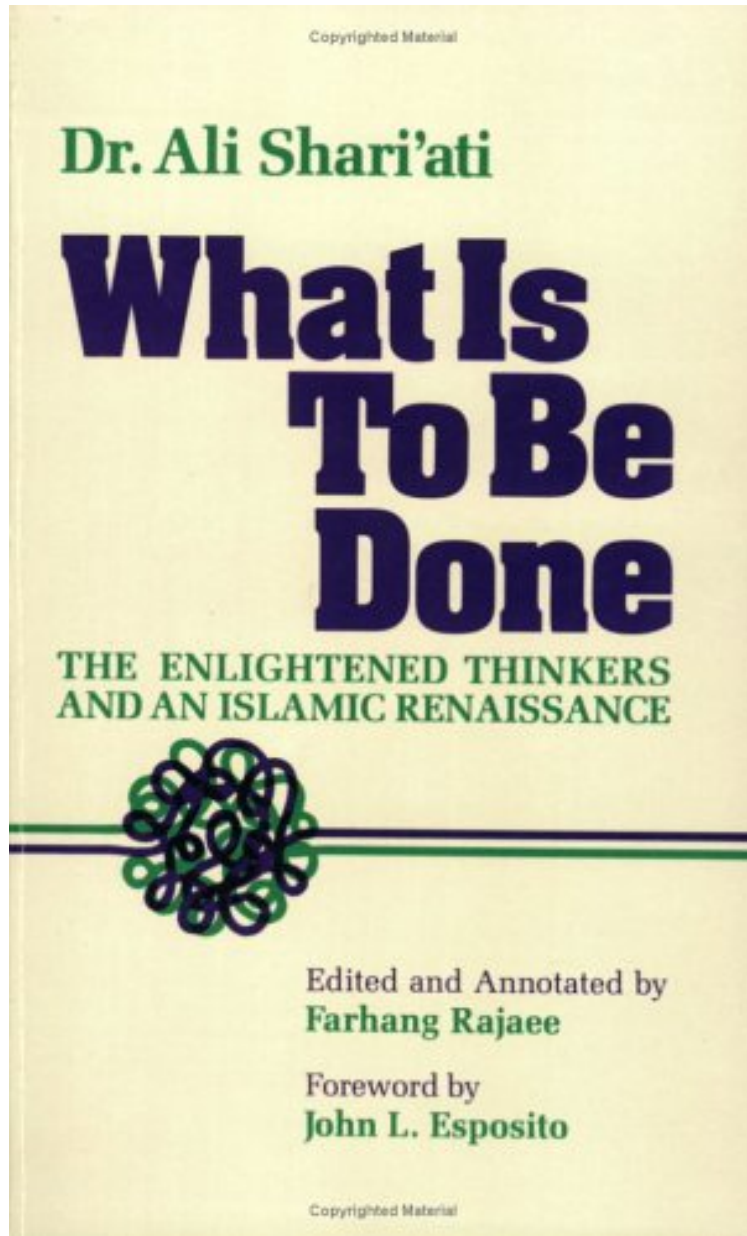


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What Is To Be Done (The Enlightened Thinkers and an Islamic Renaissance)

Ali Shari'ati

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What Is To Be Done: The Enlightened Thinkers and an Islamic Renaissance, is a collection of lectures Dr. Shari'ati delivered in the 1970s, dealing with the definition of an intellectual, his role in the society and his responsibility, play the role of social prophets. The volume contains three lectures, one of which has been divided into two parts, together they constitute Shari'ati's response to what he perceives as the crisis facing the Islamic world. According to him, Muslims today are in need of an "Islamic renaissance" brought about by the enlightened Muslim thinkers. The lecture "Where Shall We Begin" deals with the characteristics of such thinkers. "What Is to Be Done" has two distinct parts, one theoretical and the other practical. The remaining lecture of the collection. "Surah al-Rum" (The Romans: A Message to Enlightened Thinkers,) gives a case of study of the power of Islam and the way in which it was able to overcome the superpowers of the day, the Sassanid and the byzantine empires.

About the Author In preparing the way for the unparalleled surge of Islamic revival in Iran, many factors have been at work. One of the most important is the legacy of Dr. Ali Shari'ati (1933-1977). A teacher, scholar and writer, Shari'ati and a dynamic influence on the young people of Iran with his classes, discussions, free lectures and articles during the 1960's and 1970's. Shari'ati was a sociologist, educated in Mashhad and Paris, as well as a student of history and philosophy. He subjected contemporary society to careful examination, using the terms, experiences and concepts found in Islamic philosophy and culture for his analysis. He formulated and presented to his students and readers a coherent Islamic world-view and an ideology of social, political and economic change.