# When was the Shia school (Madhab) established?

## **Explaining the question**

When and how was the Shia school of thought established, and how can we claim more than one billion Muslims are on the wrong path and the Shias are telling the truth?

### **Answer:**

Firstly, it should be mentioned that the Quranic logic never mentions 'majority' as a criteria for being right. Allah (swt) mentions this throughout the Holy Quran.

Allah (swt), in the Holy Quran, mentions the following 15 times:

أَكْثَرَهُمْ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ

#### "Most of them do not know"

6:37, 7:131, 8:34, 10:55, 16:75, 16:101, and so on.

And in different occasions, Allah SWT says:

أَكْثَرُ هُمْ لَا يَعْقِلُونَ

#### "Most of them do not understand."

29:63, 49:4

On the other hand, if we look around us, we will realize that Christianity is the majority religion. Based on the latest gathered statistics (*Wikipedia*) Christians makes up 33% of the world's population while Muslims make 21% of the world's population.

Therefore, if majority is a criterion to prove being on the right path, then you should become Christian since based on your logic, how can 33% of the world's population be on the wrong path and only 21% on the right path?

As to why the Sunni school of thought is more populated than the Shia school of thought, that itself is a different topic and has different reasons which are not related to this topic, however if you are interested, we can address this later on.

Some people claim the establishment of the Shia school of thought is connected to the Safavid era. We believe their claim arises from lack of knowledge. In order to clear any misunderstandings, please pay attention to the following:

والصواعق المحرقة لابن حجر ص 96 ؛ شواهد التنزيل للحاكم الحسكاني ج 2 ، ص 356 - 66 ح 1125 - 1148؛كفاية الطالب للكنجي الشافعي ص 244 و 245 و 245 ؛ المناقب للخوارزمي ص 62 و 187؛ الفصول المهمة لابن الصباغ المالكي ص 107 ؛ ينابيع المودة ـ قندوزي الحنفي ـ ص 62؛ نور الأبصار ص 71 و 102 ؛ الدرالمنثور ـ سيوطي ـ ج 6 ، ص 379؛ تفسير الطبري ج 3 ، ص 146؛ تذكرة الخواص لابن الجوزي ص 18؛ فتح القدير للشوكاني ج 5 ، ص 477؛ فرائد السمطين ج 1 ، ص 156

When the verse of (Those who have faith and do righteous deeds, they are the best of creatures. [98:7]) was revealed, the Holy Prophet (PBUH&HF) said to Ali (as): "[This verse] refers to you and your Shias".

(WalSa'iq Al-Mahrafa ibn Hajar, page 96; Shawahid Al-Tanzil Alhakim alHaskani, vol. 2, page 356; AlDuralmanthur, Suyuti, vol. 6, page 379; Tafsir alTabari, vol. 3, page 146; Tazakura alKhas Ibn Jawzi, page 18; et. al.)

أمير المؤمنين علي بن أبي طالب قال قال رسول الله (صلى الله عليه وسلم) يا علي إذا كان يوم القيامة يخرج قوم ... من قبور هم لباسهم النور على نجائب من نور أزمتها يواقيت حمر تزفهم الملائكة إلى المحشر فقال علي تبارك الله ما أكرم هؤلاء على الله قال رسول الله (صلى الله عليه وسلم) يا علي هم أهل ولايتك وشيعتك ومحبوك يحبونك بحبي . ويحبوني بحب الله هم الفائزون يوم القيامة

### . تاريخ مدينة دمشق ج42، ص 332، ذيل ترجمه آقا امير المؤمنين على عليه السلام

Amirul Mu'menin Ali bin Abi Talib (as) said: the Holy Prophet (PBUH&HF) told me: Oh Ali, when the day of judgment comes, some will leave their graves while their dress is light (Nur), they will be riding camels made of light, their tether made of red ruby, the angels will escort them to Mahshar. I said, praise is to Allah (swt), how respected are these to God! The Holy Prophet (PBUH&HF) then said: those are the ones who have accepted your leadership (Wilayat), they are your Shias, they love you due to their love of me, and they love me due to their love to Allah (swt) and these are the successful ones in the Day of Judgment.

(Tarikh Madina Damishq, vol. 42, page 332)

Ibn Asakir, from his sanad, has narrated from Jabir AbduAllah AlNasri: I visited the Prophet (PBUH&HF) and Ali (as) entered, the Prophet (PBUH&HF) said: "your brother has arrived", he then faced Ka'ba, placed his hands on Ka'ba and said: "I swear by the Lord whom my life is in His control, verily this man and his Shias are the successful ones on the Day of Judgment."

He [the Prophet] then said: "Ali is one first one to have believed in me, amongst you he is the most loyal to the divine covenant, the most consistent in divine commands, the most just to the subordinates, and in the eyes of Allah (swt), his rank and status is higher than all of you.

(Jabir) said: it was then when the verse of "Those who have faith and do righteous deeds, they are the best of creatures." [98:7] was revealed in praise of Ali (as). Whenever Ali entered upon the companions, they would all say "the best of God's creation has arrived".

(Tarikh Madina Damishq, vol. 42, page 371)

وعن ابن عباس ( رض ) قال : لما نزلت هذه الآية : ان الذين امنوا و عملوا الصالحات أولئك هم خير البرية قال : لعلي هو ... أنت وشيعتك تأتي يوم القيامة أنت وشيعتك راضين مرضيين ويأتي عدوك غضبانا مقحمين . نظم درر السمطين ـ زرندي حنفي ـ ص 92

Ibn Abbas said: When the verse of "Those who have faith and do righteous deeds; they are the best of creatures." [98:7] was revealed, the Holy Prophet (PBUH&HF) said to Ali (as): "this verse refers to you and your Shias, in the day of judgment you (i.e. you and your Shias) will come while you are pleased with Allah (swt) and Allah (swt) is pleased with you, and your enemy will come while he is angry and humiliated."

(Nazm dur alSamtin, Zerendi Hanafi, page 92)

... عن الشعبي عن علي قال : قال رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم : " أنت وشيعتك في الجنة " تاريخ بغداد ج12، ص 284، ذيل ترجمه عصام بن الحكم بن عيسى بن زياد بن عبد الرحمن رقم 6731 .

Sha'bi narrated from Ali (as): the Holy Prophet (PBUH&HF) said "(Oh Ali) you and your Shias will be in paradise.

(Tarikh Baqdad, vol. 12, page 284)

The Holy Prophet (PBUH&HF) said to Ali (as): You and your shias (in the day of judgment) will visit me by the pool while you are watered and your faces are bright and your enemy will visit me by the pool while he is thirsty and humiliated.

(Al-Majma' al-Kabir, Tabarani, vol. 1, page 319, hadith 948)

In the books of Ahl Sunna, there are about 40 narrations in this regard.

## Some of the companions of the Holy Prophet (PBUH&HF) who were Shia:

Dhahabi about Hijr bin Uday ibn Jabalah bin Uday bin Rabee'a says:

He is Hijr al-Khair ("Khair" is used to hint on his good character), his nickname is Abu AbdulRahman who was martyred. He is amongst the companions of the Prophet (PBUH&HF). He was an honorable and obeying man. He always encouraged what was good and forbid people from evil, and he was amongst the Shias of Ali (ra).

(Sira A'lam alNubala vol. 3, page 463)

Dahabi about Sa'eed bin Wahb al-Mihmadani al-Khaiwani al-Kufi says:

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من كبراء شيعة علي ... أسلم في حياة النبي صلى الله عليه وسلم .
سير أعلام النبلاء ج 3، ص180، رقم 70 ، ذيل ترجمه سعيد بن وهب .
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He was amongst the greatest Shias of Ali (as)...he accepted Islam during the life of the Prophet (PBUH&HF).

(Sira A'lam alNubala vol. 3, page 180, number 70)

Ibn Abdulbar about Abulutayf al-Sahabi says:

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أبو الطفيل عامر بن واثلة الكناني .. وقد ذكره ابن أبي خيثمة في شعراء الصحابة... وكان متشيّعاً في علي.
الإستيعاب ابن عبد البرج 4 ص 1696
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أبو الطفيل عامر بن واثلة الكناني ... ابن أبي خيثمة نام او را در زمره صحابه شاعر ذكر كرده و او از شيعيان علي (عليه السلام) بود .

Ibn Abi Hadid says:

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وكان سلمان من شيعة على (عليه السلام) وخاصته.
شرح نهج البلاغة - ابن أبي الحديد، ج 18، ص 39.
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Salman was amongst the Shias of Ali (as) and his special companions. (Shahr Nahjulbalaga, Ibn Abi al-Hadid, vol. 18, page 19)

Mas'udy Shafi' about the incidents during the death of the Prophet (PBUH&HF) says:

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أن الإمام عليا أقام ومن معه من شيعته في منزله بعد أن تمت البيعة لأبي بكر. اثنات الوصة للمسعودي: 121 ط النحف.
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After the oath of allegiance was given to Abu Bakr, Imam Ali (as) and his Shias gathered at his house. (Ithbat alWasiya: 121)

Dr Subha al-Salih says:

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كان بين الصحابة حتى في عهد النبي (صلى الله عليه وآله وسلم) شيعة لربيبه على ، منهم: أبو ذر الغفاري ، والمقداد بن الأسود ، وجابر بن عبد الله ، وأبي بن كعب ، وأبو الطفيل عمر بن وائلة ، والعباس بن عبد المطلب وجميع بنيه ، وعمار بن ياسر ، وأبو أيوب الأنصاري.
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النظم الإسلامية: ص 96.

Even during the life of the Prophet (PBUH&HF) some of the companions were Shias of Ali and they were trained by the Prophet, amongst them are: Abudhar Qaffari, Miqdad bin Asawd, Jabir bin AbduAllah, Abi bin Ka'b, Abu Tufail 'Amir bin Wa'ila, Abbas bin Abdul Muttalib, Jami' Banye, Ammar bin Yasir and Abu A'yub al-Anasari.

(AlNazm al-Islamiyah, page 96)

Muhammad Kurd Ali in the book of Khatt alShaam says:

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عرف جماعة من كبار الصحابة بموالاة علي في عصر رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم ، مثل سلمان الفارسي ، القائل : بايعنا رسول الله على النصح للمسلمين ، والائتمام بعلي بن أبي طالب ، والموالاة له ، ومثل أبي سعيد الخدري ... ومثل أبي ذر الغفاري وعمار بن ياسر ، وحذيفة بن اليمان وذي الشهادتين ، وأبي أيوب الأنصاري ، وخالد بن سعيد ، وقيس بن سعد . خطط الشام 5 / 251 - 256 .
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During the time of the Prophet, some of the companions were known for their love and obedience to Ali, such as Salman who used to say: "we made a covenant to the Prophet in regards to seeking goodness for the believers and accepting the leadership of Ali". As well as others such as Abi Sa'eed Khidry... as well as the likes of Abudhar Qaffari and Ammar bin Yasir, Hazyfa bin Yaman, Dhey al-Shahadatain, Abi A'yub al-Anasari, Khalid bin Sa'eed and Qays bin Sa'd.

(Khatt alShaam 5 / 251 - 256)

Ibn Hazm says:

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وروينا عن نحو عشرين من الصحابة أن أكرم الناس على رسول الله (صلى الله عليه وآله وسلم) علي بن أبي طالب. الفصل في الملل والأهواء والنحل: 3 / 32 (4/111)، وركبت السفينة لمروان خليفات، ص 598.
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We have narrations from about 20 of the companions that the most beloved person to the Prophet (PBUH&HF) was Ali bin Abi Talib (as).

(AlFasl Fi alMilal Walahwa walnahl: 3 / 32 [4/111])

### The existence of Shias based on the sayings of the scholars of Ahl Sunna

Ibn Khaldun says:

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مبدأ دولة الشيعة: اعلم أنّ مبدء هذه الدولة، أنّ أهل البيت لمّا توفي رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلّم كانوا يرون أنّهم أحق بالأمر وأنّ الخلافة لرجالهم دون سواهم من قريش. وفي قصّة الشورى أنّ جماعة من الصحابة كانوا يتشيعون لعلي ويرون استحقاقه على غيره ولمّا عدل به إلى سواه تأففوا منه وأسفوا له مثل الزبير ومعه عمار بن ياسر والمقداد بن الأسود وغير هم. تاريخ ابن خلدون، ج 3، ص 171.
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It must be known that the establishment of Shias was when the Prophet (PBUH&HF) passed away and Ahlulbayt (as) considered leadership (Khilafat) to be theirs, and believed leadership belonged to Bany Hashim and the other men of Quraysh have no right in it.

About the incident of Shawra (consultation) some companions were considered as Shias of Ali (as) and they believed no one had the right of leadership but him; hence when others beside Ali (as) got into power, they showed their disappointment. (These were) companions such as Zubayr, Ammar bin Yasir, Miqdad bin Asawd and others.

(Tarikh ibn Khaldun, vol. 3, page 171)

Muhammad AbduAllah 'Anan says:

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من الخطأ أن يقال: إن الشيعة ظهرت و لأول مرة عند انشقاق الخوارج. بل كان بدء الشيعة وظهور هم في عصر الرسول (صلى الله عليه وآله وسلم) حين أمره الله بإنذار عشيرته في الآية 214 من الشعراء: (وأنذر عشيرتك الأقربين) ولبى النبي فجمع عشيرته في بيته وقال لهم مشيرا إلى علي: هذا أخي ووصيي وخليفتي فيكم فاسمعوا له وأطيعوا.
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It is wrong to claim Shias came into existence during the time of Fitna of Khawarij. In fact the establishment of Shia was at the time of the Prophet (PBUH&HF) and the beginning of his prophet hood. This means when Allah (SWT) ordered the Prophet (PBUH&HF) "And warn thy tribe of near kindred" (26:214), the Holy Prophet (PBUH&HF) gathered his family at his house and while he was pointing at Ali (as) he said "this man is my brother, executor, and my successor amongst you, so listen to what he says and obey him".

(Ruh alTashayu' Li'abd Allah Ni'ma, page 20)

Abu Hatam Razi Sahl bin Muammad bin Uthman Sajistani, amongst the great scholars with expertise in the science of Quran, who was based in Basra (died 205 Hijri) in his book by the name of Alzynah says:

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الشيعة لقب لقوم كانوا قد ألفوا أمير المؤمنين علي بن أبي طالب - صلوات الله عليه - في حياة رسول الله - صلى الله عليه وسلم - وعرفوا به ، مثل سلمان الفارسي ، وأبي ذر المخفاري ، والمقداد بن الأسود ، وعمار بن ياسر ، وكان يقال لهم شيعة علي ، وأصحاب علي.
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كتاب الزينة : 259 تحقيق عبد الله سلوم السامرائي، نشأة الشيعة لعبد المنعم داود، ص 65، ط. بغداد 1968، الشيعة في مصر، لصالح الورداني المستبصر، ص 10. Shia was the nickname of those who were close to Ali bin Abi Talib (as) during the time of the Prophet (PBUH&HF) and were known for their love towards him, such as Salman Farsi, Abudhar Qaffari, Miqdad bin Asawd and Ammar bin Yasir, and they were known as the Shias and companions of Ali (as).

(Alzynah : 259)

Zubayr bin Bukar says:

The majority of the Muhajirin and Ansar had no doubt that the leader after the holy Prophet (PBUH&HF) was Ali (as).

(Akhbar alMawfaqyatm 580)