

Recommended Reading for SHWEP Episode 207

Earl Fontainelle

10th August 2025

1 Introductions to ‘Alī ibn abi-Ṭālib and the Imams

For those interested in the primary sources, good starting places are the list of manuscripts contained in Ḥusayn Muttaqī. *Muʿjam al-āthār al-makḥṭūʿa ḥawla al-Imam ʿAlī ibn Abī Ṭālib*. Maktabat Āyatullāh Marʿashī-Najafī, Qum, Iran, 2003 and the final volume of Rishād 2001, cited below. Our earliest Imamological treatise is the *Kitāb al-Irshād*, now available with English translation by I.K. Howard: al-Shaykh al Mufid. *Kitab Al-Irshad: The Book of Guidance into the Lives of the Twelve Imams*. Tahrike Tarsile Qurʿan Inc, 1982.

For secondary scholarship, see:

Robert Gleave. Alī b. abī Ṭālib. In Gudrun Krämer, Denis Matringe, John Nawas, and Everett Rowson, editors, *Encyclopaedia of Islam 3*. Brill, Leiden, 3 edition, 2009.

Ahmet Yaşar Ocak. *From History to Theology: Ali in Islamic Beliefs*. Türk Tarih Kurumu, Ankara, 2005 [for the image of Alī in popular religious culture].

Matthew Pierce. *Twelve Infallible Men: The Imams and the Making of Shiʿism*. Harvard University Press, Cambridge, MA, 2016 [an introduction to the first twelve Shīʿī imams according to ‘Twelver’ Islām].

I. K. Poonawala and E. Kohlberg. Alī ibn abī Ṭālib, 1985. URL <http://www.iranica.com/articles/ali-b-abi-taleb>.

Alī-Akbar Rishād. *Dānishnāmih-yi Imām ʿAlī*. Muʾassasah-yi Farhangī-yi Dānish va Andīshih-yi Islāmī, Tehran, Iran, 2001 [the most thorough

account of ‘Alī’s thought, as opposed to the events of his eventful life].

Reza Shah Kazemi. *Justice and Remembrance: Introducing the Spirituality of Imam ‘Alī*. I.B. Tauris, London, 2007.

2 On the First *Fitna vel sim.*

Wilferd Madelung. *The Succession to Muhammad: A Study of the Early Caliphate*. The University Press, Cambridge, 1998.

3 On the Early Shi‘ī Movement

Tawfiq Fahd. *Le Shi‘isme imamite*. Presses Universitaires, Paris, 1970.

Heinz Halm. *An Introduction to Shi‘ism*. Columbia University Press, New York, 2 edition, 2004.

Moojan Momen. *Introduction to Shi‘ī Islam: The History and Doctrines of Twelver Shi‘ism*. Yale University Press, New Haven, CT, 1985.