



The Caliph and the Heretic: Ibn Saba and the Origins of Shi'ism (Islamic History and Civilization)

Sean Anthony

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This book is an examination of the traditions and legends concerning early Islam's first and most infamous heretic, the Yemenite Jew known as Abd Allah ibn Saba. Tracing the evolution and transformation of the many stories and narratives about Ibn Saba as adapted by Sunni and Shi'ite scholars alike, this work attempts for the first time to give a comprehensive account of the formation of the image of Ibn Saba as the quintessential heretic of Islam's early years. It also offers a new interpretation of the historical importance and beliefs of Ibn Saba and those early Shi'ites revered as his followers, the Sabaiyya. The end result is a revolutionary, new portrait of Shi'ite origins and early Islamic sectarianism."

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