MĤrzĤ JawĤd ĤqĤ MalikĤ TabrĤzĤ, Sayyid AĤmad KarbalĤ'Ĥ and Shaykh MuĤammad BihĤrĤ. He studied philosophy under 'ĤĤjĤ MullĀ HĤdĤ SabzivĤrĤ, and was a student of Sayyid 'AlĤ ShushtarĤ in ethics. He is buried in KarbalĤ'.

'ĤSAN IBN 'ĤLĤ (3–50/625–70) The Prophet's grandson and the second Imam of the Shi'a, known as MujtabĤ. He was forced into accepting Mu'Ĥwiyah's caliphate after the assassination of his father, ImĤm 'ĤlĤ. He is buried in Medina.

HĤSHĤM IBN AL-'ĤĤKĤM (d. c. 179/795 or 199/814) An intimate companion of the Sixth and Seventh Imams. He is known for his mastery in polemics and debates in defending Shi'ism.

'ĤJJĤT KĤH–KĤMĤRĤ, SAYYID MUĀMMAD (1310–72/1893–1953) Shi'a scholar and 'Allāmah 'Ab'ab'ās's teacher of *rĤjĤ* (science of narrators) in Najaf. He founded the famous 'ĤjjĤtiyyah School in Qum, and was an influential figure in establishing and supporting the *'awzĤh* there, where he is buried.

'ĤRR AL-'ĤMĤLĤ (1033–1104/1624–93) Shi'a jurist and traditionalist. Among his notable works are *WasĤ'il al-ShĤ'Ĥh*, *IthbĤt al-HudĤh*, and *JawĤhir al-SĤniyyah fĤ AĤĤdĤth al-Qudsiyyah*. He is buried in

Mashhad.

USAYN IBN 'AL (4–61/626–80) The grandson of the Prophet and third Imam of the Shi'a. He rose against the Umayyad rule and was killed in Karbal', where he is buried. The day of his death is known as 'ashra' (the tenth of Muarram), and the Shi'a mourn and lament its anniversary every year.

BN 'ABBAS, 'ABDULLAH (c.3 BH – 68 AH/618–87) The cousin and companion of the Prophet and Imam 'Al. He is known as the 'exegete' (*mufassir*) of the Qur'an. He died and is buried in 'if.

IBN AL-'ARABI, MU'YI AL-DIN (560–638/1165–1240) The most prominent Sufi thinker, known as the Greatest Master (Shaykh al-Akbar). He opened up new frontiers to *'irfan* and Sufism by elaborating on topics such as unity of being, the perfect man, and the imaginal world. He has often been charged with heresy by various groups. Among his many works are *Fu'rat al-'ikam* and *Fut'at al-Makkiyyah*. He is buried in Damascus.

IBN AL-FARABI, 'UMAR (576– 632/1181–1235) Born, lived, and buried in Egypt; one of the most eminent Arab poet-mystics. His elegant poems are often used in teaching Sufism.

IBN MAS'UD, 'ABDULLAH (d. c. 32/653) The sixth person who embraced Islam and a recorder and reciter of the Qur'an. His objections to the third caliph lead to his death. He is buried in Medina.

IBN MISKAWAYH, A'AMAD IBN MU'AMMAD (320– 421/932–1030) Prominent Muslim philosopher and physician; esteemed by the Buyid rulers; and author of many works in mathematics, natural sciences and metaphysics. He is famous for his work on ethics, *'ahrat al-A'raq*. He is buried in 'afah.

IBN RUSHD (AVERROES), MU'AMMAD IBN A'AMAD (520–95/1126–98) Muslim Peripatetic philosopher, who had the biggest impact in medieval Europe as the commentator and transmitter of Aristotle's thoughts. He is buried in Cordoba.

IBN S'IN (AVICENNA), AB 'AL USAYN (363–428/974–1037) Prominent Muslim philosopher; known as Shaykh al-Ra's; mastered all sciences of his time by the age of eighteen; lived a turbulent life as a vizier and physician of the court; most notable for his *Shif'* and *Ishrat wa al-Tanbahat* in philosophy, and *Qan* in medicine. He is buried in Hamad.

IBN 'WAS, SAYYID 'AL (589–664/ 1193–1266) Shi'a scholar and mystic, famous for having met with Imam Mahd several times. He has many works such as *Iqb' al-A'm*, *al-Malhif*, *Fal' al-S'il* and *al-Yaqn*. He is buried in 'illah.

IBN TURKAH, 'IN AL-DIN (771–835 /1368–1432) Muslim philosopher, who blended Peripatetic philosophy with the teachings of the schools of illumination and Ibn al-'Arab in Shi'a esotericism. He is most famous for his *Tamhd al-Qaw'id*, a commentary on his grandfather's *Qaw'id al-Taw'id*. He is buried in Herat.

IBN UMM MAKTUM, 'ABDULLAH (c. 1st/7th century) A blind, poor, but sincere companion of the Prophet, and a caller of prayer (*mu'adhdhin*). The Prophet left him in charge in Medina on several battles.

IBRAHIM IBN MU'AMMAD (8–10/630–631) The Prophet's son from Maryam Qibiyah (Mary the Copt). His early death was a great sorrow for the Prophet. He is buried in Medina.

IBRAHIM, SAYYID ABU AL-ASAN (1284–1365/1867–1946) Shi'a scholar, the only major Source of Emulation (*marja'*) after Ayatollah Nuri's death, and 'Allamah al-Ababadi's teacher in *fiqh* and *uqul* in Najaf. He is buried in Najaf.

IZUTSU, TOSHIHIKO (1914–93) Japanese scholar of Islamic studies and the first translator of the Holy Qur'an from Arabic to Japanese. He met 'Allamah al-Ababadi during his career at the Imperial Iranian Academy of Philosophy in Tehran. He has many publications such as *Sufism and Taoism: A Comparative Study of Key Philosophical Concepts, Toward a Philosophy of Zen Buddhism*, and the English translation of *The Metaphysics of Sabzavari* (in collaboration with Mehdi Mohaghegh).

JABIR IBN 'ABDULLAH AL-ANSAARI (c. 16 BH – 78 AH/607–97) A companion of the Prophet, who lived long enough to see up to the fifth Imam. He was an intimate follower of the Household of the Prophet.

JA'FAR IBN MU'AMMAD AL-DIQAQI (80–148 / 699–765) The sixth Imam of the Shi'a, and a descendant of Abu Bakr from the mother's side. He witnessed the fall of the Umayyad rule and the rise of the Abbasids to power. The socio-political conditions of his time gave him the opportunity to educate many students in a range of Islamic sciences. He is buried in Medina.

JAHANGIR KHAN QASHQARI (1243–1328/1827–1910) An expert of philosophy and theology in Isfahan, and a teacher of Ayatollahs Burujirdi, Nuri, and Gulpeyghani.

JAMAL, NUR AL-DIN 'ABD AL-RAMZAN (817–98/1414–92) A prominent Sufi of the Naqshbandi order, an excellent Persian poet, and a commentator of Ibn al-'Arab. Among his many works are *Nafa'at al-Uns*, *Law'i*, and *Asha'at al-Lama'at* (a commentary on 'Iraqi's *Lama'at*). He is buried in Herat.

JAMAL (AL-NAMAQI), ABU NA'IR AMAD (440–536/1048–1141) Known as Shaykh al-Islam and Zandah Panj; a great Sufi master and Persian poet. He has many books, mainly in Persian, such as *Uns al-T'ibn*, *Siraj al-S'ir*, and *Miftah al-Najh*. He is buried in Turbat-i Jam.

JAMIL IBN DARRAJ (2nd/8th century) A close companion of the Sixth and Seventh Imams, who has been highly praised by both Imams. The Shi'a view him among the most reliable transmitter of narrations.

JALAL, 'ABD AL-KARIM (767–826/1365–1423) A Sufi master and an exponent of Ibn al-'Arab. Among his works are *al-Insan al-Kamil* and *al-Kahf wa al-Raqm*.

KARBALĀ'Ī IHRĀNĪ, SAYYID AĀMAD (d. 1332/1914) A student of Mullā ʿUsayn–Qulī Hamadānī and the spiritual guide and master of Sayyid ʿAlī Qāṣim. He is buried in Najaf.

KASHMĪRĪ, AĀMAD A close student of the late Qāṣim. He became infected with tuberculosis, and thus Mr Qāṣim ordered him to return to Kashmīr, where he died.

KASHMĪRĪ, SAYYID ĀSAN A student of the late Qāṣim who resumed Sayyid AĀmad KarbalĀ'ī's discourses with Muḥammad ʿUsayn Gharawī Iḥfāḥānī and finally convinced him that the philosophers' gradation of being should be forsaken for the gnostics' unity of being.

KASHMĪRĪ, SAYYID MURTAḤḤ (1268–1323/1852–1905) Shi'a scholar in a variety of fields, highly spiritual, and the teacher of ʿAqā Buzurg Iḥrānī. He is buried in Karbalā'.

KISĀ'Ī, ʿALĪ IBN ĀMZAḤ (d. 189/805) Arabic linguist and one of the seven authorities in recitation of the Qur'ān. He is the founder of the Kāfī School of *naḥw*, and author of many works on the Qur'ān and *naḥw* (Arabic syntax). He is buried in Rayy.

KHĪR An ancient prophet who is believed to be living until the end of the world. He has particularly become a symbol of esoteric knowledge and guidance in Sufism.

KHĀNSĪRĪ, SAYYID ABĪ AL-QĀSIM (d. 1380/1960) ʿAllāmah ʿAbdābābī's teacher of mathematics in Najaf.

KHĀNSĪRĪ, SAYYID MUĀMMAD TAQĪ (1305–71/1888–1952) Shi'a scholar and Source of Emulation. He was an influential figure in establishing and supporting the *ḥawzah* of Qum, where he taught.

MA'ARRĪ, ABĪ AL-ʿALĪ AĀMAD IBN ʿABDULLĀH (363–449/973–1057) An expert of the Arabic literature and highly intellectual. He taught many students, and was a prolific writer despite being blind since childhood. He was opposed to slaughtering animals and thus did not eat meat for forty–five years. He was also against marriage and composed a line to be written on his gravestone: 'This is my father's crime against me, but I committed not this crime against anyone.'

MAHDĪ, AL-ʿUJJĀT IBN AL-ʿĀSAN (b. 255 / 869) The twelfth and last Imam of the Shi'a; named after the Prophet; his sobriquets include ʿUjjat, Mahdī and Imam al-Zamān (Leader of the Time). He became Imam at age five when his father passed away, and was accessible through four regents until 329/941. Since then he has been in the Greater Occultation (*al-ghaybat al-kubrā*). According to Shi'ism, he will appear some day and establish justice all over the world.

MAJLISĪ, MUĀMMAD BĪQIR (1037–1111/ 1628–1700) Shi'a scholar and the head of all religious affairs in Persia at his time. Best known for *Bīstūr al-Anwār* (110 vols.); but he has many other works, such as *ʿilyat al-Muttaqīn* and *ʿāq al-Yaqīn* in Persian. He was born and buried in Iḥfāḥān.

MALIKĪ TABRĪZĪ, MĀRZĪ JAWĪD QĀ (d. 1343/1925) A student of Mullā ʿUsayn–Qulī Hamadānī,

teacher of Ayatollah Khomeini in ethics, and the author of several books including *al-Murqibāt*, *Risālah-yi Liqā' Allāh*, and *Asrār al-ʿalāh*. He is buried in Qum.

MĀMAQĀNĪ, ʿABDULLĀH (1290–1351/1873–1932) A great Shiʿa scholar of knowledge and piety. He is author of many works, most notably *Tanqīh al-Maqāl fī Aḥwāl al-Rijāl*, which is the most comprehensive work on Shiʿa *rijāl* (science of narrators).

MAʿMŪN, ʿABDULLĀH IBN HĀRŪN (170–218/786–833) The seventh Abbasid caliph who inherited the vast empire of his father after killing his older brother, Amīn. He was a highly intellectual and learned caliph, and endorsed scientific discussions and activities.

MARANDĪ, ʿALĀ AKBAR (1314–1414/1897–94) A student of the late Qāḍī and Ayatollahs Naʿīnī, Gharawī Iḥfāhīnī, and Bādkubāhī. He was an active supporter of the Islamic Revolution in Iran.

MASQAḌĪ (RAḤAWĪ IḤFAHĪNĪ), SAYYID ḤASAN (1297–1350/1880–1931) A student of the late Qāḍī. He used to be dressed in *īrīrīm* (two pieces of unstitched cloth) toward the end of his life, and died while in prostration. He is buried in Hyderabad.

MAʿḤMŪM ʿALĀ SHĀH, MUḤAMMAD (1270–1344/ 1853–1926) A Shiʿa Niʿmatullāhī Sufi and the author of *ʿarḥīq al-ʿaqāʿiq* (3 vols.), which is an encyclopaedia of Sufi figures.

MĀLĪNĪ, SAYYID MUḤAMMAD HĀDĪ (1313– 95/1895–1975) Shiʿa scholar and Source of Emulation, for whom ʿAllāmah Ḥabībī had a special regard. After studying and teaching in Najaf and Karbalāʿ, he settled in Mashhad, where he used to meet with ʿAllāmah Ḥabībī during the summer. He is buried in Mashhad.

MUFĪD, MUḤAMMAD IBN MUḤAMMAD (336–413/ 948–1022) Prominent Shiʿa jurist and theologian; an expert in debates, and the teacher of Sayyid Murtaḍā and Shaykh Ḥāṣṣī. Among his many works are *al-Irshād* (2 vols.), *al-Amḥāl*, and *al-Jamal*. He is buried in Kāzimayn.

MUGHNIYYAH, MUḤAMMAD JAWĪD (1322–1400/1904–79) A pious scholar and defender of Islam, and the Shiʿa judge of Beirut for a while. Among his many works are *Fī Ḥijāb Nahj al-Balaghah* (4 vols.) and *Tafsīr al-Kāshif* (7 vols.). He is buried in Najaf.

MUḤAMMAD IBN ʿALĀ AL-BĀQIR (57–114/676–733) The fifth Imam of the Shiʿa, and the son of Imam Ḥasan’s daughter. The declining Umayyad rule gave him the opportunity to revive and spread the Islamic sciences and set the grounds for his son, Jaʿfar. He is buried in Medina.

MUḤAMMAD IBN ʿALĪ AL-TAQĪ AL-JAWĪD (195–220/811–835) The ninth Imam of the Shiʿa, who became Imam at age seven, yet he was the leading figure of his time in Islamic sciences. Maʿmūn (Abbasid caliph) gave him his daughter in marriage, through whom the Imam was later poisoned by the instigation of a later Abbasid caliph, Muʿtāʿim. He is buried in Kāzimayn.

MURTAQA MUSAU, SAYYID (SHARAF) 'AL IBN AL-USAYN (355–436/966 –1044) Prominent Shi'a scholar in intellectual and transmitted sciences; also known as 'Alam al-Hud (Emblem of Guidance); and the younger brother of Sayyid (Sharaf) al-Ra, the compiler of Nahj al-Balaghah. He has many works, including *Amal*, *al-Intiqar*, and *Tanzih al-Anbiya*. He is buried in Karbal'.

MUS IBN JA'FAR AL-KAIM (128–183/745–99) The seventh Imam of the Shi'a. He was imprisoned by the Abbasid ruler, Harun, for several years until his death. He is buried in Kaimayn.

MU'AHHAR, MURTA (1338–99/1920–1979) A student of 'Allamah 'abab' and Ayatollah Khomeini; teacher of Islamic philosophy and theology at the *hawzah* of Qum and the University of Tehran; and a prolific writer on a variety of issues. He was assassinated shortly after the Islamic Revolution, in which he was an active figure. He is buried in Qum.

NAN, MU'AMMAD USAYN (1276–1355/1860–1936) Shi'a scholar and Source of Emulation (*marja*), and 'Allamah 'abab's teacher in *fiqh* and *uqul* in Najaf, where he is buried.

NAKHJAWAN, IMAM-QUL Shi'a mystic, and the teacher of Merz Muhammad Hasan Sherrz and Mr Q's father in ethics.

NARQ, MULL MAHD (1128–1209/1716–95) Shi'a scholar and prolific writer in law, mathematics, philosophy, theology, and ethics. He is a grandfather of the author, and his *Jami' al-Sa'adat* (3 vols.) in ethics is particularly notable. He is buried in Najaf.

Q, SAYYID 'AL (1282–1366/1866–1947) Shi'a scholar in many fields, but especially notable as a Shi'a mystical (Sufi) master. He trained many students including 'Allamah 'abab' and his brother, and Sayyid Hshim add. He resided in Najaf, where he is buried now.

Q, SAYYID USAYN Shi'a scholar, a student of Merz Muhammad Hasan Sherrz, and the father of Sayyid 'Al Q.

QASSM, 'AL A student of the late Q, with whom 'Allamah 'abab' studied Arabic literature.

QAZWAN, SAYYID QURAYSH Shi'a mystic, and the teacher of Imam Qul Nakhjawan in ethics.

QCHAN (HATIF), 'ABBAS (d. 1411/1991) A student and appointed successor of the late Q in Najaf, with whom the author studied ethics during his years of study there.

RA, SAYYID (SHARAF) MU'AMMAD IBN AL-USAYN (359–406/970–1015) Shi'a scholar, the compiler of *Nahj al-Balaghah*, and himself a master of Arabic literature. He was the older brother of Sayyid al-Murta. He is buried in Karbal'.

RAM, MAWLAN JAL AL-DIN MU'AMMAD BALKH (604 –72/1205–73) A first-class Sufi and a productive Persian poet. He is best known for his *Mathnaw* and *Divan-i Kabir* (*Shams*), which have

been translated into many languages and are widely known in the West. He is buried in Konya (Qaniyah).

SABZIVĀRĪ, (سبزواری) MULLĀ HĀDĀ (1212–89 /1797–1872) The most prominent philosopher after Mullā Ḥadrā and a follower of his school. He is also notable for his asceticism and also for his elegant poetry. He has glosses on many works of Mullā Ḥadrā and on Rūmī's Mathnawī, though he is most famous for his *Ghurar al-Farīd*, known as the *Manṣūmah*. He is buried in Sabzivār.

SA'D IBN 'UBĪDAH (d. 11/632 or 15/636) The head of Khazraj (one of the two major tribes in Medina), and an active supporter of Islam after the Prophet's migration. He was known for his generosity, for feeding others, and for sheltering the refugees. He refused to pay allegiance to the first two caliphs after the Prophet's death. Thus, he was obliged to leave Medina for Syria, where he was mysteriously killed.

SA'DĪ SHĀRĪZĪ, MUḤLĪ AL-DĪN (c. 606–90/1209–91) The fluent master of Persian poetry who widely travelled and is best known for his *Gulistān* and *Bostān*. He is buried in Shāriz.

ḤADR, SAYYID MĀSĪ (1347–/1929–) Shi'a scholar, a student of 'Allamah Ḥabībī in Qum, fellow student of the author, and an active Muslim leader in Lebanon. He has been missing since he was taken captive in his trip to Libya in 1398/1978.

SALMĀN AL FĀRSĪ (d. 35/656) A Persian sage who left his homeland in search of the Noble Prophet. He was captured and sold as a slave, but after much hardship met the Prophet, and became a close companion of the Prophet and later Imam 'Alī. He was honoured by the Ḥadrā, 'Salmān is one of us Members of the Household [Ahl al-Bayt].' He is buried in Madīn.

SHARABYĀNĪ, MUḤAMMAD (1248–1322/1832–1904) Shi'a scholar and Source of Emulation, and a student of Shaykh Anṣārī. Died 17 Ramadan 1322 AH. He is buried in Najaf.

SHĀRĪZĪ, MĀRZĪ SAYYID MUḤAMMAD ḤASAN (1230–1312/1815–95) Shi'a scholar and Source of Emulation; teacher of Sayyid Ḥusayn Qāṣī; famous for ruling the trade and usage of tobacco unlawful for the Iranians, as a move against the government's handing over the entire industry to a foreign company.

SHĀRĪZĪ, ḤADR AL-DĪN MUḤAMMAD (979–1050/ 571–1641) Known as Ḥadr al-Muta'allih and Mullā Ḥadrā; a reviver of Islamic philosophy and the founder of transcendent theosophy (*al-ḥikmat al-muta'alliyah*). He is known for doctrines such as the principality, gradation and unity of being, transubstantial motion, and the unity of the knower and the known. Among his works are *al-Asfīr al-Arba'ah* (4 vols.), *al-ḥikmat al-Arshīyah*, *al-Mabda' wa al-Ma'ād*, *Kitāb al-Mash'ūr*, as well as many glosses and Qur'anic commentaries. He is buried in Basra.

SHĀSHṬARĪ, SAYYID 'ALĪ (1222–81/1807–65) Shi'a scholar and the spiritual master of Mullā Ḥusayn-Qulī Hamadānī. He was also teacher of ethics for his *fiqh* teacher, Shaykh Murtaḥḥ Anṣārī, and

continued the Shaykh's *fiqh* course after his death. He is buried in Najaf.

سَبَّاحُ الْبَيْهَقِيِّ، 'AMR IBN 'UTHMĀN (d. 180/796) Known as the Leader of the Grammarians, he founded the Baḥrī School of *naḥw*, and is the author of the well-known *al-Kitāb* in *naḥw* (Arabic syntax). He is buried in Shīrāz.

سُوْهُرَاوَرْدِي، ABĪ AL-FUTŪḤ SHIHĀB AL-DĪN YAQŪYĪ (549–87 /1154– 91) Known as Shaykh al-Ishrāq and Maqtūl. He founded the School of Illumination in philosophy and systematically introduced the concept of the imaginal world. He was executed at the order of Saladin in Aleppo.

سُيُوطِي، JALĀL AL-DĪN (849–911/1445–1505) Shāfi'ī scholar, linguist and exegete of the Qur'an, who knew over a hundred thousand traditions by heart, with their lines of transmission. Among his many works are *al-Durr al-Manthūr* (6 vols.), *al-Jāmi' al-Faḡh* (2 vols.) and *al-Itqān fī 'Ulūm al-Qur'ān* (2 vols.). He is buried in Cairo.

سَيِّدِي، SAYYID MUḤAMMAD ḤASAN (1325– 88/1907–68) The younger brother of 'Allāmah Ḥabībī, who received his education in Najaf, and taught at the *ḥawzah* of Tabrīz until his death. He is buried in Qum.

سَمَوِي، KHWĀJAH NĀṢIR AL-DĪN MUḤAMMAD (597–672/ 1201–74) Prominent Muslim philosopher, theologian, astronomer and mathematician; the vizier of Ilkhanid ruler Hulūgū, and the founder of the Marāghah Observatory. He played an important role in the fall of the Abbasid dynasty, preventing the loss of the libraries and scholars in the Mongol attack, and the spread of Shī'ism in Iran. He composed many works, notably *Tajrīd al-'Aqā'id*, *Akhlāq-i Nāṣirī* and *Awḥāf al-Ashraf*. He is buried in Kāshān.

سَيِّدِي، UBAYY IBN KA'B (d. 22/643) A Jewish convert to Islam and one of the most learned Companions of the Prophet. He was one of the scribes and reciters of the Qur'an. He is buried in Medina.

سَلْمَانُ، 'UMAR IBN AL-KHAWḤḤ (c. 40 BH – 23 AH /581–644) The second caliph, and the first person to become known as Amīr al-Mu'minīn. The Islamic territory greatly expanded during his caliphate as a result of several Muslim conquests. He is buried in Medina.

سَمَوِي، USMĀH IBN ZAYD (c. 7 BH – 54 AH/615–74) The son of the Prophet's adoptee. The Prophet appointed him as the head of an army to fight the Romans right before his death in 11 AH. However many individuals refused to follow him on the account of the Prophet's severe illness.

سَمَوِي، 'UTHMĀN IBN 'AFFĀN (c. 47 BH – 35 AH /574 –656) The third caliph, whose caliphate set the grounds for the Umayyad dynasty. He was married to two of the Prophet's daughters (one at a time). He was buried in Medina.

سَمَوِي، WALĪD IBN MUGHĀRAH (d. 1 AH/623) A man of high social status and a wealthy merchant in Mecca at the advent of Islam. He was Abū Jahl's uncle, and a great enemy of the Prophet until his death.

ZAYD IBN THĀBIT (c. 11 BH–45 AH/610–65) An early Muslim, a knowledgeable companion of the Prophet, and one of the scribes of revelation. The Qur'an was compiled under his direction during the caliphates of Abū Bakr and 'Uthmān.

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