

GLOSSARY OF ARABIC TERMS

ABU BAKR:	Rich merchant who was one of the first converts to Islam. First Muslim caliph.
A.H.:	"After Hijira." Marks years on Islamic calendar, either solar or lunar.
AL-JANAA'IZ:	Islamic funeral.
AL-FARAA'ID:	Laws of Inheritance.
ALLAH:	The God of Islam.
ALLAHU AKBAR:	"God is great." A direct praise to Allah.
ALI:	Son-in-law and cousin of the prophet Muhammed; the fourth caliph and the first caliph recognized by the Shi'ite Muslims.
AYAT:	A verse in the Qur'an.
AYATOLLAH:	"Sign of God." The highest rank of Shi'ite Muslims.
AYISHA:	Muhammed's wife, married to him at age six. She was also the daughter of Abu Bakr.
BARAKA:	A blessing.
BEHESHT:	"Paradise."
BISMILLAH:	"In the Name of Allah." Beginning of prayer recitation.
CALIPH:	(Khaliph) Title of Islamic leaders who followed after Muhammed's death.
DEEN:	Muslim religious practice, as in ethic.
DHUL-HIJJAH:	Islamic Holiday, called the "Day of Arafat."
'EID-UL-ADHA:	One of the two major Islamic holidays- the "Feast of Sacrifice."

`EID-UR-FITR:	Feast of fast-breaking at the end of Ramadan. One of the two major Islamic holidays.
FANA:	Suffi term for the "passing away" of the self.
FATIMA:	The daughter of Muhammed.
FATWA:	"Religious decrees."
FIQH:	Islamic term for jurisprudence.
GHAIR MUQARRIBAT:	Remote wife.
GHUSL:	Bathing before prayer.
HADITH:	"Story." Collection of sayings and examples of Muhammed. Highest authority after the Qur'an.
HAFIZ:	One who memorizes the Qur'an.
HAJJ:	Pilgrimage to Meccam and one of the five pillars of Islam. Compulsory for a Muslim once in a lifetime.
HIJIRA:	Muhammed's migration from Mecca to Medina in 622 A.D. This marks the beginning of Islam, and the Muslim calendar begins with this date.
IBADAT:	Islamic duty and obligation.
IBLIS:	Quranic term for Satan.
IFTAR:	Evening meal during Ramadan.
IJMA:	Consensus of Muslim legal scholars.
IJTIHAD:	Private opinion of Islamic law and ethic.
IMAM:	Pastor in the local Mosque.
INJIL:	The New Testament Gospels, redacted and revised in the Quran.
ISA:	Arabic for "Jesus."

ISHMAEL:	First son of Abraham through Hagar, Sarah's maidservant. Muslims believe Allah has a covenant with Ishmael, not Issac. Genesis 16: 1-16.
ISLAM:	"Submission" to the will of Allah.
ISTISQAA:	Praying to Allah for rain.
JAWARI:	Slave girl.
JIHAD:	"Holy fighting."
JINN:	Angels of Allah.
KAA'BA:	The central square building in Mecca which is called the "House of Allah." Muslims turn toward it for prayer, and believe it was given to Gabriel and built by Abraham and Ishmael.
KAFIR:	"Infidel."
KHADIJEH:	Muhammed's first wife.
LAILAT UL-QADR:	"Night of Power." 27 th night of Ramadan, when Muhammed received first verses of Qur'an.
M'AMALAT:	Islamic ethics.
MAHABBAH:	"Love of Allah."
MAHDI:	Coming world leader in Islamic eschatology.
MADRASSAH:	Islamic religious school.
MECCA:	Birthplace of Muhammed, in Saudi Arabia, considered the holiest of Islamic cities. Site of the hajj.
MEDINA:	The second most holy city in Islam, where Muhammed fled in 622 A.D.
MINARET:	Prayer tower in the Mosque, where the muazzein calls Muslims for rakats.
MOSQUE:	Islamic church.

MUAZZEIN:	Leader who does the call to prayer five times daily.
MUHAMMED:	Allah's final and greatest prophet in Islam.
MUHARRAM:	Muslim New Year.
MUJAHIDIN:	Muslims who fight in the holy wars.
MUQARRIBAT:	Intimate wife.
MUSLIM:	"One who submits to Allah." Follower in Islam.
NIKAAH:	Marriage.
PBUH:	Acronym for "Peace be upon him." Always used when referencing a prophet.
QADAR:	Fatalism which teaches Allah decrees everything. Also <i>Kismet</i> .
QUR'AN:	The collection of Allah's revelation, corresponding with the original in Allah's heaven.
RAMADAN:	Ninth month in Islamic calendar (lunar), commemorating when the Qur'an was sent to Muhammed
RASUL:	"God's messenger." Islam's collection of prophets, including Adam, Noah, Muhammed, Abraham, Moses and Jesus. Also <i>Nabi</i> .
SALAM:	Greeting of "peace."
SALAT:	Prescribed five daily prayers.
SARARI:	Concubine.
SAWN:	Fasting during Ramadan. One of the five pillars.
SHAHADA:	"To bear witness." The creed of Islam, "There is only one God, Allah, and Muhammed is his Prophet." Also <i>Kalima</i> .
SHARI'A:	The Islamic law and jurisprudence.

SHI'ITE:	"Followers of Ali." The minority group of Muslims after the death of Muhammed who believe Ali is the successor to Muhammed.
SHIRK:	Idolatry or blasphemy against Allah.
SUNNA:	Written Islamic tradition, following the examples of Muhammed.
SUNNI:	"People of the Way." Followers of Abu Bakr and Omar (Umar) as successor of Muhammed.
SURAH:	A chapter in the Qur'an.
SUHOOR:	During Ramadan, the meal before sunrise.
TAFSIR:	A commentary on the Qur'an.
TAHRIF:	Islamic teaching that the Bible is corrupted.
TAHAJJUD:	Evening prayers.
TAWHID:	Allah's complete and total unity. A denial of the Trinity.
TAYAMMUM:	In absence of water before prayer, rubbing hands and feet with dust.
TARIQA:	Suffi term for the inner way of meditation in Allah.
ULEMA:	Muslim scholars and theologians.
UMAR:	The second Caliph, who burned all variations of the Qur'an.
UTHMAN:	Third Muslim Caliph.
WUDU:	Ablution before Islamic prayer.
ZAKAT:	Almsgiving. Muslims are required to give 1/40 th of their worth in alms.
ZAWAJ AL MUT'AA:	Temporary Marriage