

TEXT, FAITH AND COMMUNITY AMONGST THE ALEVIS: CHANGING PARAMETERS



One of the most frequently discussed questions amongst interested specialists of religion is whether the Alevis, a group deriving from Turkey, are really 'Shi'ite'. Though the world of definitions is so often barren, such is the wealth of elements that appear evocative of Shi'ism in Alevi thought and doctrine that this question remains intriguing, and perhaps even of relevance as Alevi thought becomes reconsidered and reformed in international, and trans-national settings.

In this paper, I shall exemplify this train of thought through a closer look at Alevi religious texts, at certain ritual elements within their traditional forms of religious faith and community, and end with suggestions as to how we may consider these parameters in the light of the way that the community is changing.

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