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Topic: Concept of Masalik-al-Din in the Historical Progress of Imamate: A Study on Ibadiyya Sect in Oman

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Findings

The research provides a comprehensive understanding on the Imamate concept of the less-explored Ibadi sect of Islam, predominant in Oman, analysing its historical evolution, particularly focusing on the concept of Masalik al-Din.

Ibadi Islam, constituting a significant portion of Oman's identity, retains a rich tradition dating back to early Islamic history. It emphasizes egalitarianism and Quranic principles, contrasting with more extremist Kharijite groups.

The concept of Imamate, pivotal in Ibadi thought, evolved from secrecy (*Kitmān*) to manifestation (*Zuhūr*), adapting to societal circumstances. *Masālik al-Dīn*, outlining stages of religion, elucidates Ibadi flexibility, allowing for various types of Imams based on community needs.

The study spans early Islamic history, highlighting Ibadi resilience and doctrinal development. Oman's unique socio-political landscape, coupled with tribal characteristics, facilitated Ibadi Imamate's establishment and continuity.

Despite the dissolution of the Imamate in 1959, Ibadi traditions persist, influencing Omani governance and societal norms. In conclusion, understanding Ibadi Imamate traditions holds relevance for contemporary Islam and bilateral relations, shedding light on enduring theological questions and promoting context-friendly discourse.