

Abdulaziz A. Sachedina

July 28, 2023 / 9th of Mubarram 1445

Dear Respected Community Members,

As-Salaam 'Alaykum

Having gone through a professional and personal journey in academia and the Islamic seminary for half a century, I am at a stage in my life where I feel compelled to account for and seek forgiveness from Allah (S.W.A.) in matters that are essential to my faith.

Upon careful reflection, I realize that I made critical errors of interpretation in my writings and lectures on a range of topics related to fundamental areas of essential doctrine such as the Imamate of our Twelfth Imam (A.S.). I further appreciate that these oversights and errors deeply hurt and affected core beliefs held by a community of believers who entrusted me to guide and reinforce their faith. To those fellow believers that I hurt or upset in any manner: I offer my deepest apologies for the pain and distress I caused.

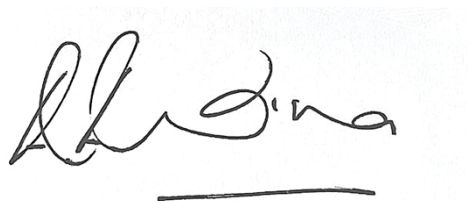
My lifelong attempt to balance the “rational and objective” standards of modern secular academia while adhering to the responsibilities and standards of my *'aqeeda* were, in a few but significant instances, a failure. As academia is prone to arrogance and airs of intellectual superiority, it was my responsibility to you as my fellow believers to continuously challenge my academic methodologies and conclusions from the lens of my faith and my community. I sometimes failed to do so, and this is something I deeply regret. As I now approach the end of my life's journey and examine the legacy I leave behind; I seek forgiveness from both Allah (S.W.A.) and from my community for any academic works and lectures that may have you distress and confusion.

Finally: I feel compelled to reiterate and reaffirm that I continue to hold the institution of *Marji'yyat* in the highest esteem. As for the Ayatollah Sayyid Ali Husaini Al-Sistani, if I have in any way spoken or written things that appeared to undermine this great institution and his personality, again, I offer my absolute and sincere apologies.

I want to meet my Lord at peace with the intercession of my Twelve Imams and intercession of my Lady Fatima al-Zahra (S.A.).

Allah (S.W.A.) is the most forgiving, most merciful.

Respectfully,



Dr. Abdulaziz A. Sachedina
Fairfax, Virginia (USA)

30th July 2023 / 11th Muharram 1445

Dear Professor Dr. Abdul Aziz Sachedina,

Salam Alaykum,

May Allah (SWT) make great our reward and your reward, for our grief on Imam Husayn (a) Ameen.

Thank you for your letter addressed to Community Members dated 28th July 2023/9th Muharram 1445 which we also sent to the office of His Eminence Sayyid Ali Huseini al-Sistani (d). We have also received the following from the office of His Eminence:

After the publication of Dr. Sachedina's statement (dated 28th July/9th Muharram 1445), Agha (may his presence be prolonged) said: Regarding his writings and statements which caused doubts and uncertainty in the fundamentals of religion and of the sect or which weakened the position of the Shia marja'iyat, I ask the Almighty God to pardon and forgive him. Of course, if God willing, he regains his health, he has a duty to try as much as possible to redress the past mistakes in written and audio-visual forms, and in that case, there is more hope that God Almighty will forgive him.

And as for what is related to me, I have absolved him. May God forgive him and us.

**Saturday, 10 Muharram 1445
Najaf al-Ashraf**

On behalf of The World Federation and the entire KSIM Community, I congratulate you for your bold and direct letter to the community. A leading respectable scholar of the Hawza states that is 'Jihade Akbar' to admit to one's academic lapses and apologise in public. You have had the courage to do so and have set the record straight for which I commend you.

We welcome you actively back to the community which you love most. I pray for your swift recovery with the Wasila of Aimmah (a). The office bearers of The World Federation also convey their salams to you and wish you a swift recovery.

With Salaams and Du'as,



Safder Jaffer

President - The World Federation of KSIMC

We exist to serve

www.world-federation.org

The World Federation is an NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations