



## ABSTRACTS

### *Philosophy and Fundamentalism: The Case of Fayz Kashani*

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Whatever the true nature of the Akhbari school might be, it is interesting to observe that its later efflorescence coincided in time with the rise and consolidation of Safavid power in Iran. The growth and development of another intellectual trend, namely Hikmat, similarly coincided with the fortunes of the Safavids. Indeed, several of the major works of Mulla Sadra (d.1640) are profoundly preoccupied with the the ipsissima verba of the Akhbár or Hadith venerated by Twelver Shi'I tradition. His philosophy, however, is rational and creative whereas the Akhbaris have acquired a reputation for being just the opposite: literalist, anti-intellectual, "mystical"; in a word: fundamentalist. Fayz Kashani (d. 1680) would therefore appear to present something of a contradiction: ranking pupil (and son-in-law) of Sadra, he is also widely recognized as a partisan of the Akhbaris. This paper will explore some of the problems connected with a proper understanding of Kashani's role in the later development of Shi'i religious thought.