



5 Facts You Need to Know About: Isma'ilism

1. Isma'ilism is a sect of Shi'a Islam. It is an umbrella term for a collection of traditions that disagreed with one particular succession in the leader of the Muslim community. There are approximately 15 million Ismailis worldwide.
2. Like other Shi'a groups, Ismailis believe the Imam is divinely guided as a result of being directly related to Muhammad through his daughter. Some sects take guidance from a Da'I, a representative and missionary of a hidden imam. Nizaris, the largest Ismaili tradition, currently follow their 49th Imam, Aga Khan IV.
3. Many Ismaili traditions have developed their own supplementary holy texts based on their imams' commentaries and interpretations of the Quran and hadith. These include the Ginans and the Qasidas.
4. As in other branches of Islam, Isma'ili's follows the seven pillars of Islam: the Walayat (guardianship of the faith), Taharah (spiritual purity), Salat (5 daily prayers), Zakat (charity based on wealth), Sawm (fasting during Ramadan, and the more esoteric meaning of abstaining from evil doings), Hajj (pilgrimage to Mecca, Saudi Arabia and pilgrimage to the Imam or the Da'i), and Jihad (struggling within oneself and, as a last resort, fighting adversaries).
5. Ismailis believe there are two meanings found within the Quran- the literal meaning and a more esoteric, spiritual meaning. The Imam or Da'i interprets this meaning for each generation to give guidance based on the times. The emphasis on relevance and current context led to the current Nizari Imam selection by his grandfather to succeed him instead of his father because he grew up understanding modern science.

(Over)

Learn more at:

<https://the.ismaili/community>

<https://ismailgnosis.com/2015/05/15/who-are-the-shia-ismaili-muslims-a-primer-with-visual-charts/>

These five points are not meant to be comprehensive or authoritative. We hope they will encourage you to explore this tradition more deeply and seek out members of this community to learn about their beliefs in action. It is our firm belief that in understanding our differences we will better understand our common humanity

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