***Materials and Sources on Ahl-i haq Religion in Kurdistan***

***Dr. Rashad Miran***

***Ahl-i haq "Truth-Worshippers" are an ethno-confessional Kurdish community with own specific beliefs and religious features. They live in the Iraqi and Iranian parts of Kurdistan, they live also in Shiraz, Damawand mountains, Qazvin, and Azerbaijan.***

***The adherents of Ahl-i haq religious community are known among other faith- believers as Ali-ilahi . This name reflects the belief of Ahl-i haq that Ali was an embodiment of God. On this ground, they are numbered among extreme Shiites. According to Ahl-i haq concepts, Ali b. Abi Talib was one embodiment of God, the first but not the principal one. In addition to him, there are more important embodiments of God: Shakhoshin, Sultan Is'haq, since, the truth (haq) was revealed at their time. From this point of view, these legendary persons are more eligible to be commemorated in the name of the community than Ali.***

***Ahl-i haq religion is strictly monotheistic: God is the only creator, and nobody helped him in the creation of the world. Monotheism is revealed in the central Sufi dogma- Wahdat al-Wujud (unity of existence).***

***God has multiply embodied in people. The last embodiment will occur on the Day of Resurrection.***

***Religious texts mention only seven embodiments of God; proceeding from the analysis of the sources, we assume that the first "real" embodiment of God (don) was Ali b. Abi Talib, rather than Khavandgar. The latter was God himself in the period of creation of the Universe. In each period God was surrounded by four angels, each of angels embodying in real person.***

***"Jam" is the general assembly which convened not only for religious purposes, but also for marriages, for decision-making on political and administrative matters, etc. The assemblies are held in a specially allocated place "Jamkhane".***

***Ahl-i haq religion has a hidden character, its members have to hide their faith from the others, but at the same time they need to recognize each other- this is achieved through a password, or a catchphrase.***