

IBN BATTUTA • TERMS

texts

Quran	the word of God as revealed to the prophet Muhammad
hadith	the sayings of the prophet himself

five pillars

shahada	or confession of belief in God and his prophet Muhammad
salat	or ritual prayer , five times daily (dawn, noon, afternoon, sunset and evening)
zakat	or charity , a tithe to support those in need
sawm	or fast , abstention from food, water, and pleasures during daylight hours of Ramadan
hajj	or pilgrimage to Mecca, at least once, if physically and economically feasible

key terms

amir	commander(-in-chief), military/political official (e.g. governor)
caliph	steward, leader of the faithful (Sunni)
dervish	Sufi mystics, with ecstatic dancing rituals
dhikr	Sufi rhythmic repetition of Allah and other attributed names
dinar	weight/coin denomination (from Lat. <i>denarius</i>)
dirham	weight/coin denomination (from Gk. <i>drachma</i>)
imam	1. leader of the faithful (Shia); 2. prayer leader (at Friday mosque);
khan	1. ruler (Mongol); 2. hostel, <i>caravanserai</i> , or <i>funduq</i>
khatun	royal wife (Mongol)
madrassa	college mosque
maristan	hospital
murabit	or <i>marabout</i> , (tomb of a) saint
qadi	judge; application of Islamic law (<i>fiqh</i> , <i>ius positum</i>)
sharif	1. nobleman (Arab), 2. descendant of the prophet (ruler of Hejaz)
shaykh	cheiftan (Arab)
sultan	ruler (Turk)
tariqa	Sufi spiritual path/learning
ummah	community of Islam
dhimma	outside of Islam, protected communities of the Book (e.g. Christianity, Judaism)

madhhab (schools of jurisprudence)

Hanafi	South and Central Asia
Hanbali	North and Central Arabia
Maliki	North and West Africa
Shafi'i	East Africa and Southeast Asia

sects

Sunni	historical <i>caliphs</i> as legitimate
Shia	after fifth <i>imam/caliph</i> , only descendants of Ali and Fatima as legitimate
> Twelver	largest subset, legitimacy of the 12 th "hidden" <i>imam</i>
> Alawi	or Nusayri, offshoot of "Twelver" deemed heretical (allow for triad, drink)
> Ishma'ili	accept Isma'il ibn Jafar as legitimate <i>imam</i>
>> Druze	offshoot of Ishma'ili, considered by some as non-Islamic
Sufi	or Taşawwuf, Islamic mysticism

Amazigh	Libyan (ethnic) > Numidian (nomadic) > Berber (barbarian)
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