

Note on Transliteration

It is customary for Islamic studies scholars to explain their transliteration system, in part as proof that we are aware of the complex rules guiding our field and the languages associated with it. I have used a simplified transliteration system for Arabic words which indicates the difference between ʿ (ayn) and ʾ (hamza), but does not include indicators of long vowels and letters not found in the English alphabet. Those familiar with Arabic will easily identify the correct terms and those who are not will benefit more from the translation in parenthesis. In addition to ease of reading, I have refrained from using a more complicated system because American Muslims generally use simplified transliterations of key religious vocabulary that has been integrated into American Muslim English, including the use of English plurals for Arabic words.

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