

Glossary

هنا هلا يضر radiyallahu anhu — Allah is pleased with him; used after the names of Companions of the Prophet (saw).

هنا هلا يضر radiyallahu anha — Allah is pleased with her; used after the name of a female Companion of the Prophet (saw).

هنا هلا يضر radiyallahu anhum — Allah is pleased with all of them; used after the names of more than two male Companions of the Prophet (saw).

هنا هلا يضر radiyallahu anhuma — Allah is pleased with both of them; used after the names of two Companions of the Prophet (saw), irrespective of their gender.

u alayh-is-salam —Allah’s peace is on him; used after the names of Allah’s messengers, prophets and angels.

هنا هلا يضر alayhim-as-salam — Allah’s peace is on both of them; used after the names of two messengers, prophets and angels.

A sallallahu layhi wa alihi wa sallam —Allah sends blessings and salutations on him and his children; is used after the name of the Last Messenger of Allah (saw).

هنا هلا يضر Title reserved for Ali alone. It means, ‘Allah has honoured him.’

Ahl kisaa “the people of the garment/cloak/mantle”. According to a tradition, the Holy Prophet went out one morning at the time of the visit of the Najran delegation in 10/631 wearing a figured black cloak; first Fatimah, then Ali and then Hasan and Husain came and he took them under his cloak. It is called hadith al-kisaa (the tradition of the mantle/cloak/ garment).

Ahl-ul-bait “the People of the House”. A term used in the Quran (33:33) and in traditions for the Holy Prophet’s Household. Together with the wives of the Prophet, it includes Ali, Fatimah, Hasan and Husain.

Ar-Rukn al-Yamani “the Yamanite Pillar” of the Kabah.

Arsh the term used in the Quran for the Throne of Allah: “He is the Lord of the mighty throne (arsh). (Quran 4: 131)”

Bani Israeel “the Children of Israeel”. The phrase is applied to the children of Yaqub.

Burraq a heavenly animal made of light, bigger than a donkey and smaller than a horse, on which the Holy Prophet Muhammad (saw) went for the Miraj.

Fajr dawn or early morning before sunrise; Morning Prayer.

Hadith (pl. ahadith) lit. Tradition. The sayings, practice and silent approval of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (saw).

Hasan a hadith, narrated by a reliable chain of narrators though not reaching the grade of sahih (sound) hadith, but records a complete chain of narrators up to the Prophet (saw).

Hur (the plural of haura) very fair women of Paradise.

Isnad chain of transmission of a tradition.

Jahiliyyah “ignorance”. The term refers to pre-Muslim period.

Jibrail/Jibril the angle Gabriel. Jibrail was appointed by Allah to convey His Messages to His prophets and messengers.

Kabah a cube-shaped building –at the centre of al-Masjid-ul-Haram (the great mosque at Makkah)– towards which all Muslims face in prayer which is why it is also known as the qiblah. It is also known as the House of Allah.

Kawthar lit. “Abundance”. A pond in Paradise known as the Haud-ul-Kawthar or “the Pond of Abundance”.

Kufah a city on the west bank of the river Euphrates, about four days march from Baghdad. It was the capital town of the Commander of the Believers, Ali.

Mahshar the place where people will gather together on the Day of Judgement.

Maqam Ibrahim the stone at Makkah within the boundary of al-Masjid-ul-Haram, which has the impression of the footprints of the Prophet Ibrahim (saw). This is the stone on which Ibrahim (u) stood while he and his son, the prophet Ismail (u), were building the kabah.

Marfu a tradition which is traced back to the Holy Prophet (saw) without any defect in transmission.

Maryam the mother of prophet Isa; Mary.

Mimbar a pulpit in a mosque from which a sermon is delivered.

Qiblah direction one faces in prayer, towards Makkah.

Rahman “the Infinite Beneficence or Goodness of Allah”. It is one of the ninety-nine names or attributes of Allah. Ar-Rahman is a more exalted attribute than ar-Rahim. It expresses that the universal attribute of mercy which the Almighty extends to all mankind, the wicked and the good, believers and unbelievers.

Rawi a transmitter of traditions.

Sahih "sound". A hadith with an unbroken chain of narrators reported from the Prophet Muhammad (saw) through reliable narrators without being shādh (odd) or muallal (faulty) in between any two relaters.

Shafaah “intercession”. The belief of the Muslims that the Holy Prophet is an Intercessor and that he will intercede on the behalf of the Believers on the Day of Judgement by the permission of Allah.

Sirat lit. “a road”. It is commonly used for the bridge across the Hell-Fire. It is finer than a hair and sharper than a sword. The righteous will pass over it with the swiftly, but the wicked will lose their footing and fall into the fire of hell.

Sunnah It is exclusively referred to the practice and ways of the Messenger of Allah, Muhammad (saw).

Umm Salma one of the wives of the Holy Prophet (saw). She was the widow of Abu Salmah. Abu Salmah was martyred at Uhud, and the Messenger of Allah married his widow four months later.

Ummah “nation, people, generation, community”. It is used in reference to the community of Believers or Muslims.

Umm-ul-muminim “the Mother of the Believers”. A title in the Quran which is applied to each of the wives of the Holy Prophet:

“...his (the Prophet’s) wives are their mothers... (Quran 33:6) ”

Wali legal guardian.

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