

Glossary

- abrogation – the replacement of one passage of the Qur’an by another with which it disagrees
- ’*adhā* – a hardship or ailment
- ’*adhāb* – punishment
- aḥbār* – scholars
- ahl al-kitāb* – People of the Book
- ’Aisha – wife of Muhammad who played a key role in the transmission of *ḥadīth*
- al-ākḥira* – the hereafter
- allāh* – God
- asbāb al-nuzūl* – writings that identify when particular sections of the Qur’an were revealed
- aslama* – verb that describes the act of submission
- astrolabe* – device invented by Muslims to determine the location of heavenly bodies in the sky
- ’*awliyā’* – allies
- āya* – a verse in the Qur’an; a sign
- Badr – a battle that occurred in 624 C.E.
- bānū isrā’īl* – the Children of Israel
- basmala* – the phrase that begins every chapter of the Qur’an except the ninth one
- dahr* – fate, time
- ḍaraba* – to beat, set an example, or go on a journey
- daraja* – level, degree, or step
- ḍarī’* – a dry desert plant found in hell
- dīn* – religion
- diya* – compensation, reparation
- faḍḍala* – to prefer or favor
- fāḥisha* – an indecent or immoral act
- farḍ ‘ayn* – an obligation incumbent upon each individual Muslim
- farḍ kifāya* – an obligation incumbent upon the Muslim community as a whole
- al-fātiḥa* – the opening chapter of the Qur’an
- fatwa* – a legal ruling
- fitna* – persecution
- fiṭra* – the natural condition of humanity
- furqān* – distinction, criterion
- furūj* – euphemism for the sexual organs
- ghassāq* – a dark and bitter drink of hell
- ghislīn* – an unappetizing food of hell

- ḥadīth* – reports that describe what Muhammad said or did during his lifetime
- ḥanīf* – a morally upright person who is a strict monotheist
- ḥijāb* – a screen or separation; often used to describe the veil some Muslim women wear
- Hijaz – western area of the Arabian Peninsula where Mecca and Medina are located
- hijra* – the journey Muhammad made with a small group of followers from Mecca to Medina in 632 C.E.
- houris – female companions found in heaven
- hudūd* – punishments
- Iblīs – the angel who refused to bow down to Adam in the garden
- iʿjāz* – the inimitability of the Qurʾan
- ijtihād* – to exercise the power of reason in order to arrive at a legal opinion
- injīl* – gospel
- intiḳām* – vengeance
- ʿiqāb* – punishment
- al-islām* – submission
- jahada* – to strive, put forth effort to achieve some goal
- jahannam* – hell
- jaḥīm* – blazing flames
- al-janna* – the garden; a word that describes heaven
- jilbāb* – a loose-fitting article of clothing that covers the upper part of the body
- jinn* – supernatural beings who interact with humanity in both negative and positive ways
- jizya* – a special tax imposed on non-Muslims
- Kaʿba – the black cube in the center of the Grand Mosque in Mecca
- Khadija – Muhammad’s first wife who was one of the first people to convert to Islam
- khālid* – forever, eternally
- al-Khandaq – a battle that occurred in 627 C.E.
- khimār* – a head scarf or shawl
- khuṭba* – the sermon delivered on Friday during the noon prayer service
- kufr* – unbelief
- lex talionis* – the law of retribution, sometimes known as “an eye for an eye”
- māʾ ṣadīd* – pus
- maghāzī* – literature that recounts raids, battles, and wars in early Islamic history
- maḥīḍ* – menstruation
- majūs* – Magians
- masīḥ* – messiah
- mathal* – a parable
- mawt* – death
- miḥrāb* – the niche in the wall of a mosque that gives the prayer orientation toward Mecca
- milla* – creed
- miʾrāj* – Muhammad’s nighttime journey through the seven heavens

- mīthāq* – covenant
muḥīṭ – something that is all-encompassing
mujāhidīn – those who struggle
munāfiq – hypocrite
muqarrabūn – those who are brought near (to God)
muṣḥaf – the written text of the Qur’an
mushrik – one who associates someone or something with God
muslim – one who submits
- nafs* – Arabic term with many meanings, including “self,” “mind,” “heart,” “person,” and “soul”
al-nār – the fire; a word that describes hell
naṣārā – Christians
naskh – abrogation
 Night of Power – the night in the month of Ramadan when the Qur’an was first revealed
nushūz – antagonism
- patrilineal – a system in which family lineage is traced through the father’s side
 People of the House – term sometimes used to designate Muhammad’s family
 polygyny – marriage to more than one woman at the same time
- qānitāt* – devout
qatala – to kill
qawwāmūna – to be a provider
qīṣaṣ – vengeance
qīssīsūn – priests
qitāl – fighting
- al-qur’ān* – term for the Qur’an; literally, “the recitation”
 Quraysh – the Arabian tribe
 Muhammad belonged to
- rafath* – sexual intercourse
rahbānīya – monasticism
riḍwān – pleasure, approval
ruhbān – monks
- sabīl allah* – the way of Allah
sābiqūn – those who precede, go before
sābi’ūn – Sabians
sakana – to find comfort in or to rely upon
ṣaliḥāt – good deeds
shayṭān – Satan
shirk – the sin of associating something or someone with God
sīra – biographical writings about Muhammad’s life
sunna – how the Prophet Muhammad lived his life; literally, “way” or “path”
 supersessionism – the idea that one religion replaces or supplants all previous faiths
sūra – a chapter in the Qur’an
- tafsīr* – commentary on the Qur’an
taḥrīf – falsifying or tampering with divine revelation
tajwīd – the set of rules that determine proper recitation of the Qur’an
ṭalāq – divorce
tanzīl – the act of revelation; literally, “sending down”
taqwā – piety
tawba – repentance, turning

tawḥīd – the unity of God

ta'wīl – an interpretation that chooses one among several possible meanings of a text

tawrāt – Torah

Uḥud – a battle that occurred in 625 C.E.

umm al-kitāb – the source of all scriptures; literally, “the mother of the book”

umma – the worldwide community of Muslims

waḥdat al-wujūd – the unity of creation

yahūd – Jews

al-yawm al-ākhir – the last day

yawm al-dīn – the day of judgment

yawm al-qiyāma – the day of resurrection

zabūr – Psalms

zaqqūm – a tree found in hell

zawj – a spouse or a couple

zīna – adornment or decoration

zinā – adultery

ẓulm – injustice