



5 Starter Facts About Ibadi Islam

1. The Ibadi is a moderate survivor of the reproached and radical Khārijite movement, Islam's first subgroup. Oman is the only Ibadi-majority country, and three-quarters of the world's Ibadis are Omani.
2. Like Sunni and Shiite, the succession of leadership following the Prophet started the distinction. Ibadis believe in the succession of the first three Caliphate, because, like Sunnis, they believe a leader must come to power by merit, not by blood or divine selection. However, they believe ruling according to Sharia is the only way for government legitimacy. When Ali agreed to arbitration of the third Caliph's assassination, Ibadis believed this to be a departure from Islamic law and considered him an unbeliever.
3. The Khārijite believed Muslims who sin through polytheism deserved death. Ibadis do not follow this belief; rather than labeling these sinners for polytheism, they find them guilty of ingratitude of Allah's blessing. Any lapse of faith is interpreted in this way.
4. Ibadis believe the only true Muslims are those of Ibadi adherence. They self-describe as "people of straightness," whereas non-Ibadis are "people of opposition." They believe paradise in the eternal afterlife is solely reserved for Ibadi followers. Non-Ibadis and sinning Ibadis are doomed to hellfire. However, Ibadis treat these groups with courtesy.
5. Ibadis strongly believe in predestination, because claiming to have power over something denies Allah's omniscience and omnipotence.

Learn more at:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p01wx14w>

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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