

Ghaybah theory of al-Shaykh al-Ṭāʾifah al-Ṭūsī

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Abū Jaʿfar Muḥammad b. al-Ḥasan b. ʿAlī al-Ṭūsī, known as al-Shaykh al-Ṭāʾifah al-Ṭūsī was one of the most prominent Shiʿite scholars in the 11th century – Baghdad. Under the guidance of al-Shaykh al-Mufīd and al-Sharīf al-Murtaḍā, he mastered all kinds of Shiʿite sciences and became their best successor in the field of theology and jurisprudence.

Following al-Mufīd’s request, he wrote a book on the subject of the occultation of the twelfth Imām, which is titled *Kitāb al-ghaybah*. In this work, he tried to make a comprehensive and common view about this subject within the Twelver-Imamite school. He vindicated the twelfth Imām’s existence and his ghaybah mainly by using ‘aql (reason) and put ḥadīth only secondary importance, that is the difference between al-Ṭūsī and his predecessors such as al-Nu ‘mānī and Ibn Bābūyah.

Nevertheless, al-Ṭūsī used many kinds of related ḥadīth. We can see his originality in his method of using ḥadīth.