



Ġamā' a (Jamā' a)

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The Arabic noun, *ġamā'a* (plural, *ġamā'at*), a group, is related to the verb *ġama'*, to gather. In Taṣawwuf ("Šūfism"), a *ġamā'a* is a group of Šūfiyah ("Šūfis") operating under the authority of a particular shaykh, pīr, murshīd, sarkār, khalīfah, etc.

However, *Tarīqah ASMA™*, as a *post-Šūfi* tarīqah, functions outside the *sharī'a* (the prescription) of Islām. Since, in the Bahá'í Faith, there is no hierocracy (or clerical polity), the concept of *ġamā'a* has been recontextualized into an egalitarian social framework. No one can authoritatively interpret scripture for anyone else.

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