

adhan: call to prayer

adhkar: plural of dhikr, q.v.

al-hamdu-lillah: praise be to Allah.

Allahu akbar: "Allah is most great".

Ansar: (literally, "helpers"), the Muslim of Yathrib (Madinah) who welcomed those who migrated from Makkah and helped them to settle in their new home.

`aqidah: belief, doctrine.

`ashura': the tenth day of Muharram. It is a sunnah to fast on the ninth and tenth days of Muharram.

astaghfir-Allah: I seek forgiveness from Allah.

awqaf (sing. Waqf): Endowment. A charitable trust for the sake of Allah, usually set up in perpetuity for the purpose of teaching, feeding the poor or treating the sick, etc.

ayah (pl. ayat): (literally, "sign") a "verse" of the Qur'an.

bay` ah: oath of allegiance to the Prophet (PBUH) sworn by those who embraced Islam during his lifetime.

bid` ah: reprehensible innovation, the introduction of rites or beliefs into Islam which have no basis in the Qur'an or Sunnah.

birr: righteousness, kindness, good treatment. This word is often used to describe the attitude that a Muslim should have towards his or her parents, which may be summed up as "filial piety."

da` i (fem. da` iyah): (literally "caller") one who calls people to Islam

dajjal: (literally "liar") Antichrist

da` wah: (literally, "invitation" or "call") calling people to Islam

dhikr (plural, adhkar): (literally "remembrance" i.e. of Allah). Remembering Allah should be a constant feature of the Muslim's life. The Prophet (PBUH) also taught some phrases and prayers that help us to remember Allah.

duha: an optional prayer performed at midmorning.

dunya: this world, as opposed to the Hereafter, the transient physical world.

du` a': supplication, "private" or "informal" prayer, which may be in Arabic or one's own language.

fajr: the early morning prayer, performed before sunrise.

fiqh: jurisprudence, the understanding and application of shari`ah.

fitnah: trial, temptation; tribulation, tumult.

fitrah: the natural state of man, which is Islam.

ghusl: full ablution.

hadith: a saying or tradition of the Prophet (PBUH).

hadith qudsi: (literally "sacred hadith") A hadith containing words of Allah that were narrated by the Prophet (PBUH), but which do not form part of the Qur'an.

hajj: pilgrimage to Makkah, performed once a year during the Islamic month of Dhu`l-Hijjah; this is one of the pillars of Islam, and should be performed once in a lifetime by every Muslim who is able to do so.

halal: permitted, allowed

haram: forbidden, prohibited.

haya': bashfulness, shyness.

hijab: the Islamic dress-code and related attitudes. Although the word "Hijab" is often used by English-speaking Muslims to refer specifically to the head-covering, it in fact refers to the whole dress-code.

hijrah: migration for the sake of Allah. "The Hijrah" is the historic migration of the Prophet (PBUH) and his Companions from Makkah to Yathrib (Madinah) but the word "hijrah" may describe any migration (for example, to find a better environment in which to practise Islam and raise children or to spread the message of Islam), that is undertaken for the sake of Allah. The Hijrah of the Prophet (PBUH) also marks the beginning of the Islamic or Hijr_ calendar.

`iddah: "waiting period," usually three menstrual cycles, which a divorced woman must observe before she is free to remarry. The purpose is to establish whether she is pregnant with her ex-husband's child (if she were to remarry immediately, there is the possibility of doubt regarding the paternity of a child conceived immediately). If she is pregnant, her `iddah lasts until the baby is born.

imam: leader; may refer to the person who leads others in prayers, or to the ruler or leader of an Islamic state. The word is also used as a title of respect for eminent scholars.

iqamah: call to prayer, similar to the adhan, that is given immediately before the prayer.

`isha': the night-time prayer, performed after the sun has set.

isnad: "Chain of authority," the chain of people who conveyed a hadith from the Prophet (PBUH). Scholars who specialized in hadith, such as al-Bukhari and Muslim, subjected the isnad of each hadith they came across to intense scrutiny. Only if they were certain that each person in the isnad was competent and truthful, and that each had been in a position to meet and learn from or teach the next person in the chain, would the scholars accept a hadith as being

authentic.

i`tikaf: seclusion or spiritual retreat. It was the custom of the Prophet (SAAS) to spend the last ten days of Ramadan in seclusion, concentrating on prayer and worship.

jahili: of or pertaining to jahiliyyah, q.v.

jahiliyyah: ignorance. The time preceding the revelation of Islam is known as the "Time of Ignorance."

jama`ah: group or congregation

Jibril: the Archangel who conveyed the revelation of the Qur'an to the Prophet (SAAS). The English version of his name is Gabriel.

jihād: (literally "struggle" or "striving"). Although this word is often translated as "holy war," it has a broader meaning than warfare on the battlefield. Any act of striving to please Allah may be described as jihād.

jilbab: woman's long, loose outer-garment.

jinn: created beings made from smokeless fire. In many ways they are a parallel creation to humans, as there are Muslims and kafirs among them, they are born, have children and die, etc. They can see us, but we cannot see them. Trying to see or contact them is forbidden, and Muslims are encouraged to protect themselves by constantly remembering Allah.

jumu`ah: Friday, the Muslim day of gathering when men have to go to the mosque to hear the khutbah and pray the congregational prayer. (Attendance is optional for women.)

kafir: disbeliever, one who rejects the truth.

khalifah: successor or vicegerent. Specifically, it refers to the Muslim ruler.

khutbah: speech, address or sermon, especially that given at Friday and Eid prayers.

kufr: disbelief, rejection of the truth.

kunyah: agnomen beginning with Abu or Umm (father of, mother of) and the name of the oldest child or more frequently, the name of the oldest son. This is an ancient Arabic custom which was continued in Islam and adopted by other people who became Muslim. The kunyah of the Prophet (PBUH) was Ab' al-Qasim.

la ilaha ill-Allah: "There is no god but Allah." The fundamental declaration of Tawhid, the central tenet of Islam.

laylat al-qadr: The "Night of Power," one of the odd-numbered nights of the last ten days of Ramadan. It is not known precisely which night it is. The Qur'an describes it as "better than a thousand months" [al-Qadr 97:3]. Muslims concentrate on worship and reading the Qur'an during this ten-day period, seeking the blessing of this special time.

maghrib: sunset prayer

mahram: a man whom a woman may never marry because of the degree of closeness of the blood-relationship, i.e. father, brother, son, uncle, etc. A woman is not required to observe hijab in front of her mahram.

minbar: "pulpit," the steps on which the imam stands to deliver the khutbah at Friday prayers.

mufassir: Qur'anic exegete, a scholar who comments on and explains the meanings of the Qur'an. Many scholars have written such works, known as Tafsir. Famous books of Tafsir include those by Ibn Kathir, Sayyid Qutb and Maulana Mawdudi, parts of which are available in English translation.

Muhajir: migrants, one who migrates for the sake of Allah. The original Muhajirin were the Muslims who migrated from Makkah to Yathrib (Madinah).

Muharram: the first month of the Islamic calendar.

munafiq: hypocrite, one who pretends to believe in Islam, but does not.

mushrik: polytheist, one who associates others in worship with Allah.

nafl: supererogatory or optional prayers, fasts, etc., that may be performed in addition to those that are obligatory.

qadi: judge in a shar`ah court.

qawwam: protector, maintainer.

qiblah: the direction faced when praying, i.e., the direction of the Ka`bah in Makkah.

qiwamah: position or role of being a qawwam.

qiyam al-layl: standing in prayer during the night.

rak`ah: a "unit" or "cycle" of prayer, consisting of standing and reciting Surat al-Fatihah, bowing, standing upright again, then kneeling and prostrating twice. Prayers consist of two, three or four rak`ahs.

sadaqah: charity.

Sahabah: the Companions of the Prophet (PBUH).

Sahabi: singular of Sahabah.

sahih: with reference to ahadith, sound, authentic.

salaf: the early generations of Muslims, i.e., the Companions of the Prophet (PBUH) and the generation immediately following them.

salat: the "formal" prayer which is to be offered five times daily.

shari`ah: Islamic law

Shawwal: the tenth month of the Islamic calendar, immediately following Ramadan.

shirk: polytheism, the sin of associating anything in worship with Allah. This is the only sin for which there will be no forgiveness: if a person dies as a mushrik, he is truly doomed.

sirah: biography, specifically that of the Prophet (PBUH).

siwak: a small stick which comes from a specific tree and is used as a toothbrush. In the West, siwak may be purchased at Islamic bookstores and halal grocery stores.

subh: another name for fajr (early morning) prayer.

suhur: the pre-dawn meal eaten before fasting.

tabarruj: wanton display, flaunting oneself in contradiction to the Islamic rulings on dress and modest behaviour.

Tabi`i: (literally "follower") a member of the generation of Muslims following the Sahabah, may Allah be pleased with them. A Muslim who met or saw a Sahabi is described as a Tabi`i.

tahajjud: voluntary prayer that is performed at night between the times of `isha' and fajr.

tajwid: correct recitation of Qur'an, following precise rules of pronunciation and articulation.

takbir: saying "Allahu akbar."

taqwa: piety, "God-consciousness." Taqwa involves constant awareness and remembrance of Allah, and conscious efforts to adhere to His commandments and abstain from whatever He has forbidden.

Tarawih: extra prayers that are performed after `isha' during Ramadan. They are usually performed in congregation and as much of the Qur'an as possible is recited during these prayers.

tasbih: saying "subhan-Allah" ("Glory be to Allah").

`ulama' (singular: `alim): scholars, people of knowledge.

ummah: community or nation, the body of Muslims as a distinct and integrated entity. The ummah of Islam is not based on language, race or ethnicity, but encompasses everyone who believes in Allah alone and in the Prophethood of Muhammad (PBUH).

`umrah: the "lesser pilgrimage," consisting of fewer rites than Hajj. `Umrah may be performed at any time of the year.

wahy: revelation, inspiration.

wajib: obligatory, compulsory.

witr: a prayer which has an odd number of rak`ahs. It is offered last thing at night before sleeping, or following tahajjud.

wudu': "partial" ablution which is required before prayer if one has passed wind, urine or stools.

Yawm `Arafah: the 9th day of the Islamic month of Dhu`l-Hijjah. In the most essential part of Hajj, the pilgrims spend this day standing and praying at `Arafah, a mountain and plain outside Makkah. Muslims who are not on Hajj may observe this sacred day by fasting (this fast is optional but is encouraged).

zakat: "poor-due" or "charity-tax." Muslims whose wealth is above a certain limit must pay a percentage of it (in most cases 2.5%) to the poor and needy. Zakat is one of the pillars of Islam.

zulm: oppression, wrongdoing.

The following abbreviations are also used in this book:

(PBUH): *sall-Allahu `alyahi wa sallam*: May Allah bless him and grant him peace (said following mention of Prophet Muhammad)

(PBUH): *`alayhi's-salam*: Peace be upon him (said following mention of Prophets or the names of angels).

(RAA): *radiy Allahu `anhu/`anha/`anhum*: May Allah be pleased with him/her/them (following mention of the Prophet's Companions and wives).

Glossary

[A - B - D - E - F - G - H - I - J - K - M - Q - R - S - T - U - W]

*** A ***

Alhamdulillah: Praise be to Allah.

Allah: The Name of the Creator of the universe.

Asr: Late afternoon prayer.

Ayah: Verse of the Holy Quran.

*** B ***

Bidah: Any innovated practices introduced in the religion of Islam.

Bismillah: In the name of Allah, this statement is usually made by Muslims who are about to indulge in a lawful task.

*** D ***

Dajjal: Anti-Christ.

Dawah: Propagation of Islam through word and action, calling the people to follow the commandments of Allah.

Deen: Usually translated as 'religion'. Deen is a comprehensive word, which means a total way of life, following the commandments of Allah.

DUA: Supplication: invoking Allah for whatever one desires.

*** ** E **** **

EID AL FITR: Three day festival marking the end of Ramadan - the 9th month (the month of fasting).

EID AL ADHA: The feast of Sacrifice. This feast commemorates the Prophet Abraham's obedience to Allah by being prepared to sacrifice his only son Ishmael. A four-day festival that completes the rites an pilgrimage and takes place on the 10th-13th of Duhl Hijjah (the last Islamic month).

*** ** F **** **

Fajr: Early morning prayer.

FATIHA: The opening Chapter of the Quran. Fatiha should be read in every prayer.

*** ** G **** **

GHUSL: Full ritual washing of the body with water. Ghusl should be done after sexual intercourse, wet dreams, emission, menses, and childbirth.

*** ** H **** **

HADEETH: Sayings and traditions of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him).

HAJJ: Pilgrimage to the Holy city of Mecca.

HIJAB: Veil worn by Muslim women for reasons of modesty and protection.

*** ** I **** **

IMAM: A person who leads the prayer and also for a famous Muslim scholar.

IMAN: Truth, faith, and acceptance.

ISA: Arabic word for Jesus Christ.

ISHA: Night Prayer.

ISLAM: literally means 'submission to the will of Allah'.

*** ** J **

JAHANAM: Hell.

JANNAH: Paradise.

JIBREEL: Angel Gabriel.

JIHAD: means struggling one's utmost to be a better person in the sight of Allah, and to establish Islamic way of life.

JINN: a race of created beings that are made out of smokeless fire.

JUMA: 'Friday', the Muslim's day of gathering on Friday noon prayers.

*** ** K **

KABA: Holiest, and first shrine constructed for the worship of One God, Allah.

Muslims face towards the direction of the Kaba, Mecca.

KAFIR: Unbeliever, who have rejected the truth of Islam.

KHALIFA: A Muslim ruler of an Islamic State.

KHUTBA: Sermon.

*** ** M **

MAGHRIB: Sunset prayer.

MALAIKAH: Angels.

MASEEH: A title which means "Anointed" or 'Christ' Title given to Prophet Jesus.

MASJID: Mosque, places of worship for the Muslims. In one sense the whole earth is a Masjid for the Muslims, The dome of the Heavens is the roof.

MIRAJ: The night journey of the Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ (peace be upon him) from Mecca to Jerusalem and then through the realms of the seven heavens.

MUHAMMAD ﷺ : The name of the final Messenger and Prophet of God to Humanity.

MUHARRAM: The first month of the Islamic Calendar.

MUSLIM: Literally means 'submitting to the will', i.e. to the will of Allah, the Almighty.

*** ** Q **

QIBLA: Direction in which all Muslims face when praying, which is the Kaba, in

Mecca, Saudi

Arabia. The direction is north, east from New York.

Quran: The last revelation of Allah given to Humanity, through his last Prophet and Messenger, Muhammad ﷺ - peace be upon him.

*** ** R *** **

RAMADAN: The month of Fasting, the 9th month of the Islamic Calendar.

*** ** S *** **

SAHABI: Companion of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ - peace be upon him.

SAJDA: Prostration, as in prayer.

SALAAM: peace.

SALAAT: Prayer.

SALLALLHU ALAIHE WA SALLAM: means 'may the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him. This phrase is recited whenever the name of the Prophet

Muhammad ﷺ (peace and blessing of Allah be upon him) is mentioned.

SAUM: Fasting.

SHAHADA: The creed of Islam: 'I bear witness that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah, and I bear witness that Muhammad ﷺ is the Messenger of Allah.

SHAITAN: Satan.

SHAR'IA: Islamic Law. It encompasses both the Quran and Hadith, the sayings of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ (peace be upon him).

SHIRK: Associating partners with Allah. The grave sin of Shirk is not forgiven if a person dies in that state.

SUBHAN ALLAH: means 'Glory be to Allah'.

SURA: Chapter of the Quran. Quran has 114 Suras or chapters.

*** ** T *** **

TAHARA: purification of body, clothing and souls.

TAWHEED: The Divine Unity, in its utmost profound sense. Allah is One in His Essence and His attributes and His Acts.

TAYAMMUM: Dry purification when water is not available or is detrimental to health.

*** ** U *** **

UMMRA: A pilgrimage Mecca, but not during the Hajj period.

***** ** W *** ****

WITR: A prayer which has an odd number of Rakat (units). Usually referred to the last prayer of the night after the Isha prayer.

WUDU: Purifying with water before performing prayers.