



5 Starter Facts About Isma'ili Islam

1. Isma'ili is an umbrella term for a collection of traditions that disagreed with the succession in the leadership of the Muslim community in the 8th century. There are ~15 million Ismailis worldwide in more than 25 countries.
2. Ismailis are the only Shia to have a living, hereditary Imam. Some sects take guidance from a Da'I, a representative and missionary of a hidden imam. Nizaris, the largest Isma'ili tradition, currently follow their 49th Imam, Aga Khan IV.
3. Many Isma'ili traditions have developed their own supplementary holy texts based on their imams' commentaries and interpretations of the Qur'an and Hadith*. These include the Ginans and the Qasidas.
4. Ismailis believe within the Qur'an there is the literal meaning and a spiritual meaning. The leader 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.
5. The autonomous province of Gorno-Badakhshan in Tajikistan is the only predominantly Isma'ili region in the world.

*Hadith is a collection of traditions containing sayings of the prophet Muhammad that, with accounts of his daily practice (the Sunna), constitute the major source of guidance for Muslims apart from the Qur'an.

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 encourage you to explore this spirituality more deeply and seek out members of this community to learn about their beliefs in action. In understanding our differences we will better understand our common humanity.

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