

Imami Shia and Democracy

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Abstract : The Muslims who believe in twelve Imams and believe that their twelfth Imam is now hidden, because of their kind of consideration of immune Imam as their unique canonical authority for interpretation of Islam, are subject of these important questions; how can you be democratic? And can you speak of democracy as the best model of governing? Answering this question, we can talk firstly about the nature of democracy and realize it as a way and mechanism not as a philosophy of identity and secondly we can refer to the nature and functions of Imam in Shiism and thirdly we will focus on the age of Ghaybah (Or concealment of Imam). In such a time we can or have to combine domination of Islamic Faqis (Islamic Jurists) and democracy which is known in Shiite Iran for instance as religious democracy.

Keywords : Shiism, concealment of Imam, Islamic Jurists, Democracy

Conference Title : ICID 2015 : International Conference on Islam and Democracy

Conference Location : Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Conference Dates : August 24-25, 2015