‘Allāmah al-Ḥilli’s Elucidation of the Doctrine of imāmah
—An Annotated Translation of the Kashf al-murād fī sharḥ tajrīd al-ʿītīqād, Chapter V—

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‘Allāmah al-Ḥilli (d. 626/1325), as well as his teacher Naṣīr al-Dīn al-Ṭūsī (d. 672/1274), is one of the important thinkers in the history of thought of the Twelver (Ithnā ʿashari) Shiʿism in the West Asia under the Mongols. His many treatises of the Ithnāʿasharī doctrines and jurisprudence formed a solid foundation of the later development of the Shiʿī religious sciences.

The Kashf al-murād is a compendium of the Ithnāʿasharī Shiʿī theology (kalām) written by Ḥilli in the form of commentary on Ṭūsī’s Tajrīd al-ʿītīqād. Ḥilli discusses in the fifth chapter of this work the nature and authority of the Imām as follows: (1) the installation of Imām is obligatory on God; (2) he is infallible; (3) he is the best among his contemporaries; (4) he is designated by his predecessor; (5) ʿAlī is the Imām immediate after the Prophet; (6) Demonstrations of the absence of imāmah except in ʿAlī; (7) ʿAlī is the best Companion; (8) the imāmah of the other Imāms; and (9) the judgment of the transgressors.

In this paper we have presented an annotated Japanese translation of the whole chapter V except the section dealing with ʿAlī’s being the best Companion after a brief introduction to Ḥilli’s life and the nature of his demonstration. Our translation is based on the texts of the following two editions, (1) Kashf al-murād fī sharḥ tajrīd al-