

Devotional Theology: An Interview with Shaykh Vinay Khetia

Al-Sidrah had the pleasure of speaking with Shaykh Vinay Khetia about his Ph.D. thesis which he is currently writing on the *du‘ā* and *ziyārāt* of the Ahl al-Bayt.

In this interview, he introduces his educational background before elaborating on his research. Of particular interest is his explanation of the history and focus of scholastic commentaries on Shī‘ī devotional literature. He explains that this process perhaps started in the 13th century with Sayyid ibn Ṭāwūs, expanded in the Safavid era, and has continued through to the contemporary period. He also provides the names of contemporary ‘*ulama*’ who have written on the *du‘ā* of the Imāms, and the academic scholars and ‘*ulama*’ that he is working with to complete his thesis.

Beyond speaking about the academic nature of his topic, Shaykh Khetia provides some useful insight for how communities and individuals who are not fluent in classical Arabic can effectively engage with, and develop a spiritual connection to, various *du‘ā* and *ziyārāt*. This includes what one should focus on when reading, and how an individual can build an Arabic vocabulary that will deepen their connection to the subtle meanings embedded in the texts.

We pray for Shaykh Khetia’s success and look forward to benefiting from his research in the future. Use the player below to listen.

Interview with Shaykh Vinay Khetia – Du‘a