

## WHO IS AYATOLLAH SAYEED MOHAGHEGH DAMAD?

### **Ayatollah Sayedd Mohaghegh Damad – Shahid Beheshti**



Ayatollah Mohaghegh Damad had two separate courses of education. He first attended the renowned Fayzieh School at Qum, Iran, where he received his traditional Islamic education in Arabic language and literature, Qur'an and hadith, Islamic philosophy, theology and jurisprudence. On this background he achieved the status of Mujtahid (Ayatollah) in 1970. Parallel to his traditional studies he pursued a modern academic education, first at Tehran University. There he was awarded a B.A. in Islamic Philosophy and an M.A. in Islamic Jurisprudence. After that he went to Belgium, to conduct research for a Ph.D. in Law at the Catholic University of Louvain-la-Neuve, being awarded his doctorate. Ayatollah Mohaghegh Damad is one of the very few high-level Mujtahids in Iran to have been educated in international law in the West; he is also recognized as one of the most important philosophers of the Shia world, acknowledged to be one of the leading teachers in the Hawza of Qum.

University

## WHAT DOES WIKIPEDIA SAY

[https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mostafa\\_Mohaghegh\\_Damad?wprov=sfti1](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mostafa_Mohaghegh_Damad?wprov=sfti1)

### **Biography**

Mohaghegh Damad was born on 1945 in the Qom. His father was Mohammad Mohaghegh Damad who was Shia Marja' and his **grand father, Abdul-Karim Ha'eri Yazdi, was founder of Qom seminary**. He has married with Mirza Hashem Amoli's daughter.

### **Education**

Mostafa passed his Islamic education in Arabic literature, Quran, Hadith, Islamic philosophy, theology, and jurisprudence at the Fayzieh School in the Qom. He achieved the degree of Ijtihad in 1970. Also, he continued his modern academic education in Islamic Philosophy and graduated on 1969 from Tehran University. After that he achieved his Master of Science degree in Islamic Jurisprudence on 1980 from Tehran University. In 1996, he went to Université catholique de Louvain in Belgium and earned his Ph.D. degree.[1]

### **Responsibilities**

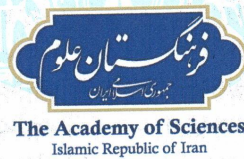
As of 1988, he is member of The Academy of Sciences of Iran. Also, he is a professor in Faculty of Law at **Shahid Beheshti University** from 2007. He reportedly has held such posts in Iran as **Chief of the State Inspectorate Organization**, head of the **Department of Islamic Studies of the Academy of Sciences of Iran**, head of **Commission of Judicial Bill Collection of Iran**, and head of **Commission of Compiling Judicial Acts**.

At a September 2005 speech in the United States written up by an Iranian American doctor, he gave his opinions that there are no irreconcilable differences between the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Islamic jurisprudence, that no compulsion is permissible in religion, that apostasy should be punished only if it involves undertaking actions to destabilize the social order, and that "nothing should be forced on the people by the government, not even daily prayers."

## **AYATOLLAH SAYEED MOHAGHEGH DAMAD – RESPONSE TO QUESTION OF SHEIKH ARIF ABDULHUSSEIN**

## Letter Answering Queries RE: Sheikh Arif - Original held by IHC Trustees.

Ayat. S. Mostafa Mohaghegh Damad  
Academician  
Chairman, Department of Islamic Studies  
Professor of Law & Islamic Philosophy



سید مصطفی محقق داماد  
عضو هیئت مدرس گروه علوم و اسلام

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

Oct.14-2017

Wa Alaykum as-salaam my dear brother in faith Abbas Aly, Trustee - Imam Hasan Centre

Thank you for your email. I pray to His Almighty that you are well, and successful in fulfilling your religious and moral responsibilities in such hard and difficult time, in which our faith is under attack because of misconduct and violent behavior and inhumane interpretation of our blessed and noble teachings of Islam and Ahl al-Bayt.

Regarding your question about my good brother in faith Hujatul al-Islam wa-l Muslim Haj Shaykh Arif Abdulhusain. I have known Shaykh Arif for many years now in the capacity of responsible, knowledgeable and competent scholar with a great sense of morality and responsibility for humanity at large and Shiite faith in particular. I have verified his ability and competency with regard to Shi'a jurisprudence, and interpretation of teachings of Ahl al-Bayt, and I have accordingly certified his ability to conduct independent ijtihad.

As a knowledgeable qualified Shiite scholar, Shaykh Arif not only has full rights to share his scholarly ideas with the community especially since such discourse benefit the Muslim minorities within the contemporary multicultural and pluralistic western world but also ethically and religiously responsible to do so. In case some people disagree with his ideas and interpretation, then they in accordance with our noble traditions ought to approach him and seek clarity or debate him. Slandering any scholar constitutes a grave moral crime.

As to your question on the ideas that were addressed by Shaykh Arif regarding the religious tolerance and plurality of faiths, the Quran teaches us that people of faith

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provided they believe in Allah and the Last Day and perform righteous deeds then they shall have their reward.

At the very least by looking at the Quranic texts in addition to the conduct of the blessed Prophet we can conclude that Islam wishes the Muslim community to have cordial relations with people of other faiths especially the people of the Book even to the level of coming together through the worship of one God. Similarly, Quran condones dialogue with the people of other faiths and restrains its followers from judging upon the fate of the people of other religions provided they are not classed as enemies of God.

We live in a very difficult, hard and violent time. The need for an ethical, humane religious voice in general and a Shiite Islam voice, in particular, is felt more than ever. Some brothers and sisters under the direction of Shaykh Arif have undertaken such an extremely significant task, and it is our responsibility to help and support them in their blessed and holy mission.

God bless you all, and my sincere pray with you.

Seyed Mustafa Mohagheghdamad

## IJTEHAD ISSUED TO SHEIKH ARIF

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم  
الصلوة والسلام على عباده الصالحين المحضين الاخيار لاسيد الكونين خاتم النبيين محمد واهل  
بيته الطيبين الطاهرين  
فان جناب العالم الفاضل حجة الاسلام والمسلمين سماحة الشيخ عارف عبدالحسين حفظه الله  
تعالى لازال موقفاً باني تاييد الحق وموقفاً باني توفيق رباني ممن بذل الجهد في طلب المعارف  
الالهية فروعها واصولها وافنى الساب في تحصيل العلوم الدينية اوبها ومنقولها ومعتقوها حتى فاز  
بجهد الكمال السداد ونال مقاه من الطر ومربته من الاجتهاد. وعليه ان يشكر به ويحدث  
بالنعمه وعلى طلبه العلم وروا الفضل ان يستبدوا من افاضته وافادته. ونحنا الدوامه للارتقاء  
الى خفيرة الكمال وتحول حالنا الى احسن الحال. والمرحوم جنابه ان لا ينساني من صالح الدعاء  
في اوقات الاستجابة والدوني الاجابة.

مصطفى المحقق الداماد - ٢٧ ربيع الثاني - ١٤٣٨

AYATOLLAH SAYEED MOHAGHEGH DAMAD  
HAS AGREED TO TAVEL TO AUSTRALIA IN JANUARY 2018  
TO PRESENT HIS LECTURES AND VIEWS ON HUMANITY.

IMAM HASAN CENTRE & TRUSTEES HAVE INVITED HIM  
TO SPEAK AT IMAM HASAN CENTRE.

IMAM HASAN CENTRE LOOK FORWARD TO HIS VISIT SO  
THE COMMUNITY CAN SPEAK DIRCTLY TO HIM.

WE APPRECIATE THE ONGOING SUPPORT FROM THE  
IHC COMMUNITY.