

# Islamic Terms

(the majority of the content is from [www.4Truth.net](http://www.4Truth.net))

**Allah:** This is the only Arabic word for god. This makes translation of the bible into Arabic problematic. Not because there is not a word in Arabic for god. An Arabic speaking person reading the bible in his/her language would use the word allah when they read your English word 'god'.

In an English speaking context, we have a general word 'god' and a specific word for Yahweh ['God']. Translators generally note this with a lower case 'g' and an upper case 'G'.

The necessary duty for a believer is to have a working knowledge of the definition according to the doctrine (teaching) of the different faiths.

One of note here is that the god (Allah) of Islam and the god (Yahweh) of the bible are not the same gods. Yahweh reveals Himself as triune, Allah is similar (in definition) but in no way a triune being. This is important in knowing why a Muslim is confused when you refer to Jesus as Deity (God). To a Muslim, you believe in multiple gods.

There is more, but this is a start.

**Allahu Akbar:** Arabic for "Allah is most great."

**Caliph:** Successor of Muhammad as leader of the Muslim community. (four caliphs of Muhammad)

Is a form of Islamic government led by a **caliph** (a ruler considered a politico-religious leader of the Islamic community of believers, and rules in accordance with Islamic law.)

A caliphate is a political state without separation of religion and government ruled by a religious leader called a caliph. This politico/religious 'state' may or may not be recognized by the community at large as legitimate. In Islam, it doesn't need to be recognized by others, they just are and do.

**Fatwa:** This is an Islamic legal ruling or edict.

**Hadith:** A collection of Muhammad's sayings and deeds, known *as the Traditions*, which is commonly taught as a part of Islamic theology. Hadiths are explanations and interpretations of Muhammad's living example.

**Hajj:** \* Pilgrimage to Mecca during the twelfth month of the Muslim lunar calendar. Muslims are required to perform hajj at least once in their lifetime, if means and health allow.

**Imam:** A religious leader or head of a local community, or a spiritually qualified leader. He also leads in community political affairs.

**Jihad:** This is a struggle or effort in god's cause. The great jihad is the inward struggle against the passions. The *lesser jihad* is a defensive or legal war, to protect the interest of Islam. It is mistakenly called *holy war*. Jihad is the Muslim obligation to strive to teach, explain, spread, and protect the message of Islam.

**Ka'ba:** A cubic stone structure where the black stone is housed. Located in the center of the Great Mosque at Mecca, Muslims believe that it was the first house of worship built by Adam, which was later reconstructed by Abraham and Isma'il. It is also spelled *ka'aba* or *ka'bah*.

**Mosque:** A place or house of prayer-literally, a place of *prostration*.

**Muslim:** A person who submits to Allah and practices the religion of Islam.

**Qur'an:** The Arabic word for *recitation*. **Koran:** The anglicized form of *Qur'an*-holy book or sacred scripture. Muslims believe that it was revealed to Muhammad through angel Gabriel, or *Jibril*. The Koran was not fully composed at one time. Rather, it was revealed piecemeal over a period of 23 years. It is composed of 114 *surahs*.

**Shahada:** \* Confessing or bearing witness to god's unity and Muhammad's role as messenger. "I testify that there is no god but Allah, and Muhammad is his Prophet. A person must recite the shahadah to convert to Islam.

This is the Islamic profession of faith...

"There is no god but Allah, and Muhammad is his messenger"

**Shari'ah:** Shari'ah is Islamic law-the way or divine path of obedience to god. It comprises the writings of the Qur'an and hadith and serves as the guide for worship and ethical living.

**Shi'ite:** Partisan or follower who believes that leadership should come from descendants of Muhammad's family.

**Sunni:** Ninety percent of Muslims are Sunni. This name is derived from *sunna* (tradition) for one who follows the tradition of Muhammad (who did not designate a successor). It is the belief that leadership should come from among the *Quraish Arabs* (Muhammad's tribe).

\*Indicates one of the Five Pillars of Islam.

New Terms:

**ISIS:** Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS is not considered a legitimate government by world leaders. A **caliphate** does not need legitimacy by others.)

**ISIL:** Islamic Stat of Iraq and the Levant (Iraq/Syria/ash-Sham/Libya/Nigeria/Afghanistan (On June 29, 2014, the group proclaimed itself to be an Islamic state and worldwide **caliphate**, with Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi being named its **caliph**, and renamed itself ad-Dawlah al-Islāmiyah "Islamic State" (IS).

**DAESH:** The French were the second to begin calling ISIS DAESH because they thought ISIS was too offensive. Arabs have referred to ISIS as DAESH first. (<http://www.france24.com/en/20140917-france-switches-arabic-daesh-acronym-islamic-state/>)

You will hear many people today talking about this being a type of holy war and that the United States should not declare war on a religion. We must remember, in Islam, there is no separation of religion and state. Islam is a political ideology.

"There may be peaceful Muslims but there is no such thing peaceful Islam." (S. Hadian)