

GLOSSARY OF ISLAMIC AND ARABIC TERMS

The transliteration of words from Arabic script is not standardised and Arabic terms may be represented quite differently. The term jummah for instance is quite differently spelt in the literature: juma, juma 'a, jumma, jummah, jumm'ah, etc. Scholarly usage represents the Arabic letter 'ayn as ' , but sometimes it is represented differently and sometimes omitted altogether. The principle employed in this volume is to render Arabic terms in a simple and economic way.

Ashura	tenth day of Muharram; anniversary of the martyrdom of Husayn, grandson of the Prophet Muhammad, commemorated by Shi'is.
Bidah	unacceptable doctrinal innovation, heresy.
Burqa	full veil cover for women, leaving only a small opening for the eyes.
Dar al Islam; dar al harb	the realm of Islam (Islamic world); realm of strife or war; (non-Islamic world); conceived as antinomious contrast.
Dawah	proselytisation, preaching.
Dhikr	remembering God, Sufi rituals.
Din	religion, religious way of life, piety.
Eid	major festival (eid-al-fitr, eid-al-adha).
Fatwa (fatawa, plural)	ruling, expert opinion by one of the ulama.
Fiqh	system of Islamic law.
Hadith (ahadith, plural)	sayings and deeds of the Prophet.
Hajj	pilgrimage to the holy shrine at Mecca, one of the pillars of Islam.
Halal	permitted, ritually appropriate, especially of food.
Hijab	head covering for women.
Hijra	emigration, particularly that of the Prophet from Mecca to Medina in 622 CE, from which the Muslim calendar is dated.
Ijma	consensus, particularly in Islamic law.
Ijtema	meeting.
Ijtihad	independent reasoning and interpretation of Islamic law.
Imam	leader of prayers, mosque leader in Sunni Islam, for Shi'is charismatic descendant from the Prophet.
Jihad	struggle, exertion to live a righteous life, defence of Islam.
Jummah or salat al jummah	Friday midday congregational prayer.
Khutba	sermon.
Madrasah	Islamic school.
Milad	birthday (of the Prophet).
Miraj	ascension of the Prophet.
Muharram	first month of the Muslim year, when the commemorations of Husayn take place.
Mullah	term for a religious scholar, especially in Iran and Afghanistan.

Qur'an	Holy book of Islam containing God's revealed word.
Ramadan	month of fasting, one of Islam's pillars.
Salafi	reform movement wishing to return to worship as it was at time of Prophet.
Salat	formal worship, prayer; five are stipulated each day.
Salat al jummah	Friday midday prayer.
Shaykh	elder, term of respect for religious leaders and scholars.
Shari'a	the law of God, discovered through the Qur'an, the Sunna and scholarly effort (ijtihad).
Shi'i, Shi'a	one of the two major Islamic divisions or denominations.
Shura	consultation.
Sufi, Sufism	(adherent of) mystical Islamic orientation.
Sunna(h)	the exemplary practice of the Prophet as found in the Hadith and for Shi'is including the practice of the imams.
Sunni	most numerous Islamic division or denomination.
Tabligh	preaching, proselytisation; a movement for this purpose started in India in the 1920s and spread world-wide today.
Uluma, ulama	scholar-jurist, Islamic expert.
Umma, ummah	community of believers.
Wahhabi(sm)	adherent of Saudi Arabian puritanical sect.
Waqf	endowment for charitable purposes.