

## GLOSSARY ISLAMIC EXPRESSIONS OF FREQUENTLY USED TERMS

### THE ISLAMIC GLOSSARY - IN ORDER OF ALPHABET LETTERS

***Adhan*** - The call for daily ritual prayers (*Salat*).

***Ahkam*** - Islamic Laws.

***Ahlul-Bayt*** - The pure progeny of the Prophet of Islam, *Hadhrat* Muhammad (s.a.w.a.).

***Akhlaq*** - Islamic Ethics.

***A'lam*** - The top ranking jurist.

***Aqaid*** - Islamic Theology.

***A'maal*** - Act of worship.

***A.S.*** - Refers to '*Alayhis-salaam*, (God's) peace be with him. Normally said after the names of each infallible Imam. If it is after the name of Fatema Zahra, it will change to '*Alayhas-salaam* (peace be with her). After any two names of the Imams we say '*Alayhimas-salaam* and after more than two names we say '*Alayhimus-salaam*. Thus, we say Imams Hasan and Husayn '*alayhimas- salaam*) and the Ahul-Bayt '*alayhimus-salaam*.

***Amr bil Ma-roof*** - To enjoin believers to perform right, virtuous, lawful and recommended acts.

***Arafah*** - It is the name of the place where all *Hajj* pilgrims gather on the ninth day of *Dhul-Hijjah* for the ritual performance of the *Hajj* pilgrimage. It is located at about 25 km. away from Makkah, Saudi Arabia.

***A.H.*** - After Hijrah.

***'Asr*** Prayer - Prayer offered in the afternoon after praying *Dhuhr Salat*.

**Ayah** - Sign of Allah or a verse of the Qur'an.

**Baligh** - One who has attained the age of puberty.

**Barzakh** - Interval between death and the Day of Resurrection.

**Batil** - void or invalid.

**Bulugh** - Puberty age.

**Dhikr** - Remembrance of Allah (s.w.t.), It covers a wide field and includes *tasbih, tahlil, tamhid, takbir, salat*, recitation of the Qur'an and *Du'a*.

**Diyah** - Value of indemnity or compensation for injury or death.

**Dhuhr prayers** - Prayer offered in the afternoon

**Dhul Hijjah** - The 12<sup>th</sup> month of the Islamic calendar

**Dhul Qadah** - The 11th month of the Islamic calendar.

**Du'a** - Supplication.

**Eid** - Religious festival.

The four major *Eids* in Islam are listed below.

- ❖ **Eid ul-Adha** is celebrated on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of *Dhul Hijjah*.
- ❖ **Eid ul-Fitr** is celebrated on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of *Shawwal*.
- ❖ **Eid-e Ghadeer** is celebrated on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of *Dhul Hijjah*.
- ❖ **Eid-e Mubahila** is celebrated on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of *Dhul Hijjah*.

**Fajr** - Dawn, (*Subh al-Sadiq*), the prime time for morning prayer.

**Farsakh** - Distance of five and a half kilometers or three and a half miles.

**Faasiq** - A person who deliberately and repeatedly commits sins.

**Fatwa** - A verdict or a ruling of a *Mujtahid*.

***Fidya*** - It is a specific quantity of food-stuff given to the poor in lieu of non-performance of an obligatory act such as the fast of the month of Ramadhan owing to an acceptable *Shari'* excuse.

***Fiqh*** - A Science of religious Jurisprudence.

***Fitrah*** - An obligatory specific act of charity done on the day of *Eid al-Fitr*.

***Ghasbi*** - A usurped property or an article.

***Ghusl*** - A major ritual ablution (washing) of the entire body to achieve a state of ritual purity.

***Hadd*** - A punishment prescribed in the Qur'an and *Sunnah* for committing certain act of shari' violation.

***Hadd al-Tarakkhkus*** - a defined limit fixed away from the boundary of a city whose inhabitants cannot be seen.

***Hadath-Akbar*** - an act when committed needs one needs to do *Ghusl* for performing religious obligations such as *Salat*.

***Hadath-Asghar*** - An act when performed needs to do *Wudhu* for performing a religious act such as *Salat*.

***Hadeeth*** - Narration/tradition reported from the Prophet (s.a.w.a.) and the Imams of *Ahlul-Bayt* (a.s.).

***Hajj*** - Pilgrimage to Makkah performed on the specific days in the month of *Dhu-l-Hijjah*, the 12<sup>th</sup> month of the Islamic calendar.

***Hajjatul Tamatu*** - The second session of the Hajj for those who are not resident of Makkah or its vicinity.

***Hajarul Aswad*** - The Black Stone.

***Al-hakim al-shar'i*** - A religious authority, *Mujtahid*.

***Halq*** - To shave off the hair on the head. One of the Hajj rituals.

**Hayd** - Menstruation.

**Hijab** - Statutory Islamic behavior set of laws and dress code of modesty.

**Hibah** - The act of giving away one's property as a unsolicited gift. Giving away can be either in reciprocation or just as a charity. One is not able to take back a reciprocal gift, but one can take back a gift given in charity, except where it was given as gift to a relative or if the gift given does not exist now.

**Hijra** - It is the word used to describe the migration of the Prophet of Islam (s.a.w.a.) from Makkah to Madinah, 200 miles North of Makkah, called Yathrib at that time, on the invitation of the people from Yathrib. It was an epoch event and the turning point in the history of Islam. The reason for this move was the mounting hostility of the people of Makkah who had secretly planned to assassinate the Prophet on the night of his departure from Makkah. This event took place on Monday, the 5<sup>th</sup> of Rabiul Awwal, 21<sup>st</sup> of June A.D. It was taken as the basis for fixing the year of Muslim Calendar which started on 1<sup>st</sup> of Muharram 622 AD.

**Hijr-e-Ismaeel** - a small wall in an arc shape adjoining the Ka'ba on one side.

**Hilal** - crescent of the moon.

**Ibadah** - devotion or worship.

**Iftar** - Breaking of the fast.

**Ihram** - State of ritual sanctification to perform major pilgrimage (*Hajj*) or minor one (*'Umrah*) consisting of two modest clothes and 25 restrictions. One of the Hajj or 'Umra rituals.

**Imam** - Leader in Arabic. The term is generally applied to religious leaders. However, there are 12 infallible and noble Imams, the descendants of Muhammad (s.a.w.a.).

**Iman** - comprehensive and deep belief or faith.

***Insha-Allah*** - With the will of Allah

***Iqamah*** - The announcement of the beginning of prayer.

***Isha*** - The commencement of darkness, and the prayer of that time after *Maghrib*.

***Istighfar*** - To seek the forgiveness of Allah.

***Istihadah*** - Irregular bleeding other than the menstrual cycle.

***Istihalah*** - Transformation, chemical change.

***Istinqadh*** - To rescue, salvage.

***Jama'at*** - A group or a congregation.

***Janabah*** - State after having sexual intercourse or ejaculation.

***Junub*** - A boy or a girl who has become *najis* (impure) because of sexual intercourse or, in the former's case, because of discharge of semen.

***Jihad al-Akbar*** (Major *Jihad*) - The major *jihad* is also referred to as *Jihad al-nafs*. This is the struggle against one's inner self (*nafs*) to suppress and control one's passions and carnal desires.

***Jihad al-Asghar*** (Minor *Jihad*) - to struggle for Islam, striving or fighting in the way of Allah) by the order of the Prophet or the infallible Imams (a.s.)

***Jumu'ah*** - Friday.

***Jinn*** - type of creature created from fire having, like humans, free will.

***Ka'bah*** - The cubic house built by Prophet Ibrahim (a.s.) and his son Ismaeel (a.s.) more than 3000 years ago in Makkah, towards which all Muslims face for their *Salat*.

***Kaffarah*** - Expiation, compensation, penalty.

***Kafan*** - The shroud for the dead.

***Kafir*** - An unbeliever.

***Khums*** - 20% Islamic Tax levied on certain items.

***Kifai (wajib kifai)*** - An obligatory Islamic ruling. If one person performs the act, then it is not required for others to perform. For example: the burial of a deceased Muslim is obligatory on any one person to perform.

***Kurr (Kurr water)*** - About 388 litres.

***Maghrib*** - After sunset when the redness in the eastern sky appearing after sunset has passed overhead.

***Mahram*** - A person with whom marriage is forbidden.

***Majhul al-malik*** - Unknown owner, derelict property.

***Majlis*** (pl. *majalis*) - Assembly to commemorate religious events.

***Makruh*** - Discouraged, reprehensible.

***Maqame-e-Ibrahim*** - A place near the Ka'bah, where there is a stone bearing the footprint of Prophet Ibrahim (a.s.).

***Marja'*** (pl. *Maraji'*) - Literally, it means the point of reference. It is used to describe the high ranking *Mujtahids* who are a point of reference for the people.

***Marwah*** - A remnant of a mountain in Makkah.

***Masjid*** - A Mosque, a place of Islamic worship.

***Mayyit*** - A corpse, a dead body of a human being.

***Mudd*** - Three-quarters of a kilogram ( approximate 1.65 lbs.)

***Muharram*** - The first month of the Islamic calendar.

**Mujtahid or Faqih** (pl. *Fuqaha*) - A jurist, a religious scholar who is an expert of Islamic laws, the *shari'ah*. Usually it is used for the high ranking *Mujtahids* who are followed by the people.

**Mukallaf** - One who is competent to undertake religious obligations; religiously accountable.

**Mu'min** is a believer, one who has Iman (pl. *Mu'mineen*).

**Muqallid** - A follower of a qualified specialist on religious matters (*Marja*).

**Musalla** - A place of prayers or a mat for prayers.

**Naar** - The fire of Hell.

**Na-Baligh** - One who has not attained the age of puberty.

**Nadhr** - A solemn vow, pledge.

**Nafilah** - The recommended prayers after or before the daily obligatory *Salat*.

**Nahya-Anil-Munkar** - To dissuade believers to keep away from performing what is wrong, evil, unlawful and abominable acts.

**Najasah** - Ritual impurity.

**Najis** - Ritually impure; not equivalent to unhygienic or unclean.

**Na-Mahram** - One with whom marriage is permitted.

**Nifas** - Bleeding of a woman after childbirth.

**Nikah** - Pronouncement of marriage according to *Shari'ah*

**Niyah** - An intention.

**Pak** - Something that is ritually clean, not *najis*.

**Qaleel** (under-kurr water) - Water which does not spring forth from the earth and its quantity is less than about 388 liters.

**Qaza** - performing an act of worship which was missed during its proper time, prayers, etc.

**Qamar** - The moon.

**Qasr** - Shortened prayers of a traveler.

**Qiblah** - The direction (towards the Ka'bah) of *Salat*, burying the deceased, etc.

**Qira-at** - The reading of the prayer referring the two Surahs of the Holy Qur'an recited in prayer.

**Qiyam** - The standing during *Salat* for recitation of *Suratul Hamd* and the second *Surah*, and the standing after the *Ruku'*.

**Qiyamat** - The Day of Resurrection.

**Qunut** - The act of raising both palms in front of the face while praying in the second *Rak'at* of *Salat*.

**Qurbani** - Sacrifice. Referring to sacrificing of an animal in Hajj.

**Qurbat** - The *niyyah* of nearness to Allah.

**Rajab** - The seventh month of the Islamic calendar.

**Ramadhan** - The ninth and the holiest month of the Islamic calendar. It is the month of fasting.

**Riba** - Interest, usury.

**Rukn** - Literally means a "pillar". It is also a basis of the prayer.

**Ruku'** - The act of bowing in the *Salat*.

**S.A.W.A.** - Stands for *Sallal-lahu 'alayhi wa-alihi wa-sallam* in Arabic, and means Blessings and peace of God be with him and his household. It is a prayer which is said after the name of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (s.a.w.a.).

**Saa'** - Equal to 4 *Mudd*= 3 kilograms = about 6.6. lbs.

**Sadaqah** - The charity given to the poor.

**Sa'y** - Walking seven times between the rocks of *Safa* and *Marwah*. One of the Hajj or 'Umra rituals.

**Safa** - A remnant of a mountain in Makkah

**Sajdah** - The act of prostration in the *Salat*, when seven portions of the body touch the earth: the forehead on pure ground, two palms, two knees, and the two big toes. The two *Sajdahs* together are called *Sajdatain*.

**Salaam** - Asalutation. It is also the last recitation at the end of *Salat*.

**Salat** - Ritual prayer; formal worship are the obligatory prayers. They are:

*Salat al-Fajr* (Dawn prayer), which consist of two *Rak'ats*

*Salat al-Zuhr* (Midday prayer) consisting of four *Rak'ats*

*Salat al-'Asr* (Afternoon prayer) consisting of four *Rak'ats*

*Salat al-Maghrib* (Dusk prayer) which consist of three *Rak'ats*

*Salat al-'Isha* (Night prayer) consisting of four *Rak'ats*

**Salawat** - Invocation of blessings, specifically the recitation of *Allahumma Sali 'Ala Muhammadin Wa Aali Muhammad*, meaning O Allah, bless Muhammad and the family of Muhammad.

**Sawm** - The act of fasting.

**Sayyid** - A descendant of the Holy Prophet (s.a.w.a.)

***Shaabaan*** - The eighth month of the Islamic calendar.

***Shahadah*** - Declaration. Referring to pronouncement of a prescribed formula declaring that there is no God but Allah, Muhammad (s.a.w.a.) is His Prophet and Imam Ali (a.s.) is the vicegerent (immediate successor) of the Prophet (s.a.w.a.)

***Shaheed*** - A martyr in the way of Islam (pl. *Shuhada*).

***Shaitan*** - Satan, the enemy of mankind .

***Shari'ah*** - The rules and regulations of Islam, the divine Law. *Shari'ah* is the totality of Allah's Commandments relating to man's activities.

***Shams*** - The sun.

***Shawwal*** - The 10th month of the Islamic calendar.

***Shi'a Ithna-Asheri*** - A follower of the twelve Imams (a.s.).

***Siyam*** - Fasts.

***Taharat*** - The state of being ritually clean and not impure.

***Tahir*** - Ritually pure; not equivalent to hygienic or clean.

***Takbir*** - Saying "Allahu Akbar" (Allah is the Greatest).

***Talbiyyah*** - The formula of response to the Call of Allah, which must be pronounced immediately after *Niyyah* of *Ihram* in *Hajj* or *'Umrah*.

***Taqlid*** - Emulating the opinions of a religious authority.

***Taqsir*** - Cutting a piece of hair or nail by the pilgrim to come out of *Ihram*.

***Tarikh*** - Refers to Islamic History.

***Tathir*** - Ritual purification.

**Tawaf** - Circumambulation around the Ka'bah seven times. One of the Hajj or 'Umra rituals.

**Tawbah** - Repentance.

**Tawheed** - Divine Unity, Oneness of Allah.

**Ta'zir** - Discretionary punishment by *al-hakim al-shar'i* or a judge that is not prescribed in the Qur'an or the Sunnah; chastisement.

**Tayammum** - Dry spiritual cleansing which is sometimes a substitute for *wudhu* and *ghusl*.

**Thawab** - Divine blessing.

**Turbah** - Earth, especially from the shrines of the Holy Imams (a.s.), and particularly from the Shrine of Imam Husayn (a.s.) on which Muslims place their heads during *Sajdah*.

**Ulama** - Religious scholars.

**'Umra** - Referring to *'Umrah Mufradah* (Individual 'Umrah) that can be performed at any time of the year or *'Umra-e-Tamattu* which is performed before *Hajj-e-Tamattu*.

**'Urf** - Convention, customary law.

**Wafat** - Death.

**Wudhu** - A minor ritual ablution.

**Zakat** - An obligatory charity.

**Zamzam** - The name of a well in Makkah.

**Ziyarat** - To visit and/or to recite special salutations for the Prophet Muhammad (s.a.w.a.) and his household (a.s.).