



بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

## History and Development of the Shia

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Lesson: 36

Topic: Post-Tusi Recession Era

A knowledge recession started with Shaykh al-Tusi's death (460 A.H.). Even his students followed him for 200 years.

### The reasons for the recession:

1. Al-Tusi filled all the gaps. Even today, scholars say that the skeleton of the thought process of the Shia system and Shia mindset (in *Aqaid, Fiqh*, etc.) goes back to Shaykh al-Tusi. His ideas made the *shuhra*.
2. His huge impact on his students, like the impact of Sayyid al-Khoei and Sayyid al-Khomeini today.
3. For 200 years al-Tusi's *al-Nihaya* was the book of laws the Shia applied.
4. The political pressures after the Buyids were made by Seljuks and, at the same time, by Ayyubid rulers in Cairo.

The recession after Shaykh al-Tusi doesn't mean there was no scholar at that time; rather, there were some great ones, including:

- Ibn al-Barraj al-Tarabulusi (d.481A.H.)
- Abu Ali al-Tusi (son of al-Shaykh al-Tusi)
- Al-Fadl ibn al-Hasan ibn al-Fadl al-Tabarsi (author of one of the most famous tafsir books: *Majma' al-Bayan*)
- Qutb al-Din al-Rawandi

### Development of the Shia fiqh during this era

Look at: *Adwar al-fiqh* by Sheikh Ja'far Subhani.

- Al-Tusi died in 460 A.H. (1067 C.E.).
- From 460 to about 600: the recession-era
- From 600 to 1030: the new era (the era of *Fiqh* revival)



- This new era started with Muhammad ibn Idris al-Hilli (543 – 598). He started challenging al-Tusi's opinions.
- One of his ideas: not accepting the authority of *Khabar al-Wahid* (a hadith that is not narrated as much as a mutawatir one).
- The authentic proofs in his opinion: The Quran, the *mutawatir hadith*—then consensus, and then the reason (aql).
- Ibn Idris's book: *al-Sara'ir*
- Other Ibn Idris's opinions: Reinterpreting Shaykh al-Tusi's views. He opened the door.

#### Some of the scholars of this era:

1. Al-Muhaqqiq al-Hilli (Allama al-Hilli's uncle). The Hawza of Hillah started then. The author of the book of law became the prevalent one: *Sharai' al-Islam*, basically a *Risala Amaliyya*.
2. Ahmad ibn Musa ibn Ja'far ibn Tawus (d.673)
  - A *Rijali* scholar
  - A Hadith Scholar
  - He expanded the way the hadith would be understood.
  - Hadith division:
    - Before him: accepted/ non-accepted.
    - After him: sahih, hasan, muwaththaq, dhaif

#### Mongols and scholars in this era

- In 655 A.H., Baghdad fell to the Mongols.
- Khajah Nasir al-Din al-Tusi: the Shia reveres him, but non-Shia accuse him of aiding Baghdad's collapse and the Abbasid Caliphate's fall.
- He was an engineer, mathematician, astronomer, philosopher, theologian, etc.



- Nasir al-Din al-Tusi was Allama Hilli's teacher in intellectual matters and his student in religious issues.
- Nasir al-Din al-Tusi and Ibn al-Alqami (a vizier in the Abbasid court) were accused of helping the Mongols topple the Abbasids.

#### Two invasions of Mongols on the Muslim empire:

1. 630 A.H.: By Genghis Khan (due to the Khwarazmian governor in Nishapur killing his deputies)
  2. In 656 A.H.: By Hulagu Khan (Genghis's grandson). They arrested Nasir al-Din al-Tusi and took him to Baghdad. They didn't kill him because he was a scholar. They invaded Baghdad and toppled down al-Mustansir al-Abbasi and the Abbasids.
- Today some blame Khajah Nasir al-Din and the Abbasid vizier al-Alqami for helping Mongols invade and fall Baghdad while he was then a prisoner.
  - The truth is that it was the caliph who caused their government's collapse.

• Khajah Nasir al-Din discovered that the Mongols didn't care about libraries or shrines, people's lives, building, artifacts, etc. He designed a plan.

• Khajah told Hulagu that you need to protect yourself. He asked how? He said let's build an observatory to check the celestial movements and study the stars. Hulagu agreed.

• (To protect ulema's lives) He told Hulagu that he needed scholars. Hulagu protected all scholars, Shia and Sunni. Even he started giving salaries to them. So, it was an enlightenment period.

• Khajah urged Hulagu to protect mosques and other places. So, he was given the position of protecting *Awqaf*. He told Hulagu they would provide the budget themselves for *Awqaf*. Therefore, the shrines of Ahl al-Bayt عليه السلام were protected.



**IMAM SADIQ** peace be upon him  
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- Khajah told Hulagu that if he wanted his children to rule this land, they needed to know the language and the religion. Hulagu asked them to do that. Thereupon, Hulagu's children became Muslim.

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