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## al-Kāmiliyya

**Al-Kāmiliyya** was a Shī'ī sect that emerged in the aftermath of the First Civil War (35-40/656-61). During the first centuries of Islam, the claims to leadership

(*imāma*) raised by the Shī'a—supporters of the descendants of 'Alī b. Abī Ṭālib (r. 35-40/656-61), the Prophet's cousin and son-in-law, and Fāṭima (d. 11/632), the Prophet's daughter, and of their political and religious right to rule—gave rise to a wide range of opinions and religious sects. Starting in the fourth/tenth century, heresiographers record the ephemeral existence of a sect called al-Kāmiliyya, allegedly founded by Abū Kāmil Mu'adh al-Nabhānī (fl. in Kufa, first decade of the second/eighth century).

Abū Kāmil was a supporter of Zayd b. 'Alī (d. 122/740), the founder of the Zaydī branch of Shī'ism, according to whose tenets a legitimate Imām had a religious duty to declare publicly his claim to the imāmate and to fight for his rights. Abū Kāmil adopted the Zaydī view of the imāmate, which held that it was restricted to the descendants of Fāṭima, but stressed the politico-religious value of taking up arms as the mark of a just ruler. He applied this criterion retrospectively even to 'Alī and his son al-Ḥasan (d. 50/670), providing an example of a recurrent feature of the political and religious confrontations of the first centuries of Islamic history: the accusation of unbelief (*takfīr*). In his opinion, opposing 'Alī's right to lead after the death of the prophet Muḥammad caused the Muslim community to fall into unbelief. According to the account of the heresiographer Sa'd b. 'Abdallāh al-Qummī (d. 301/913-4), Abū Kāmil held that 'Alī himself became an unbeliever because of his initial refusal to rise up in order to summon people to pledge allegiance to him and returned to the fold of Islam only after fighting his adversaries.

The political tenets of the Kāmiliyya seem to be a radical interpretation of the