

In the Name of God the Compassionate the Merciful



### Details

Title: Dr.

Name: Zoheir Ali Esmail

Date of Birth: 08/08/1983

Languages: English, Arabic, Persian.

Nationality: British

Mobile Number: +447796249358

Email: zoheirali@hotmail.com

### Education

BSc in Accounting and Finance awarded by the London School of Economics in 2004.

Chartered Accountant awarded by the ICAEW in 2007.

**Masters in Islamic Sciences** awarded by Middlesex University in 2009.

Thesis title: The Station on *Fanā'* (Annihilation) in the *Qur'ān*, *Ḥadīth* and Islamic Mysticism with Special Reference to the Qur'ānic Concept of *Liqā' Allāh* (Meeting God)

**Doctor of Philosophy** awarded by The University of Exeter in August 2016 supervised by Prof. Sajjad Rizvi and Prof. Robert Gleave.

Thesis title: Between Philosophy and *'Irfān*: Interpreting Mullā Ṣadrā from the Qajars to Post-Revolutionary Iran.

**Masters in Islamic Mysticism** awarded by the School of Imām Kumaynī under Jami'a al-Muṣṭafā in 2017

Thesis title: Mystical Stations and States in the Husaynī Tradition (thesis written in Arabic)

**Ḥawza training:** I began ḥawza studies in Syria after studying Arabic at the University of Damascus in the Summer of 2007 at the school of Imām Khumaynī in the area located around the shrine of Sayyada Zaynab. I studied the principles of jurisprudence, jurisprudence and biographical studies before returning to the UK to study the MA at the Islamic College for Advanced Studies (ICAS). Alongside the MA program I continued my ḥawza studies in jurisprudence and its principles. In the summer of 2009 I moved to Qum where I focused on Islamic philosophy and mysticism in the ḥawza while researching my PhD. Throughout my time in Qum I continued to develop my understanding of the Arabic language, jurisprudence and its principles, contemporary thought and the history of the Muslim world. I also learnt the Farsi language. In my final years abroad I returned to focus on jurisprudence and its principles at a more advanced level, while teaching various courses and classes in all of the Islamic sciences.

Some of the traditional ḥawza books I have studied with teachers are:

Kitāb al-ṣamadīya by Shaykh al-Bahā'ī (Arabic grammar)

The Alfīyah of Ibn Mālik with the commentary of Ibn Aqīl (Arabic grammar)

Al- Manṭiq by Muhammad Riḍā Muẓaffar (Logic)

Jawhar al-naḍīd by 'Allāmah al-Ḥillī (Logic)

Al-Rawḍa al-bahīya fī sharḥ al-lum'a al-dimeshqīya by Shahīd al-Thānī (Shī'ī Fiqh)

Al-Fiqh al-istidlālī by Bāqir Ṭrawānī (Shī'ī Fiqh)

Al-Makāsib al-muḥarrama by Ākhund al-Khurāsānī (Shī'ī Fiqh)

Al-Ḥalaqa al-ūlā, al-Ḥalaqa al-thāniya and al-Ḥalaqa al-thālitha by Shahīd al-Ṣadr (Uṣūl al-fiqh)

Farā'id al-uṣūl Shaykh al-Anṣārī (Uṣūl al-fiqh)

Kashf al-murād by 'Allāmah al-Ḥillī (Theology)

Al-Ishārāt wa al-tanbīhāt by Ibn Sīnā (Philosophy)

Nihāyat al-ḥikma by 'Allāmah Ṭabāṭabā'ī (Philosophy)

Al-Asfār al-arba‘a by Mullā Ṣadrā (Philosophy)

Tamhīd al-qawā'id by Ibn Turka Iṣfahānī (Theoretical Mysticism)

Sharḥ fuṣūṣ al-ḥikam by Dāwūd al-Qaysarī (Theoretical Mysticism)

Miṣbāḥ al-uns by Ḥamza al-Fanārī (Theoretical Mysticism)

Sharḥ manāzil al-sā'irīn by ‘Abd Allāh Anṣārī (Practical Mysticism)

### Baḥth Khārij in Fiqh and Uṣūl

Academic Year 2019-2020 – Sayyid Aḥmad Madadī (Fiqh and Uṣūl) & Shaykh Ḥaydar Ḥubbullāh (Fiqh)

### Teaching

Summer 2017 – Logic & Philosophy at the Ḥawza Taster Course in London.

Academic Year 2017-2018 – Comparative Religion & The Philosophy of Religion (Mar‘ashīya School in Qum, MA level).

Summer 2018 - Philosophy at the Ḥawza Taster Course in London.

Academic Year 2018-2019 – Introduction to Akhlāq & A Commentary of Du‘ā’ al-bahā’ (al-Muṣṭafā Online University, All levels).

Summer 2019 – Jurisprudence & the Principles of Jurisprudence at the Ḥawza Taster Course in London.

Academic Year 2019-2020 – An Introduction to ‘Irfān (taught in Arabic) (al-Muṣṭafā Online University, BA level); Contemporary Philosophical and Theological Issues I & II (The School of Occidental and Islamic Studies (SOIS) in Qum MA level); Contemporary Issues and Tablīgh (Jami‘ al-Zahrā’ in Qum, All levels)

Academic Year 2020-2021 - Research Methods (SOIS, MA level), Islamic Philosophy (ICAS BA Year 1 and Year 2), Philosophy 1 (Obudiyyat, Ḥawza), Bidayat al-ḥikmah (Ḥawza), Contemporary Thought (ICAS BA and Ḥawza).

Academic Year 2021-2022 - Islamic Philosophy (ICAS, MA), Bidayat al-ḥikmah (Ḥawza), Logic (Ḥawza), Logic Additional Topics (Ḥawza), Contemporary Thought (Ḥawza), Nihayat al-Ḥikmah (Advanced Ḥawza), Kashf al-Murad (Advanced Ḥawza)

Academic Year 2022-2023: An Introduction to Islamic Philosophy (ICAS, BA) Islamic Philosophy (Obudiyyat, Ḥawza), Logic (Ḥawza), Nihayat al-Ḥikmah (Advanced Ḥawza), Kashf al-Murad (Advanced Ḥawza), Transcendental Philosophy (ICAS, Postgraduate Certificate),

Islam and Human Rights (ICAS, MA). I also supervised an MA thesis at ICAS with the title: “Reframing Mental Health Struggles as a Journey for the Development of a Spiritual Personality: An Islamic Theological and Psychological Perspective.”

I have a private tuition business in which I have taught a number of courses in Arabic language, theoretical mysticism, logic, advanced theology, ḥadīth, commentaries on various Shīʿī supplications, philosophy, jurisprudence and the principles of jurisprudence. I also have an active telegram channel where I post reflective written, audio and visual content at <https://t.me/zoheiresmail>

### Conferences

December 2017 – The Shia Institute – Systems of Wayfaring in the Nahj al-balāgha

February 2019 – Dānishgāh Bāqir al-ʿulūm – Practical ʿirfān in the Nahj al-balāgha

April 2022 – Islamic College for Advanced Studies - The Prophetic *Sīrah* through the Qurʾānic Paradigm: A Case Study of the Battle of *ʿUḥud* (paper forthcoming)

February 2023 – Al-Mahdi Institute - Visions of *Tawḥīd*: Sayyid Shubbar’s reconciliation of Imām al-Sajjād’s (as) words in the 28<sup>th</sup> Supplication of *al-Ṣaḥīfah al-Sajjādīyah* “You have, O my God, numerical oneness!” (*Iaka yā ilāhī waḥdānīyat al-ʿadad!*) (paper forthcoming)

### Affiliations

The al-Batool (sa) Foundation – Trustee

The Shia Institute - Fellow