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practices. But they differ in doctrine, ritual law, theology and religious organisation.

Sunnis form the majority of 1.5 billion Muslims ( 85%-90% ),e.g. in Egypt, Saudi Arabia and other countries. They regard themselves as the orthodox branch of Islam. Sunnis rely on the *Qur'an* and the *Sunna* ( traditional wing of Islam ) in questions of theology and law.

Shiites follow Muhammad's relative Ali as the rightful successor of Muhammad, following his death in 632, and his descendants, the Imams.( *Shiat Ali* or the party of Ali ) Early civil wars were fought over this right of succession. Out of this arose the concept of martyrdom. and of grieving. They comprise 10% of all Muslims, 154-200 million worldwide. The majority live in Iran, Iraq, Yemen and Afghanistan.

In recent conflicts Sunni extremists have denounced Shias as heretics, who should be killed. But until the last few decades, the two groups coexisted for centuries more or less peacefully.

### The Concept of Adab

The Arabic term *Adab* conveys a variety of meanings including virtue, moral conduct, ethics proper manners, etiquette, and praiseworthy qualities ( meaning respect and politeness, decency and humaneness. That behaviour which is "pleasing to God".

### Sufism

Sufism is religion, it seems, not a religion but the 'inner secret teaching that is concealed within every religion'. The Sufis are an ancient spiritual freemasonry which long preceded Islam, although there was an outpouring of Sufi poetry and philosophy between the 8<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. With the expansion of science and the arts in