

PARTICULAR SPELLINGS

For a variety of reasons, IIIT publications insist upon a particular way of spelling certain words.

2(a) *Specially Distinguished Names*

The name Allah, the name Muhammad when referring to the Prophet, and the names of Islam's two holiest cities should be written thus:

Allah (**not** Allāh)

Muhammad (**not** Muḥammad or other variant spellings)

Makkah (**not** Mecca, **not** Makkah al-Mukarramah)

Madinah (**not** Medina, **not** Madīnah al-Munawwarah)

2(b) *Common Nouns of Arabic Origin, with a Unique Referent*

Common nouns of Arabic origin which have a unique referent are written with initial capitals and, in most contexts, will take the definite article:

the Qur'an (**not** Koran, Quran, Qur'ān); (adjectivally)

Qur'anic (**not** Koranic, etc.)

the Sunnah (meaning the Sunnah of the Prophet)

the Shari'ah (meaning the Islamic Law)

the Hadith (meaning the whole corpus of hadiths*)

the Ka'bah (meaning the shrine in Makkah)

the Ummah (meaning Muslims or Muslim society in their entirety)

the Hijrah (meaning the hijrah of the Prophet from Makkah to Madinah)

2(c) *Common Nouns Not of Arabic Origin with a Unique Referent*

Common nouns not of Arabic origin (but mostly translations of Arabic/Qur'anic concepts) which, by virtue of their meaning, have a unique referent are therefore written with initial capitals and will, in most contexts, have the definite article:

the Revelation (meaning the Qur'an)

the Law (meaning the Shari'ah)

the Garden (meaning Paradise)

the Fire (meaning Hell)

the Last Day, the Day of Judgment

the Hour, the Day (meaning the Last Day)

Note the following terms which function as place names and so have initial capitals but not the definite article: Paradise, Heaven, Hell. Note also that a number of apparently very similar terms function as ordinary nouns and have neither definite article nor an initial capital: heavens (skies), hellfire, hereafter, universe, earth.

2(d) *Months of the Islamic Calendar, Festivals* ◆

Names of the months of the Islamic calendar, and the names of the two Islamic festivals, are written with initial capitals, but not italicized nor fully transliterated:

Muharram

Safar

Rabi' I

Rabi' II

Jumada I

Jumada II

Rajab
Sha^ʿban
Ramadan
Shawwal
Dhu al-Qa^ʿdah
Dhu al-Hijjah
ʿId al-Fitr
ʿId al-Adha

2(e) *Names of Schools, Sects, Dynasties*

As a general rule, the names of juristic and theological schools, sects and dynasties that have entered into general usage are not transliterated or italicized, but must have initial capitals. A few examples only are given:

Mu^ʿtazilites (**not** Mu^ʿtazilah)
Umayyads (**not** Umawiyūn)
Abbasids (**not** ʿAbbāsiyyūn)
Ottomans (**not** ʿUthmāniyyūn)
Kharijites (**not** Khawārij), etc.

In the context of a technical discussion, and in any instance where an Arabic speaker might not recognize the word that is intended, the word correctly transliterated may be given in brackets or indicated in a footnote.

2(f) *Common Nouns of Arabic Origin in General Usage*

Common nouns of Arabic origin that have entered into general usage are not italicized, nor written with initial capitals or diacritical marks, other than ^ʿ :

ʿalim*
dhikr
fatwa*

fiqh
hadith*
hijrah
hajj
ijma^c
ijtihad
imam*
jihad
jinn
mufti*
qiblah
salah
surah*
zakah

*Words marked with an asterisk appear in some English dictionaries and may therefore be made plural by adding -s: ^calims, fatwas, etc.