

Frequently Used Shia Terminology (Glossary)

<i>'adil</i> (plural <i>'odool</i>)	<i>'adil</i> is the individual who adheres to and acts upon the obligatory duties and refrains from the prohibited acts, such that if his neighbours or colleagues were asked about him, they would report of his good nature, commitment, and piety.
<i>'alawiyyat</i>	Female descendants of Imam Ali and Prophet Muhammad
<i>'allamah</i>	Learned, erudite scholar
<i>'eid</i>	Festival, happy returns
<i>'elm al-akhlaq</i> <i>akhlaq</i>	The science of morals
<i>'esmah</i>	Immunity from error, sin and forgetting
<i>adhan</i>	The call to the daily prayers
<i>ahkam al-Islam</i>	The Rulings of Islam [on the <i>halal</i> and <i>haram</i>]
<i>Ahl al-Bayt</i>	Members of the household of Prophet Muhammad
<i>akhlaq & adab</i>	Ethics and Etiquettes
al-Mostafa	The Chosen One – one of the titles of Prophet Muhammad
<i>amir al-mo'mineen</i>	The Commander of the Faithful (the title exclusively given to Imam Ali by Prophet Muhammad on divine instructions)
<i>awliya 'Allah</i>	Allah's Authorities or the prominent and pious personages

<i>bayt al-mal</i>	the treasury
<i>dhimmi</i>	The non-Muslims who are in the care of/under the protection of the Islamic government
<i>diyah</i>	expiation/compensation
<i>du‘a</i>	supplication
<i>fada‘il</i>	virtues
<i>fiqh</i>	jurisprudence
<i>foroo‘ al-deen</i>	“Branches of the Religion”; acts of worship, obligations and duties to be practiced by every male and female Muslim individual. For example the daily prayers, fasting the holy month of Ramadahn, etc.
<i>ghayb</i>	the unseen
<i>halal</i>	Approved/permissible
<i>haram</i>	prohibited
<i>hay‘ah</i>	group
<i>hijab</i>	
<i>Husayniah</i>	religious centre dedicated to the programs of imam Husayn
<i>ihtiyat</i>	
<i>ijtihad</i> (in <i>fiqh</i>)	level of expertise attained to become fully qualified to deduce and make judgement and issue verdict (fatwa)

<i>iman</i>	faith
<i>jahiliyah</i>	the era of ignorance – in reference to the pre-Islamic era
Jum‘ah	Friday
Ka‘bah	the symbolic house of Allah situated in the sacred mosque in the holy city of Mecca
<i>ma‘rifah</i>	The concept of cognition and understanding (of Allah’s attributes)
<i>ma‘soom</i> (plural <i>ma‘soomeen</i>)	Infallible – the one who is immune from error, sin and forgetting. These are Allah’s prophets and applies to the fourteen <i>ma‘soom</i> , namely Prophet Muhammad, his daughter Lady Fatima, and the twelve divinely-appointed Imams.
<i>majlis</i> (plural <i>majalis</i>)	The gathering commemorating the martyrdom of any of the thirteen <i>ma‘soom</i> .
<i>makrooh</i>	discouraged
<i>malakah</i>	“second nature” or the disposition acquired through practice and observance certain conducts or merits
<i>marje‘</i> (plural <i>maraje‘</i>)	The point of reference or the source of emulation. This is the term to the jurist or Islamic scholar who is fully qualified in all aspects of Islamic law as well as those the human society needs to address. He is an expert of Sharia law, and thus able to issue Islamic ruling or fatwa on any issue of concern, and is therefore considered as authority on Islam. A <i>marje‘</i> has followers who seek of his fatwa and opinions on various matters of concern.

<i>mobah</i>	<i>mobah</i> [neutral] is referred to anything that is not categorised as either obligatory or prohibited
<i>mohaqqiq</i>	Learned/competent researcher
<i>mojtahid</i>	The jurist or Islamic scholar who is fully qualified in all aspects of Islamic law, and thus able to issue Islamic ruling or fatwa on any issue of concern, and is therefore considered as authority on Islam.
<i>mokallaf</i>	literally means duty-bound, and in this respect it means one who has reached the age of adolescence when one is obliged to fulfil one's religious duties such as observing the five daily prayers, the fasting of the holy month of Ramadan, etc.
<i>moqassir</i>	Deliberate negligence, in reference to the individual being capable of learning or enquiring about his obligations but not attempting to do so.
<i>mostahab</i>	Recommended, encouraged
<i>osool al-deen</i>	The roots/fundamentals of the religion, the principle beliefs every Muslim individual should recognise and adhere to
<i>qasir</i> (ignorant)	The person who is not held accountable for his deeds due to him being ignorant of his religious duties and/or not having access to religious teachings and guidance. [see <i>moqassir</i>]
<i>Qudsi hadith</i>	divine hadith, Allah's words other than the verses of the holy Qur'an
<i>quosoor</i>	mere ignorance [see <i>taqseer</i> , <i>qasir</i> , <i>moqassir</i>]
<i>risalah amaliyyah</i>	Islamic Law handbook

<i>seerah</i>	The conduct and way of life or biography of a notable individual
<i>Sharia</i>	Islamic Law
<i>Sunnah</i>	the Prophetic teaching or tradition
<i>taghut</i>	false deity
<i>tableegh</i>	conveying and disseminating the teachings of Islam
<i>tafsir</i>	explication exegesis
<i>tajwid</i>	particular format of recitation of the holy Qur'an
<i>takwini / tashri'i</i>	natural or physical aspects / legislative aspects
<i>taqseer</i>	negligence and failure (see <i>quosoor</i> , <i>qasir</i> , <i>moqassir</i>)
<i>tawheed</i>	monotheism, the concept of oneness of Allah
<i>ummah</i>	the Muslim nation
<i>wajib</i>	obligatory
<i>wajib 'ayni</i>	individual obligation; every Muslim individual is obliged to observe such obligation
<i>wajib kifa'i</i>	Collective obligation; that which if adequate number of Muslim individuals in the community fulfil such an obligation, then the rest of the community is not bound to fulfil.
<i>wajibat</i>	& obligatory duties & prohibited conducts

<i>muharramat</i>	
<i>wilayah</i>	Authority (of Prophet or Imam over followers of the religion)
<i>ziyarah</i> (plural <i>ziyarat</i>)	Pilgrimage to the shrine of a prophet or an imam
<i>ziyarat-al-arb'een</i>	Visiting the shrine of Imam Husayn commemorating the fortieth day of his martyrdom