

Glossary

Adl: Justice. Upright and just.

Hadith: Reports on the sayings and the traditions of the Prophet Mohammad or what he witnessed and approved. These are the real explanations, interpretations, and the living examples of the Prophet used to teach the Quran. His sayings are found in books called the **Hadith** books.

Halal: Something that is lawful and permitted in Islam.

Haram (haraam): Something that is unlawful or prohibited in Islam.

Hijrah: Migration. The **Hijrah** refers to the Prophet's migration from Mecca to Madinah. This journey took place in the twelfth year of his mission (CE 622). This is the beginning of the Muslim calendar. The word **hijrah** means to leave a place to seek sanctuary or freedom from persecution or freedom of religion or any other purpose. **Hijrah** can also mean to leave a bad way of life for a good or more righteous way.

Ijma: Refers to the consensus of eminent scholars (**mujtahidun**) of Islam. **Ijma** comes next to the Quran and the **Sunnah** as a source of Islamic doctrines. Consensus of opinion, unanimous, resolution.

Imama: The rule of just individuals. Turban.

Infaq: Spending to earn the pleasure of **Allah**. Spending on justifiable personal needs, the needs of others, and national needs such as defense, public welfare and economic development.

Islam: Self-surrender to God.

Ma'ad: Resurrection.

Mujtahids: One who forms an opinion in legal matters. One who claims to have the right to reinterpret tradition. A specialist in Islamic law.

Muslim: One who surrenders himself to God.

Mutawa: Religious police in Saudi Arabia.

Naf: The illusory experiencing self. The psyche or ego.

Nubuwwah: Prophethood.

Qiyas: A method for reaching a legal decision on the basis of evidence (a precedent) in which a common reason, or an effective cause, is applicable. An analogy, systematic reasoning.

Riba: Literally means to grow or to increase. Technically, it denotes the amount that a lender receives from a borrower at a fixed rate in excess of the principal. It is of two types: (1) **riba nisse**, interest on lent money; (2) **riba fadhl**, taking something of superior quality in exchange for giving less of the same kind of thing of poorer quality.

Sadaqah: Free-will almsgiving, as opposed to **zakah**, the poor tax, which is compulsory. Charity.

Sunnah: Habit, practice, customary procedure, or action, norm and usage sanctioned by tradition. More specifically the word **Sunnah** refers to the Prophet Mohammad's sayings, practices and living habits. The **Hadith** are reports on the **Sunnah**. There are two primary legal sources of jurisprudence in Islam, the Quran and the **Sunnah**. The **Sunnah** may interpret and explain what is in the Quran.

Surah: The Quran is composed of 114 chapters, each of which is called a **Surah**.

Tawhid: Confirming the Oneness of **Allah**. It is the basis of Islam.

Ummah: A community or a people. It is used in reference to the community of Believers or Muslims.

Zakah: One of the five pillars of Islam is **zakah**, which means purification and increment of one's wealth.

A Muslim who has money beyond a certain quantity is obligated to pay the **zakah**. It is also called the alms due or poor due. It is to be used in eight categories for welfare of the society that are mentioned in the Quran. The amount to be collected is 2.5 percent, 5 percent or 10 percent, depending on the assets and the method used to produce it.

