

# Imma sheikh mustafa

Religion



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## A Response to Sheikh Mustafa Akhound's 19th and 20th Ramazan Lectures

These lectures are devoted to the idea that devout Muslims should pray for the rebirth ("reappearance") of the Imam. For me, Sheikh Mustafa's call is the most striking in his lectures. I see Islam as a religion based on the worship of Allah, who is considered the creator of the world, including humans. In his lectures, Sheikh Mustafa encourages worship not of Allah, but of the Imam, who is not a god. Given the basic idea of Islam about the veneration of Allah, Mustafa's call seems to be at least strange. In turn, Mustafa justifies the need for worship and praying for the Imam's reappearance because of a number of reasons. In particular, he believes that it will help every Muslim to get rid of their problems, no matter what kind of character they have (financial, family, or educational). In addition, praying for the reappearance of the Imam will allow people to find spiritual strength and resilience in dealing with the various temptations which lead to sin. I agree with him that everyone is faced with the problem of sinful behavior and deeds, and his/her task is to learn how to fight them effectively.

Nevertheless, I cannot agree with Mustafa's call to pray for the Imam's reappearance, as the Imam is still the same person like everybody else. Only God, in this case, Allah, can be regarded as a source of salvation and deliverance from sin for a Muslim believer. Finally, Mustafa's statement that praying for the reappearance of the Imam will help restore justice and order throughout the world looks ridiculous, because only God and a sincere faith of the people in Him can change the world for the better!