

## EDITORIAL

---

Shiis and their Historical  
Responsibility

Dr. Muhammad-Reza FakhR-Rohani.  
University of Qom, Iran

Those who have exerted historical influence on communities can be divided into religious vs. non-religious trends or groups of people. Among the first group, Shiis have long been known due to their sincerity, sense of responsibility, and long-lasting effects.

The roots of this historical influence can be traced in a kind of

historical sense of responsibility. Its motifs are never this-worldly but other-worldly.

Moreover, this sense of responsibility towards other people cannot be limited to helping Shiis or Muslims. To put it differently, true Shiis that find expression in the fourteen Infallibles always wanted the best for all mankind, both friend and foe. Evident examples abound: It is asserted in the Arbaeen ziarat-text of Imam al-Husayn that he sacrificed his life in the cause of Allah for rescuing people from mere ignorance. His deeds prove this: He and his men distributed water among

the exhausted enemy forces who had approached them for killing them. Such praiseworthy philanthropic attitude emanates from the Shiis staunch belief in Allah. This is not theoretical monotheism; practical and moral steadfastness drives a true believer to behaving in this way. Hence exerting life-lasting effects on communities is just one, tangible aspect of Shiis role in developing further aspects of various branches of knowledge.

Unlike certain, and practically non-Shii, particularly pseudo-Islamic, trends, as exemplified by the ex-Daesh groups, true Shiis have been careful not to destroy the historical evidence of other cultures and civilizations. Rather their collaboration with followers of other faiths invited them to Islam. Non-Muslim areas and regions where Shiis have long been living make true and undeniable evidence.

The influence of Shiis can be sought in regions that are far away from originally Shii heartlands. Given that Shiism was born and grew up in Western Asia, its influence can be noticed elsewhere, too. In the Indian subcontinent there are several places that speak out such great influence. Persian literature and Shii culture have treaded Indian space inch by inch, changing another vast region into a historical and living museum of a juncture of several civilizations and cultures.