(1) The Rāfiḍah Shīʿah: **'The Twelvers'** or *Ithnā ʿAshariyah*

Decades after the death of the Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ), the Shiʿah sect appeared claiming that the Prophet (ﷺ) had appointed his cousin, ʿAli Ibn Abī Tālib (may Allah be pleased with him) as his successor. Over time, Shaytān led this sect to more and more extreme thoughts and practices. They believe that all of the Companions were treacherous apostates except a handful—and that ʿAli, Fātimah and their two sons, Hasan and Husain (*radiyallāhu ʿanhum*) are divine beings, so they worship them: supplicate to them seeking their aid, cure, deliverance, refuge and rescue.

Rāfiḍah refers to those who *rejected* the Caliphates of Abu Bakr, ʿUmar [and ʿUthmān] (*radiyallāhu ʿanhum*). The Rāfiḍah are the largest sect of the Shiʿah and call themselves the *Ithnā ʿAshariyyah* (or Twelvers). **They have beliefs that oppose the Creed of the Muslims. The differences between *Ahlus-Sunnah* and the *Rāfiḍah* are in the fundamentals of belief. The Scholars of Sunnah have shown that the Twelvers have polytheistic doctrines that expel them from the fold of Islam.** They harbour severe enmity for the Prophet's wives (ﷺ), his Companions and Sunni Islam which is recorded and present in their sourcebooks that they do not deny.

Unfortunately, many Muslims do not know of the heretical beliefs and practices of the Shīʿah and fall prey to their deceit—this is partly due to dissimulation practised by the Rāfiḍah and partly due to infiltrators and *Rāfidophiles* in the Sunni ranks who champion the Shi'ite cause.

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(2) The Heretical Beliefs of the **Rāfiḍah** From Their Own Sources

The foremost Shiʿite cleric Al-Kulainī (d. 329 H) mentioned in his book, *Usūl al-Kāfī* (1/258-260): **"If the Imāms desire to know something, they come to know it. They know when they will die—and none of them dies unless they choose to do so themselves."**

The Shiʿah ascribe divinity to their Imāms, worshipping them just as Allāh is worshipped. One of their scholars, Hāshim al-Bahrānī (d. 1109 H) stated in his book, *Yanābī' ul-Ma'ājiz wa Usūl ud-Dalā'il* (5/35-36) regarding the *Twelve Imāms* of the Shiʿah: **"They have knowledge of what is in the Heavens and knowledge of what is in the Earth, they have knowledge of what has passed and they have knowledge of what is to come, and they know what happens in the night and the day, and from one hour to the next hour—and they have the knowledge possessed by the Prophets and even more than it."**

One of their prominent shaikhs of this era, Abdul-Muhsin al-Amīnī an-Najafī stated in his book *Al-Ghadīr* (1/214-216): **"Verily the [Twelve] Imāms are the sons of Allāh and from the offspring of ʿAlī."**

They have stated in their writings and lectures: **"Indeed the *Mahdi al-Muntadhir* (the 12th Hidden and Awaited Imām) entered an underground cavity whilst he was only five years old, yet he knows whatever takes place in every atom of the universe!"**

(3) The Heretical Beliefs of the **Rāfiḍah** From Their Own Sources

The vast majority of Shiʿite clerics believe the Qur'ān has been altered and distorted from the original by Sunni Muslims. This has been stated clearly by their cleric, an-Nūrī at-Tabrīsī (d. 1320 H) in his book, *Faslul-Khitāb fī Ithbāt Tahrīfi Kitābil-Arbāb*. Al-Kulainī mentioned in *Usūl al-Kāfī* (2/242) that the Qur'ān that was brought by Angel Jibrīl to Muhammad (ﷺ) had 17,000 verses. This means that the Qur'ān the Rāfiḍah claim was revealed is more than what is with us today because what we have before us today consists of just over 6,000 *Āyahs*. The Rāfiḍah have lied because Allāh has promised to preserve this Qur'ān: **"Indeed, it is We who sent down the *Dhikr* (i.e., the Qur'ān) and indeed We will be its preserver and protector."** (al-Hijr 15:9)

The Shiʿite cleric, as-Sāfī (d. 1091 H) stated in his *Tafsīr* of the statement of Allāh: **"Indeed Allāh does not forgive that partners are associated with Him in worship."** (An-Nisā 4:48) "Meaning: That Allah will not forgive those who disbelieve in the right of ʿAlī [to be the first Caliph]. And as for Allah's saying: **'And He forgives lesser than that to whomever He pleases.'** Meaning: For the one who gives allegiance to ʿAli [as the first Caliph]. (1/156,361).

Regarding the statement of Allāh: يُؤْمِنُونَ بِالْجِبْتِ وَالطَّاغُوتِ **"Those who believe in superstitious magic and false objects of worship."** (an-Nisā 4:51) The Shiʿah said in their commentaries: **"It refers to Abu Bakr and ʿUmar."** (See *Furūʿ al-Kāfī* with the notes *Mirāt al-ʿUqūl*, 4/416).

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(4) The Heretical Beliefs of the **Rāfiḍah** From Their Own Sources

The Rāfiḍah revile and curse the Companions (*radiyallāhu ʿanhum*) and see them to be apostates and disbelievers except a few. Al-Kulainī stated this in his *Usūl al-Kāfī*: **"All the people apostated after the Prophet (ﷺ) except for three, those being: Miqdād ibn Aswad, Abu Dharr al-Ghifārī and Salmān al-Fārisī."** (See *Rijāl al-Kashshī*, p.6, *Al-Kāfī Kitāb ar-Rawdah*, 12/312,322, with *Sharh Jāmiʿ* of Māzindarānī). In *Miftāh al-Jinān* of ʿAbbās al-Qummī there is a supplication of the Rāfiḍah directed against Abu Bakr and ʿUmar and their two daughters ʿĀ'ishah and Hafsah, the wives of the Prophet (ﷺ). These are their legislated supplications in the morning and the evening: **"O Allah, send peace upon Muhammad and the family of Muhammad—and curse the two idols of Quraish, their two magicians, their two false deities, and likewise their slanderous daughters, those who opposed your commands…"** (*Rijāl al-Kashshī*, p. 114). They refer to Abu Bakr and ʿUmar as **"Pharoah and Hāmān!"** (See *Qurat ul-ʿAyn* of al-Kāshānī, p. 432-433), and as **"the two idols.."** (*Tafseer al-ʿAyāshī*, 2/116, *Bihār al-Anwār*, p. 58,67) and as, **"al-Lāt and al-ʿUzzah."** (*Ikmāl ad-Dīn* of Ibn Bābawaih al-Qummī, p. 246, *Muqaddimat ul-Burhān* of Abul-Hasan al-ʿĀmalī, p. 294). **They also believe that their Awaited Mahdī will bring to life Abu Bakr and ʿUmar, hang them from a date palm tree, and kill them over and over, a thousand times a day.** (See *Īqādh min al-Hujʿah bi Tafsīr al-Burhān ʿalar-Rujʿah* of Hurr al-ʿĀmalī, p. 287)

(5) The Heretical Beliefs of the **Rāfiḍah** From Their Own Sources

In their book, *Al-Anwār an-Nuʿmāniyyah* of al-Jazā'irī (2/206-207) it is stated **'Ahlus-Sunnah are impure and filthy unbelievers by the consensus of the Shiʿite scholars, and are eviler than the Jews and Christians.'**

In some other books, it states that it is permissible to kill Sunnis whom they refer to as *Nāsibīs* because of their [false] belief that Sunnis hate ʿAlī ibn Abī Ṭālib (*radiyallāhu ʿanhu*). **They belief that the Sunni can be killed by drowning him, by crushing him under a wall, or by any other secretive means that leaves the Shiʿite killer undetected.** These beliefs of the Shiʿah are stated in their books (See: *Rijāl al-Kashshī*, p. 529, *Tahdhīb al-Ahkām*, 1/384, *Wasā'il ash-Shīʿah*, 6/340).

The Twelvers believe that the lord they worship is not the Lord that is worshipped by *Ahlus-Sunnah* (i.e., the *Sunnis*). One of the leading Shiʿite clerics, Niʿmatullāh al-Jazā'irī (d. 1112 H) in his book, *Al-Anwār an-Nuʿmāniyyah* (2/278-279) stated: **"We are not united with them (i.e., the *Sunnis*) regarding the Deity that is worshipped, nor regarding the Prophet, nor the *Imām*—and that is because they say that their Lord is the one whose Prophet is Muhammad, and his Caliph is Abu Bakr—and we do not recognise such a Lord, nor such a Prophet. Rather we say: Indeed, the Lord who made Abu Bakr the Caliph of His Prophet is not our Lord, and such a Prophet is not our Prophet!"** There are some Shīʿah who refer to themselves as *Twelvers* or *Jaʿfaris* yet do not know the beliefs of their sect—may Allāh guide them to the Sunnah.

(6) The Heretical Beliefs of the **Rāfiḍah**—Enemies of *Ahlus-Sunnah*

The Rāfiḍah hold to the practice of *Taqiyyah* which means they utter outwardly other than what is concealed in their hearts as a form of dissimulation—this is lying and hypocrisy. Despite this, they claim they are true believers and most of the Ṣahābah were treacherous unbelievers! They lie to the Muslims, and claim to champion the cause of Islam—all this is to recruit them into their cult—or to harm *Sunni* Muslims because they see *Sunnis* as *Nāsibīs* who hate the Prophet's family (*Ahlul-Bayt*)—so do not believe them.

They outright reject (and revile) the best of *Ahlus-Sunnah*, the first three Caliphs: Abu Bakr, ʿUmar and ʿUthmān. They reject the *Hadeeth* books: al-Bukhāri, Muslim, at-Tirmidhi, Musnad Ahmad, Muwatta Mālik, Abu Dawood, an-Nasā'ī, Ibn Mājah, etc. They also reject the four well-known *Imāms*: Abu Hanīfah, Mālik, ash-Shāfiʿī and Ahmad Ibn Hanbal (*rahimahumullāh*).

Know that there are 73 sects among the Muslims according to the authentic Prophetic narrations—only one is recognised as being correct—and they are those who follow the Prophet (ﷺ) and his Companions—may Allāh be pleased with them all **including** ʿAlī, Muʿāwiyah, ʿA'ishah, Hafṣah, Ṭalhah, Zubayr, ʿAmr ibn al-ʿĀṣ, etc. This one sect is referred to as *Ahlus-Sunnah wal-Jamāʿah*: they are the People of *Sunnah*, the Main Body (*al-Jamāʿah*), the People of *Hadeeth* (*Ahlul-Hadeeth*), and they are the *Salafiyyūn* (followers of the Pious Predecessors)—all these names are synonymous with each other.

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These are Shiʿah worshipping the grave of the Caliph ʿAlī (may Allāh be please with him) located Najaf, Iraq. They have built a shrine and made it a site of pilgrimage—they seek his help from affiliations and his protection.

The Shiʿah participate in the heretical ritual of self flagellation in ʿAshura where they beat themselves until they are dripping with blood in mourning of their treachery towards Husain the son of ʿAli (may Allāh be please with him) at Karbala, Iraq. They call upon Husain, worship him seeking his aid and rescue.

These Shiʿites are worshipping the Husain (son of ʿAli) at the shrine at Karbala, Iraq. These acts of worship and veneration of the dead are idolatrous *(shirk)*, and oppose the commands of the Qur'ān and Sunnah.

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“Iranian Shiites cover themselves with mud during ʿAshura, marking the death of Imam Hussein, the grandson of Islam's Prophet Muhammad, at the city of Bijar, west of the capital Tehran, Iran.” (CBS) What religion is this?!

Ali Khamenei worships at the grave of Khomeini at his shrine in Tehran. Allāh said: **“Verily for Allah is the pure Religion. Those [pagans] who take protectors besides Him say, ‘We only worship them that they may bring us nearer to Allah in rank.’”** (Az-Zumar: 3)

Sitt Zaynab is the most visited Shiʿite shrine in Syria. They believe that she responds to their invocations, heals the sick and crippled—this is clear *shirk*. The Prophet (ﷺ) said: “Indeed the most evil of people will be those who are alive when the Final Hour reaches them, **and those who take the graves as places of worship.”**

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