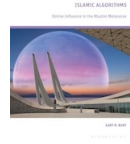


Gary R. Bunt - *Islamic Algorithms* Glossary of Key Islamic Terms

This glossary relates primarily to Islamic terminology used in *Islamic Algorithms*. There will be some crossover with terms used in my earlier books. Many of the terms are complex with multiple definitions and interpretations reflecting diversity of understandings. There can also be variances in spellings / transliteration across languages - which are reflected in *Islamic Algorithms*. Not all nuances of detail can be presented here. The reader may wish to explore these terms in more detail through more comprehensive reference works (or, indeed, online!). The listing is subject to alteration. Updates will be included on virtuallyislamic.com

<i>adhān</i>	Call to Prayer
‘ <i>aḳṭākah</i>	Animal Sacrifice, made seven days following the birth of a child; the sacrifice is given to the needy as charity. This is a practice based on the sunnah (q.v.) of the Prophet Muhammad.
<i>āya</i>	verse from the Qur’ān, ‘sign’, pl. <i>āyat</i> . c.f. <i>sūra</i>
<i>āyatullāh</i>	literally the ‘sign of God’, within Shī‘a Islam q.v. this can denote the rank of a highly qualified interpreter of Islamic Jurisprudence.
‘ <i>ālim</i>	a scholar pl. ‘ <i>ulamā</i> ’
<i>Allāh</i>	(the) God
<i>al-arkān (al-Islām)</i>	pillars or foundations (of Islam) [marked * in this Glossary] sing. <i>rukn</i>
‘ <i>al ‘Ashara al-Mubashshara</i> ’	the ten companions of Muḥammad
‘ <i>Āshūrā</i>	the tenth day of <i>Muḥarram</i> (q.v.), when Muḥammad’s grandson al-Ḥusayn was martyred during the Battle of Karbalā’, 61 A.H. (680 C.E.)
al-Azhar	University located in Cairo; lit. “the brilliant one”
<i>baraka</i>	‘blessing’, emanating from Allāh, Muhammad, the Qur’ān, and/or an individual who can pass on this quality (through ‘spiritual’ qualities and/or through family lineage).



<i>bay'a</i>	pledge of allegiance
<i>dargah</i>	shrine
<i>da'wah</i>	the call or invitation to Islam, associated with propagation of the religion
<i>dhikr</i>	'remembrance' (of Allāh), especially evoked in Ṣūfī (q.v.) rituals and prayer
<i>dīn</i>	'religion'
<i>du'ā'</i>	prayer, seeking supplication, invocation or intervention
<i>Eid al-Fitr, 'Īd al-Fiṭr</i>	the concluding feast of <i>Ramaḍān</i> q.v.
<i>falsāfa</i>	philosophy
<i>fatāwā</i>	the opinions of specific contemporary <i>imāms</i> q.v. and <i>āyatullāh</i> q.v. sing. <i>fatwā</i>
<i>fiqh, fikḥ</i>	Islamic 'jurisprudence'
<i>ḥādīth</i>	a traditional saying and/or report of the actions of Muhammad. pl. <i>aḥādīth</i>
<i>ḥāfiẓ</i>	a title denoting one who had learnt the Qur'ān by heart.
<i>ḥadjdj, hajj</i>	the major pilgrimage to Mecca *
<i>ḥalāl</i>	a term applied to denote that which is considered appropriate or permitted within the bounds of Islam.
<i>ḥalaqah</i>	(prayer) circle
<i>Ḥizb Allāh</i>	'Party of God', also transliterated as <i>Hezbollah</i> or <i>Hizbollah</i>
<i>ijtihād</i>	independent judgement based on Islamic sources, a striving for the pragmatic interpretation of Islamic primary sources in the light of contemporary conditions, the term can be synonymous with 'renewal' and 'reform'.



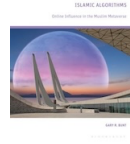
<i>imām</i>	the term <i>imām</i> [pl. <i>a'imma</i>] usually refers to one who leads the prayers, not necessarily 'qualified' in the sense of trained clergy. In Shī'a Islam q.v., <i>Imām</i> has associations with religious leadership <i>and</i> continuity of spiritual authority.
<i>imsāk</i>	abstention during <i>Ramadān</i>
<i>Islām</i>	'submission' to God.
<i>Ismā'īlī</i>	a form of Shī'a Islam q.v., which itself fragmented to forming disparate branches including the <i>Fāṭimids</i> , the <i>Nizāris</i> , the <i>Assassins</i> , and <i>Bohorās</i>
<i>isnād</i>	chain of (<i>ḥādīth</i>) transmission
<i>Ithnā 'Asharīs</i>	the 'Twelvers', a form of Shī'a Islam q.v. following a line of twelve <i>imāms</i> descended from Muhammad.
<i>Jamā'at-e Islāmī</i>	synonymous with a Pakistani political party, the term is applied elsewhere, and infers a 'congregation', 'collective' or 'party' of Islam.
<i>jihād</i>	'striving' to attain an Islamic objective, the term has spiritual and/or militaristic connotations.
<i>jihād bil-sayf</i>	<i>jihād</i> q.v. 'with the sword'
<i>jihādi</i>	an advocate of <i>jihād</i>
<i>jinn</i>	ethereal beings, also the title of a <i>sūra</i> (q.v.)
<i>Ka'bah</i>	The 'holy house' (in Mecca).
<i>kalām</i>	'theology'
<i>khalīfa</i>	caliph, 'vice-regent', 'successor' [to Muhammad q.v.]
<i>al-Khulafā' al-Rāshidūn</i>	'Rightly guided caliphs'
<i>khuṭbah</i>	sermon, provided by a <i>khātib</i>
Koran	c.f. Qur'ān
<i>kuffār</i>	non-believer



<i>madhhab</i>	a 'school' of Islamic interpretation, such as the broad <i>Ḥanafī</i> , <i>Ḥanbalī</i> , <i>Mālikī</i> , and <i>Shāfi'ī</i> <i>madhāhib</i> [pl.].
<i>masjid</i>	mosque, place of prayer
<i>Masjid al-Quds</i>	Mosque of Jerusalem, also known as <i>Masjid al-Aqsā</i>
<i>maslaha</i>	public welfare or interest
<i>mawlid</i>	birthday of Muhammad <i>and/or</i> anniversary of 'saints'.
<i>minbar</i>	the mosque equivalent of a 'pulpit'
Muḥammad	Muḥammad ibn 'Abd Allāh, the Prophet of Islam c. 570-632 C.E. (active c.610-632)
<i>Muḥarram</i>	First month of the Muslim calendar, associated in particular with fasting, especially for <i>Shi'a</i> Muslims during 'Āshūrā q.v.
<i>mudjtahid</i>	an 'interpreter' (of Islam, esp. Islamic jurisprudence), a practitioner of <i>ijtihād</i> q.v.
<i>mujaddid</i>	a 'renewer'
<i>murīd</i>	a person on a spiritual path, or a seeker of religious knowledge, often applied in the context of Ṣūfī q.v. beliefs.
<i>murshid</i>	a person (m.) who provides guidance to those on the spiritual path (see <i>murīd</i> q.v.), often applied in the context of Ṣūfī beliefs. (Female: <i>murshida</i>)
<i>muṣḥāf</i>	the definitive recension of the Qur'ān
<i>mutaḍjwīd</i>	reciters of the Qur'ān
<i>nashīds</i>	genre ranging from 'sung' <i>ahādīth</i> to prayers, and popular 'Islamic' music.
<i>pīr</i>	see <i>murshid</i>
<i>qawwali</i>	devotional music
<i>qibla/qibla</i>	direction of Muslim prayer (toward Mecca)



Qur'ān	Revelation received by the Prophet Muhammad, via the Angel Gabriel.
<i>rak'ā</i>	a sequence within <i>salāh</i> q.v.
<i>Ramaḍān</i>	Month of fasting, and the month in which the Qur'ān was revealed c.f. <i>sawm</i>
<i>ribā</i>	capital interest, usury
<i>ṣawm</i>	fasting in <i>Ramaḍān</i> q.v. *
<i>salafi</i>	(i) 'pious ancestors', applied in terms of Muhammad's companions and the 'early' Muslim community, representing an exemplar to follow. (ii) used by Muslim 'reformist' movement(s), such as <i>al-ikhwān al-muslimūn</i> q.v. (iii) applied by a number of platforms, especially in contemporary contexts, indicating their intention to 'return' to the principles of Muḥammad and his community.
<i>ṣalāh</i>	prayer *
<i>shahāda</i>	the principle of proclaiming a belief in a One God whose Final Prophet is Muḥammad *
<i>shahīd</i>	a 'witness', frequently used in the sense of a 'martyr'
<i>shaykh</i>	religious leader, leader of a <i>ṭarīqah</i> q.v. Also see <i>murshid</i> , <i>pīr</i>
<i>shayṭān</i>	<i>jinn</i> (q.v.) or spirits
<i>sharī'ā</i>	the body of Islamic law based on the 'source' of the Qur'ān (and other Islamic sources); divine 'law', as revealed to Muḥammad.
<i>Shī'ā</i>	'party' or 'sect', the followers of the line of 'Alī ibn Abī Ṭālib (d.661)
<i>Sīra</i>	Biographical sources associated with the life of Muḥammad.
Ṣūfī	Muslim 'mystic' - the term has broad connotations and definitions, within disparate branches of Sūfism [<i>taṣawwuf</i>].
<i>Sunnī</i>	'orthodox' Islam, based on the <i>sunnah</i> q.v.



<i>sunnah</i>	the customary practice of Muhammad c.f. <i>ḥādīth</i>
<i>sūrah, sūra</i>	a chapter within the Qurʾān pl. <i>suwar</i> c.f. <i>āyāt</i>
<i>tafsīr</i>	commentary on, or exegesis of, the Qurʾān
<i>ṭarīqah</i>	a ‘path’, generally a term associated with <i>Ṣūfī</i> q.v. Orders (pl. <i>ṭuruq</i>)
<i>taqlīd</i>	primarily the imitation of the practice of the Prophet Muhammad, and secondarily his Companions and his Successors. q.v. <i>salafī</i>
<i>ṭawāf</i>	a ritual associated with <i>hajj</i> q.v., associated with the circumambulation of the <i>Kaʿbah</i> q.v.
‘ <i>ulamāʾ</i> ’	scholars c.f. ‘ <i>ālim</i> ’
<i>ummah</i>	Muslim community
‘ <i>umra</i> ’	the ‘lesser’ pilgrimage to Mecca
‘ <i>urs</i> ’	annual commemoration of a saint's death
‘ <i>uṣūl al-fīkh</i> ’	legal theory and jurisprudence (lit. “the roots of understanding”)
<i>zakāh</i>	annual alms taxation *