

Book to Go!

Shiite Vitality

Hamid Kasiri



iLogos

Book to go!

Shiite Vitality

Hamid Kasiri



iLogos's 5th Anniversary!

**Bibliographic Information
of the Austrian National Library**

www.onb.ac.at.

© iLogos

International Publishing House
of the Shiite Knowledge Discourse
Vienna 2023



*On the 5th anniversary
of the establishment of
ILogos Publication!*



Printed in Austria.

ISBN 978-3-99149-061-6 (Print)

E-ISBN 978-3-99149-062-3 (E-Book)

A-ISBN 978-3-99149-063-0 (A-Book)

All rights reserved.

Printed on aging-resistant, acid free paper.

The work, including all its parts,
is protected by copyright.

This publication has been peer reviewed.

www.ilogos.org

List of Contents

<i>Book to Go!</i>	5
The Vitality of the Shia Islam	7
Plausible Belief System	13
The Religion of Islam	19
The Holy Quran.....	23
The Prophet Muhammad (s)	29
Authentic Transfer of Islam by the Infallible Imams (s)	37
The Efforts of Muslim Scholars	41
The Fidelity of the Individual Muslims	45
The Shiite Sources of Knowledge ..	49
The Faithful Perception of Being....	65
Barriers to Proper Perception.....	73
Reflection and Horizon Broadening	83



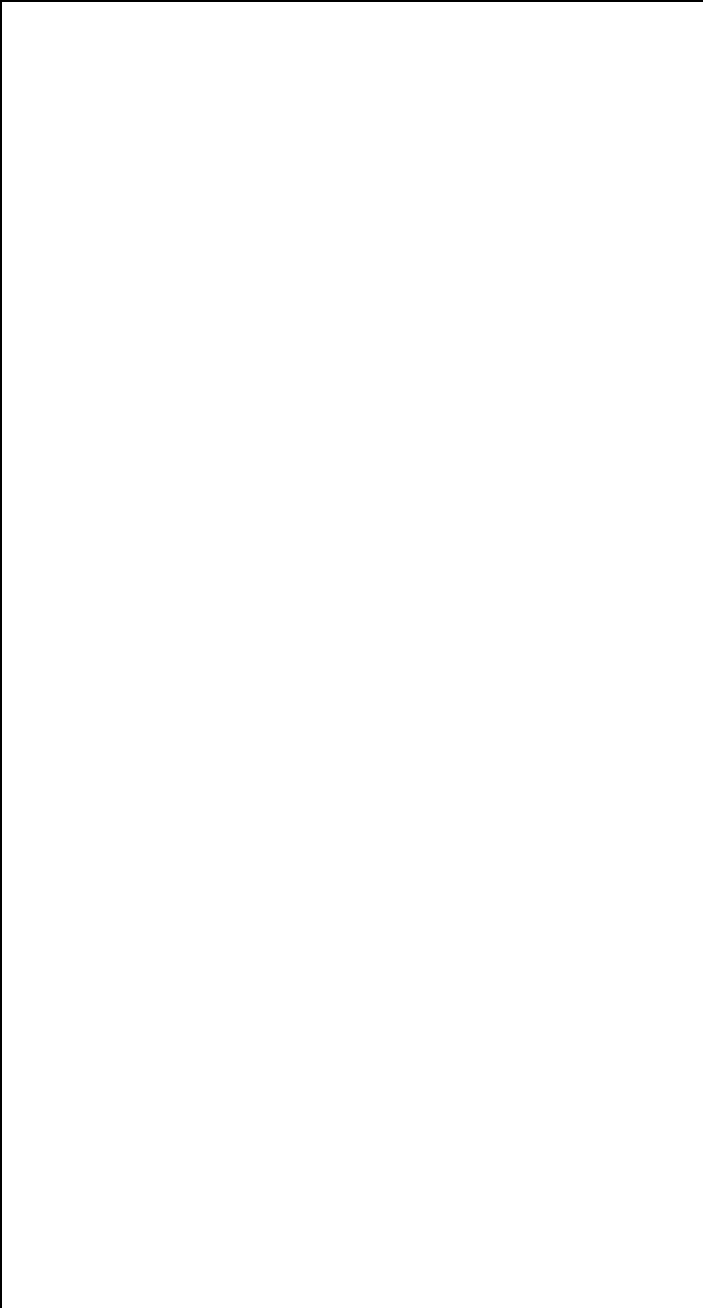
Book to Go!

“Book to Go!” as a new book series deals with some relevant issues from the perspective of the Shia Islam. Everything presented here is **“Shiite Discourses”** and was published in my previous works, but some readers were interested to have them in a new compact form so that they can take them with on travel, on the subway and ...!

These multi-volume study booklets are a kind of **“Book to Go!”** and try to remind us in a different way of actions and lead us to harmony between faith and praxis and in life with others: *“Behave toward people the way, you want them to behave toward you.”* And this is my way, so follow it and do not follow the other paths.

This book series is published in the hope of contributing to a better understanding of **“Shiite Discourses”** in the 21st century. **“Book to Go!”** aims to motivate people to think. It thus doesn't mean, “cash and carry” or “cash and go”, but rather **“cash and read”!** This is because reading leads to the revival of the soul and refresh the mind!

Hamid Kasiri
(Amin-ul-Islam Mazandarani)
Vienna, at 03.03.2023!



The Vitality of the Shia Islam

Why is the Shia Islam in the “Age of the Decline of Religions” Dynamic?

To answer this question, we should know what Islam actually is, which forms the basis of Shia Islam. Man should also take a look at the foundations of Islam, its characteristics and presents basic teachings. The cornerstones of its structure as well as the individual levels of faith, from the individual human to the human world community should also be studied. In the course of this process, the reader has to learn which theological schools have emerged in Shia Islam, who their founding fathers were, and what the goals and orientations of these schools are.

Shia Islam has a great tradition that has produced many theologians, mystics and philosophers. That is why part of this study is devoted to another dimension of this tradition. Although it is easier to look at the

problems of the past than to face the challenges of the present, which is the reason for the deficits of many studies, we nevertheless deal with the issues that concern the present.

Both in the course of its history and in our age, Shia Islamic thought has opened up a wide horizon for people. Islam initially benefited from this element by not confining itself to the Arabian Peninsula on which it originated.

Today Islam has spread to Asia, Africa, Europe, America, and among different peoples, so that in some areas the number of Muslims is greater than that of other religions.

Following this step-by-step theoretical presentation of grounds of the liveliness of Shia Islam and its basic structure, the study explains it as a world religion in a religious world that positions itself in the context of the surrounding religions and advocates mediating coexistence in the world.

In doing so, it presents the fundamental phenomenological questions about Shia Islam and thus transports its uniqueness and perfection of Shiite faith community in its own garb into the concrete reality of human life.

There are also ***Shiite communities*** in Europe and America today. Shiites living in various regions of the world have doubled over the past few decades. Shia Islam has also gained a foothold in the German-speaking area, which has known Islam for centuries. In our time, he has become the center of public interest as he attempts to practice Islamic commandments and regulations in all aspects of human life.

The fact that Shia Islam still plays a decisive and very important role in people's lives is probably an undisputed fact. Here and there it is criticized that the influence of religions has decreased, that societies are largely secularized. It may also be true that religions do not play an essential role in some areas, but they have not completely disappeared from human life.

Even today, the Shiite tradition influences not only the private life of believers, but also the profession, politics and the structure of the world, that is, the most important aspects of their lives as human beings are part of the faith. Past and current events have repeatedly confirmed that the Shiite tradition is an enormously important factor for the formation and development of opinions in society.

Shia Islam, as the most dynamic religious and spiritual “phenomenon” in the 21st century, attracts the attention of intellectuals and challenges their minds. It is natural that there are many questions about it, such as:

- “*The phenomenon of Shia*”.
- “*the Shiite belief systems*”.
- “*the fundamentals of religion*”.
- “*religious mysticism*”.
- “*the stages of Belief*”.
- “*the levels of believers*”.
- “*current challenges*”.
- “*Shia in the world of tomorrow*”.
- *etc.*

In other words: *How in the age of decline of religion, its belief and thinking challenge all the worldviews and with its rationality and spirituality scent the soul and the world of the people?* The current narrative of Shiite thought must be conveyed as a phenomenon of establishing the truth.

To achieve this goal, we must at first take a closer look “*in the mirror of Shiite thinking and belief*” and then find out what **characteristics** this revealed religious Worldview has. These two approaches show us some reasons for its **vitality**, I will refer to here, such as:

- Plausible Belief System.
- The Religion of Islam.
- The Holy Quran.
- The Prophet Muhammad (s).
- Authentic Transfer of Islam by the Infallible Imams (s).
- The Efforts of Muslim Scholars.
- The Fidelity of the Individual Muslims.
- The Faithful Perception of Being.
- Faith in the living Imam and spiritual connection with him.

This study refers to the responsibility of Shia, its foundations and questions, deals with the role of believers, believing scholars and each individual human being, in a global community.

I hope that these clarifications could be able to bring the man of our age to actual approaches to Shia Islam. Westerners' new approach to Shia Islam both makes them more familiar with the truth of Shia and encourages the Shiites themselves to live according to Shia Islam and to introduce it to other people, who want to know it and the reasons for its vitality in 21st century.

I hope that this pedagogical-didactic volume of the **“Book to Go!”** was somehow helpful for the readers to enable them to understand the reason for the vitality of Shia

Islam, which is of particular importance in our age, and to work for a good coexistence with people.

When so, I would be pleased to see that via this booklet readers have **broadened their horizons** with regard to the Shiite action orientations.

This is achievable by efforts and planning, and the promising path of the Islamic culture. This culture enables them to plan for great progress in various fields, despite all difficulties.

This **vitalizing power** has an equally searching and meaningful function, which wants to give people answers, but also perspectives for what they do not know or do not yet know.

We pray to God that the essays of this volume will be useful for readers to get an idea of Shia thinking and faith and/or to be able to deepen their knowledge in this area.

Book to Go!

“Book to Go!” as a multi-volume study booklet is a kind of ***“cash and read”*** and tries to remind the readers different ways of thinking and actions. Its compact content leads to harmony between faith and praxis and in living with others.

Shiite Vitality

***Why is Shia Islam in the
“Age of the Decline of Religions” Dynamic?***

To answer this question, this study will briefly refer to its main reasons, such as:

- The Religion of Islam.
- The Plausible Belief System.
- The Holy Quran.
- The Prophet Muhammad (s).
- The Authentic Transfer of Islam by the Infallible Imams (s).
- The Efforts of Muslim Scholars.
- The Fidelity of the Individual Muslims.
- The Faithful Perception of Being.
- The Shiite Sources of Knowledge.
- Living under Supervision of a living Imam.

Prof. Dr. Hamid Kasiri

Author of several book series on nonviolent, Dialogue, *“Just peace”* and Shia Studies. His monographs on Shia Islam at universities are now considered as classics. He is the founder and owner of ***“ILogos International Publications”***, Vienna/Austria.

