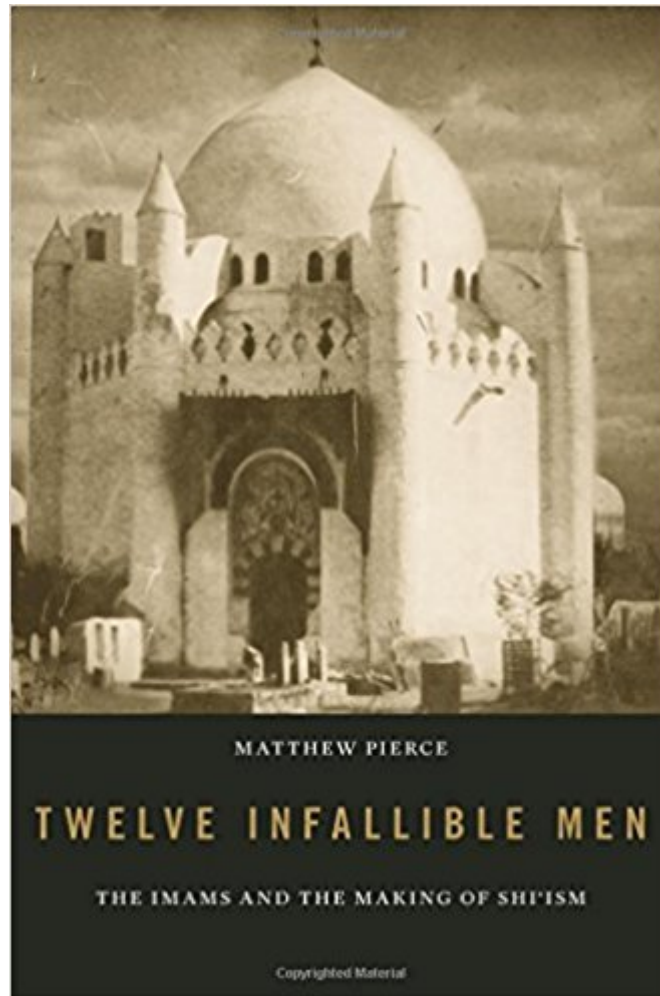


The book was found

Twelve Infallible Men: The Imams And The Making Of Shi'ism



Synopsis

A millennium ago, Baghdad was the capital of one of history's greatest civilizations. A new Islamic era was under way. Yet despite the profound cultural achievements, many Muslims felt their society had gone astray. Shi'a Muslims challenged the dominant narrative of Islamic success with stories of loss. Faithful Muslims have long debated whether Sunni caliphs or Shi'a imams were the true heirs of the Prophet Muhammad. More influential has been the way Muslim communities remembered those disputes through stories that influenced how to think and feel about them, Matthew Pierce argues. *Twelve Infallible Men* focuses on the role of narratives of the imams in the development of a distinct Shi'a identity. During the tenth century, at a critical juncture in Islamic history, a group of scholars began assembling definitive works containing accounts of the twelve imams' lives. These collective biographies constructed a sacred history, portraying the imams as strong, beautiful, learned, and pious. Miracles surrounded their birth, and they became miracle workers in turn, but were nevertheless betrayed and martyred by enemies. These biographies inspired and entertained, but more importantly they offered a meaningful narrative of history for Muslims who revered the imams. The accounts invoked shared memories and shaped communal responses and ritual practices of grieving. Mourning the imams' tragic fates helped nascent Shi'a communities resist the pressure to forget their story. The biographies of the imams became a focal point of cultural memory, inspiring Shi'a religious imagination for centuries to come.

Book Information

Hardcover: 272 pages

Publisher: Harvard University Press (June 13, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0674737075

ISBN-13: 978-0674737075

Product Dimensions: 1 x 6.2 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 1 customer review

Best Sellers Rank: #1,322,166 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #77 in Books > Religion & Spirituality > Islam > Shi'ism #821 in Books > Religion & Spirituality > Islam > History #860 in Books > History > World > Religious > Islam

Customer Reviews

An exemplary work on a hitherto understudied yet highly significant topic. Pierce succeeds admirably in making these biographies speak to central concerns in the contemporary study of Shi'ism in particular and of Islam in general. He writes with ease and precision, and is especially effective at using collective memory to document the formation of communal boundaries and expressions of piety. This compact and accessible work will go a long way towards offering a robust understanding of a major religious phenomenon. (Ahmet Karamustafa, University of Maryland) A successful book that singles out a number of the most influential themes related to the portrayal of the imams and treats them with considerable insight. (Devin Stewart, Emory University)

Matthew Pierce is Assistant Professor of Religion at Centre College.

An erudite survey of salient themes found in Imami Shi'i hagiographical literature from the 10th to 12th century. Pierce provides an analysis of the key features of the Imam's collective biographies and demonstrates how these works eventually came to influence a unique Twelver Shi'i identity. There is an extensive notes section at the end which leads the reader to other interesting studies also available in English. This is not a book about the Imams per se, but a book about the "sacred biographies" of the Imams. Recommended for students of Shi'ism already familiar with the basics.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Twelve Infallible Men: The Imams and the Making of Shi'ism What Men Won't Tell You: Women's Guide to Understanding Men (How to read their minds, what men want, why men cheat, why men won't commit, why men lose interest, how to avoid rejection from men) Soap Making: 365 Days of Soap Making: 365 Soap Making Recipes for 365 Days (Soap Making, Soap Making Books, Soap Making for Beginners, Soap Making Guide, ... Making, Soap Making Supplies, Crafting) Soap Making: 365 Days of Soap Making (Soap Making, Soap Making Books, Soap Making for Beginners, Soap Making Guide, Soap Making Recipes, Soap Making Supplies): Soap Making Recipes for 365 Days Without Forgetting the Imam: Lebanese Shi'ism in an American Community The Ultimate Soap Making Guide: Unique Soap Making Recipes & Complete Soap Making Guide for Beginners (Soap Making at Home, Soapmaking Guide, Soap Making Recipes, Soap Making Book) In the Shadow of Sectarianism: Law, Shi'ism, and the Making of Modern Lebanon This Is How You Die: Stories of the Inscrutable, Infallible, Inescapable Machine of Death The Infallible Word: A Symposium by the Members of the Faculty of Westminster Theological Seminary Holy Sex!: A Catholic Guide to Toe-Curling, Mind-Blowing, Infallible Loving Addiction: The Last ADDICTION RECOVERY Guide - The Infallible

Method To Overcome Any Addiction: (addiction, addiction recovery, breaking addiction, overcoming ... addiction recovery, recovery, clean Book 4) It Works: How and Why: The Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of Narcotics Anonymous Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions The Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of Overeaters Anonymous Twelve Jewish Steps to Recovery (2nd Edition): A Personal Guide to Turning From Alcoholism and Other Addictions – Drugs, Food, Gambling, Sex... (The Jewish Lights Twelve Steps Series) The Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous (Including Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions) An Introduction to Shi'i Islam: The History and Doctrines of Twelver Shi'ism Sharia-ism Is Here: The Battle To Control Women; And Everyone Else Religion and Politics in Iran: Shi'ism from Quietism to Revolution Religious Authority and Political Thought in Twelver Shi'ism: From Ali to Post-Khomeini (Routledge Studies in Political Islam)

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)