

Liyakat Takim

The Emergence and Development of Shi'i Hadith and *Baṣā'ir al-darajāt*

This paper will be divided into two sections. Initially, it will initially examine the background to the emergence of early Shi'i hadith works. It will do this by comparing and contrasting the biographical works of Najāshī and the *Fihrist* of Ibn Nadīm and Tūsī so as to examine the names of those mentioned to have compiled works on Shi'i hadith. The paper will try to see if any of the remnants of these works are available in later works of hadith or books of law.

The second part of the paper will examine *Baṣā'ir al-darajāt* of Abū Ja'far Muḥammad b. al-Ḥasan b. al-Ṣaffār al-Qummī. After examining details of the author and his other works, the paper will focus on the genres of traditions contained the book, discuss some of the personages appearing in the *asānīd* of the book and then compare the traditions of *Baṣā'ir* with other works that appear at the same time. How different are the traditions mentioned in *Baṣā'ir* compared to other books compiled at about the same time? Is there any truth to charges of *ghulw* levelled at al-Ṣaffār's work? Do some of the traditions in *Baṣā'ir* also appear in al-Kāfi and other works of the time?

I believe the conclusions to the paper will give us a great insight not only into the author of the book but also the reasons he compiled it and the effect it had on Shi'i sacred history.



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A native of Zanzibar, Tanzania, Professor Liyakat Takim is the Sharjah Chair in Global Islam at McMaster University in Canada. A prolific writer and speaker he has authored and/or translated eight books. He is currently working on his ninth book on Qur'anic exegesis. He has also written more than one hundred and forty scholarly works which have been published in various journals, books, and encyclopaediae. Professor Takim's research interests lie in topics such as reformation in Islam, Qur'anic exegesis, the role of custom in shaping Islamic law, Islam in the western diaspora, Islamic fundamentalism, Islamic mystical tradition, Islamophobia, the treatment of women in Islam law and many other topics. His latest book titled *Shi'ism Revisited: Ijtihad and Reformation in Contemporary Times* was published by Oxford University Press in January 2022. Professor Takim has also spoken at more than one hundred and twenty academic national and international conferences. He has spoken in different parts of the world ranging from Australia, New Zealand, and Singapore, to East Africa, Dubai and North America. Professor Takim has taught at several universities and is actively engaged in dialogue with different faith communities.