

Published on Al-Islam.org (https://www.al-islam.org)

Home > The Core of Islam > Glossary

Glossary

'AbayalChador - full-body cloaks sometimes with a smaller headscarf beneath them.

'Adil - righteous.

Ahadith - see hadith.

Ahl al-Bayt - household of the Prophet Muhammad (S).

Al-Hagg - The Ultimate Truth (One of Allah's Most Beautiful Names)

Allahu Akbar - Allah is the Most Great.

Amin - trustworthy

Al-salamu alaykum - May Allah grant you peace.

Al-Yasa' (a.s.) - Elisha.

Ahmad - commendable or laudable.

Ahwal – level of attainment of a spiritual journey.

'Ash'arite school of Islamic theology that supports tradition over reason.

Asr, Salat al-Asr- afternoon prayer.

Adhan - call to prayer.

Ayah (pl. ayat) - lit. a sign. In Qur'anic terminology, a verse.

Ayub (a.s.) - Job.

Bayt al-Mal- treasury.

Chador - see 'Abaya Chingiz-Khan - Genghis Khan. Dawud (a.s.) – David. Dhikr - remembrance. Dhikr Allah - remembrance of Allah *Du'a* – prayer or supplication. Fadilat al-Waqt - the preferred time for offeringeach prayer. Fajr al-Kathib - false dawn. Fajr al-Sadiq - true dawn. Fajr, Salat al-Fajr - dawn, the prayer offered at dawn. Fard- obligatory. Fatwa (pl. fatawa) - independent legal opinion/s. Figh – jurisprudence. fitrah – innate. Pure nature of human beings. Gharar – risk, lack of information. Ghufailah - two voluntary raka at offered between Maghrib and 'Isha'. *Ghusl* – to bathe the whole body, also known as the greater ablution. Hadith (pl. ahadith) report or saying of the Prophet Muhammad (S) and the error-free Imams (a.s.). Hajj - pilgrimage. Halal - lawful. *Haqiqah* – complete truth. Haram – unlawful. Harun (a.s.) – Aaron. Hasanah – good deed.

Haya' - modest behaviour. Hayd' - menstruation and its period. Hijab (lit. complete protection) - women's modest dress and head covering. Husn - beauty or goodness. Ibrahim (a.s.) – Abraham. 'Id - celebration *Ih'san* – doing good. *ljtihad* – to deduce rulings from their sources, that is the Qur'an and *ahadith*. Ilyas (a.s.) - Elijah. Imamiyah Shiah. Those who defer to the Imams (a.s.) from the Prophet's (S) progeny. *Injil* – the Bible. *Insh'a-Allah* – God willing. *Igamah* – call to stand up for prayer. Ismah – being free from error or sin. Isa (a.s.) – Jesus. Isha', Saatal-Isha' - evening prayer, which may be offered until midnight. Ishaq (a.s.) - Isaac. Ismail (a.s.) - Ishmael. Isnad – 'chain' of those who are known to have narrated a hadith.

Isra'il - Israel.

Istihadah – non–menstrual bleeding.

Istihsan – preference of one kind of analogy over another.

Istikharah - to petition Allah to guide one to all that is good.

Jami - central mosque of a city.

Janabah – religious impurity that is the result of sexual intercourse. Jibra'il - Gabriel. Juhd - strive. Ka·bah - 'house of God' in Makkah. *Kalam* – Islamic theology, speech. Khair - good Khidr - a renowned person who is traditionally acknowledged to have received the Divine gift of great wisdom. Khimar - a long capelike veil - from the head to just above the waist - that completely covers the hair, neck and shoulders leaving the face clear. Lut (a.s.) - Lot. Madinah - City, Islamically used for the city where the Prophet lived and died. Maghrib, Salat al-Maghrib - The prayer offered after sunset when dusk falls and the sky darkens. Mahabbah - Love. Mahram - A person with whom marriage is not lawful, e.g. brother, sister, mother, father, aunt, uncle etc. Makkah – the holiest city in Islam where the Prophets Ibrahim (a.s.) and Isma'il (a.s.) built the Kaabah. The birthplace of the Prophet Muhammad and place of pilgrimage for Muslims. Makkan – relating to Makkah. Malakut - Celestial realm. Magamat - spiritual position. Maryam (a.s.) –Mary. Mathhab - School of law. Mawla - guardian, being in charge, and master, as in Ali (a.s.) is mawla. Mawt - death.

Mihrab – niche in the wall of a mosque to indicate the qiblah.

Mi"raj - the Prophet Muhammad's journey to 'the heavens' and back. Mizan - beam-balance scale. Mujtahid - jurist. Mu'min (pl. mu'minin) - true believers. Musa (a.s.) - Moses. *Murtazilite* in Islamic theology – supporter of reason. Nafilah (pl. Nawafil) - voluntary prayers. *Najis al-'Ayn* – impure initself. Nifas - childbirth. Niqab - a veil to cover a woman's face leaving only the area around the eyes Niyyah - intention. Nuh (a.s.) - Noah. Qada – to make up for missed duties. *Qarabah* – kinship. Qiblah - the direction (of the Kab'ah in Makkah) that Muslims face when they pray. Qiraah - recitation Qiyam - standing upright. Qiyas - analogy. Qunut - humble invocation.

Quraish - a famous Arabian clan.

Raka'ah (pl. raka'at) – cycles for standing, bowing and prostrating during prayer.

Ruku – to bow before the Lord. A position during prayer.

Sahabah - companion.

Sajdah (pl. sujud) – to prostrate. A position during prayer.

Sajdah al-Sahw - a prostration made for any mistake during prayer. Salah (pl. Salat) - the canonical form of Islamic prayer. Salam - greetings of peace. Salit al-Ihtyat - precautionary prayer. Sayyi'ah - bad deed. Shari - legal. Shariah - Islamic law. Shaytan - Satan. Shiah – those who followed the Islamic teaching of Ali (a.s.) after the Prophet (S) Sidr - Leaves of the 'Lote Tree'. Silsilah - lit. chain, chronological list of teachers or guides. Subhana Allah - Allah is glorified. Sujud see Sajdah. Sulayman (a.s.) - Solomon. *Sulh* – amicable treaty or agreement. Sunnah (lit. practice) - in Hadith terminology, the Prophet's (a.s.) tradition, sayings and way of life. *Sunni* – those who follow the caliphs after the Prophet (S) Surah - a division of the Qur'an. Surat al-Fatiha - the opening surah of the Qur'an. *Tabiun* – the generation that succeeded the companions.

Takbir - to state that 'Allah is Most Great' - Allahu Akbar.

Tariqah (pl. turuq) - way, path.

Tasbih - glorification.

Tashahud - declaration of faith.

Tayammum – to perform ablution without water. Tazahum - table of priorities. Tazkyah - purification. *Thagalain* – the Qur'an and the progeny of the Prophet (S) Ummah - the Muslim nation. Umrah - minor pilgrimage. *Ut* properly oud, – a musical instrument used by Arabs. Waliy- guardian. Waqf - charity or endowment. Wila (see Wilayah) Wilayah - authority, assistance, love, guardianship. *Wudu* – 'ablution in preparation for prayer. Yabya (a.s.) – John. Yakub (a.s.) – Jacob. Yunus (a.s.) – Jonah. Yusuf (a.s.) – Joseph. Zakah (pl. zakat) an Islamic religious annual welfare tax due on specific commodities. Zakaria (a.s.) - Zacharias. Zina - adultery. Source URL: https://www.al-islam.org/core-islam-sayyid-fadhil-milani/glossary#comment-0

Tawhid - belief in the Divine Unity of Allah, Oneness.