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Glossary of Islamic Terms

a.s.: An abbreviation of 'alaihis salaam', that is "Peace be on him".

a.t.f.s. :An abbreviation of 'ajjil allaahu ta'ala farajahu shareef', that is "May Allah hasten his reappearance".

Aale Muhammad : Progeny of Muhammad

Aamal: Rituals

Ahlul Sunnat wal Jamat : Majority Muslims who believe Abu Bakr to be the first caliph

Ahlul Bayt: People of the house. They are The Holy Prophet (S), Janabe Fatima Zahra (s.a.), Ali (as) and his eleven successors.

Allamahs : Plural of Allamah, a learned scholar

Amirul Momineen :Leader of the believers. Title of Imam Ali bin Abi Talib (as)

Amr-e-Takveeni : Things beyond the control of man. Natural factors etc.

Amr-e-Tashri: Things under the control of man. Voluntary deeds etc.

Arsh: Throne or heavens

Ashura: 10th of Muharram, day of the martyrdom of Imam Husain (as) and the tragedy of Kerbala

Asr: Afternoon (prayer)

Ayat : Verse of the Holy Quran

Azan : Call for prayer

Bada: Change in divine will

Baseer : All-seeing

Bismillah : In the Name of Allah

Dirham: Unit of currency

Dua:Invocation

Fair: Morning

Faqih : Jurisprudent

Firon: Pharaoh

Ghusl: Ritual bath

Hadith-e-Nabawi: A statement of the Holy Prophet (S) or a Masoom (as)

Hadith-e-Qudsi : A saying of Allah apart from the verses of Quran

Hafiz: One who knows the Quran by heart

Hajj : Annual pilgrimage to Mecca during the month of Zilqad

Halaal :Permissible, legal

Haraam : Prohibited, illegal

Hasanah: Unit of heavenly rewards

Hijrat/Hijrah: Flight of the Holy Prophet (S) from Mecca to Medina. Beginning of the Islamic calendar

Hourul Eein : Black eyed Houries of Paradise

Hujjat:Proof

Iblis :Satan

Iddah: Waiting period for women before they could remarry

Ijma: Consensus

Insha-Allah : If Allah wills

Iqamah :Shorter call for Prayer

Isha: Late evening

Janabat: A state of ritual impurity that can be removed by performing Ghusl (Bath)

Juz: Arabic word for part. 30th part of Quran

Ka'ba: The Holy House of Allah, the directions that Muslims face during prayers.

Kaffarah : Fine, penalty

Khariji : A group which arose against Ali bin Abi Talib (as) after the battle of Siffeen. A heretic sect

Khilqat : Creation

Liaan: : Sworn allegation of adultery committed by either husband or wife

Maghrebain: The two prayers of Maghrib (early evening) and Isha (late evening)

Maghrib : Evening prayer, time of sunset

Mahram(pl. Mahrams): Relatives between whom marriage is prohibited

Makrooh: Detestable, in the Islamic terminology it denotes an action performing which does not incur sin but refraining from which earns divine rewards

Makruh :variant spelling of above term

Maliki : Followers of the Sunnite Imam Malik

Maraja' Tagleed: The Mujtahid whom people follow in matters of practical law

Masjidul Haram : The sacred mosque in Mecca

Masoomeen: (Singular - Masoom): Infallible

Mehr: Dower

Mithqal: A measure of weight of about 4.6 gms.

Momin: Believer

Mubah: Permitted. It denotes an action performing of which earns no rewards and refraining from it is

not punishable

Mullahs: Muslim scholars/leaders

Mureed: The Restorer

Mus'haf :Scroll

Mustahab: Recommended. It is an action performing which earns rewards and refraining from it is not

punishable

Mutawatir : A tradition related through so many narrators that it is considered absolutely authentic

Najis: Unclean

Nawafil : Recommended prayers

Para: 30th part of Quran

q.s. : An abbreviation of 'Quddasa Sirruhu', which literally means: "May his resting place remain pure."

Qaem : One would rise. A title of Imam Mahdi (as)

Qibla: Prayer direction

Qunut: Supplication recited in ritual prayers, usually in the second unit (rakat)

Quraish: the tribe of the Messenger of Allah (S)

Rajm: Stoning, punishment for adultery

Rakat : A unit of ritual prayer

Ruku : Bowing down or genuflection in the ritual prayers

s.a. : An abbreviation of 'sallallaahu alaihi wa sallam', that is "Blessings be on him and peace".

s.a.w.s. :An abbreviation of 'sallallaahu alaihi wa aalihi wa sallam', that is "Blessings be on him and his

Progeny and peace".

Sadaqah: Voluntary charity, alm

Safar : Second month of the Islamic calendar

Salaam : Salute, Islamic greeting

Salaat : Ritual prayers

Salawat : Allaahumma S'alle a'laa Muha'ammadinw wa aali Muh'ammad

Samee : All-hearing

Saqifah: The place where Abu Bakr took caliphate

Sayyid :Lit. chief. A term for descendants of Lady Fatima through Imam Husain (as)

Sayyidush Shohada: Chief of the Martyrs, a title of Imam Husain (as)

Shabaan: The eighth month of the Muslim (Lunar) calendar

Shab-e-Qadr: The Night of Power or 19th, 21st and 23rd nights of the month of Ramadan

Shahadatain: the two testimonies of Islamic faith.

Shariat/ Shariah : Islamic law

Shaykh : Lit. elder. A genealogical division among Muslims

Sheb-e-Abi Talib: Valley in Mecca where the Messenger of Allah (S) and the early Muslims took refuge

for some time

Shura: Consultation committee formed by Umar for selecting Uthman as the next caliph

Siraat : Path

Sujud: Plural of Sajdah, prostration

Sunnah: Practice (esp. of the Messenger of Allah)

Surahs: Chapter of Quran

t.s.: Abbreviation of Taaba Saraa. See the meaning of 'q.s.'

Tabi'in: Followers of the companions of the Prophet

Takbir : Allaho Akbar, God is the Greatest

Takbiratul Ihram : Saying Allaho Akbar at the beginning of the ritual prayer

Tagiyyah : Dissimulation

Tagleed : Emulation of a scholar in Islamic practical law

Taqwa: Piety

Tasbeehaat: Plural of Tasbih, glorification of Allah (esp. in bowing and prostrations in the ritual prayers)

Tasbih: Rosary

Tashahud: Recitation in the sitting position in the second and the last unit of the ritual prayer

Tawfeeq (pl. Tawfeeqaat) : Divine inspiration

Tawheed: Belief in the absolute Oneness of Allah

Tayammum: Substitute of ablution/ritual bath when use of water is not possible or advisable

Taziyah: A replica of the tomb of Imam Husain (as)

Thawaab : Divine rewards

Thawr, cave of: The cave where the Messenger of Allah (S) hid on way to Medina

Torah: The Old Testament

Two Shaykhs : Abu Bakr and Umar

Umrah: Optional pilgrimage to Mecca

Umratul Qaza :Lapsed Umrah

Wajib : Obligatory

Wilayat: Guardianship, belief in the guardianship of Ahlul Bayt (as) and love towards them

Wudhu: Ritual ablution

Zakat : Obligatory Islamic wealth tax

Ziarat: Visitation/ or recitation of salutation while facing the tomb of religious personalities

Zihar: Pre-Islamic form of divorce, consisting in the words of repudiation: You are to me like my mother's back. (anti a'layyah ka-zahri ummi).

Zinnoorain: Master of two lights. Uthman, the third caliph

Zuhoor: Reappearance (of Imam Mahdi [a.t.f.s.]).

Zuhr: Noon prayers

Zuhrain: The two ritual prayers of Zuhr (noon) and Asr (afternoon)

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