



buried in the al-Baqi cemetery  
there.

Sheikh Ahmad was a man of prodigious knowledge and wrote some 160 works on a wide variety of subjects, mostly in the area of mystical philosophy. He himself claimed, however, that the authority for his teaching came from the Shiite imams whom he met in dreams and visions. His teaching is a synthesis of the various strands of the Islamic sciences, especially mysticism and philosophy, and attempts to reconcile rational and intuitive knowledge. He has been denounced by some clerics because he taught that some of the concepts in the Islamic tradition should be understood as spiritual or metaphorical truths rather than taken literally. This same teaching, however, made him important to the later Babi and Baha'i religions.

Moojan Momen

Further Reading

Momen, Moojan. *An Introduction to Shiite Islam*. Oxford, UK: George Ronald, 1985; Momen, Moojan. *The Works of Shaykh Ahmad al-Ahsa'i*. Newcastle-upon-Tyne, England: Baha'i Studies Bulletin Monograph, no. 1, 1991; Rafati, Vahid. "The Development of Shaykhí Thought in Shí'í Islam." Ph.D. dissertation, University of California, Los Angeles, 1979.

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— Sheikh Ahmad al-Ahsai (Used by permission of the curator)