

Glossary

<i>Mujaddid</i>	Renovator of the Faith; usually in reference to a scholar
<i>Mujtahid</i>	A person who exercises <i>ijtihād</i>
<i>Musabbibin</i>	Body of merchants and other propertied individuals in Ruma times
<i>Nisba</i>	Reference to place or clan of origin, or to descent
<i>Qiyās</i>	Analogy. Relating novel legal problems to precedents
<i>Rumāt</i>	Soldiers carrying firearms
<i>Ruma</i>	A derivation from <i>Rumāt</i> from which Arma (Al-Ruma = Ar-Ruma) is derived
<i>Sanad</i>	Chain of attribution of information to its original source. Also chain of teachers of a particular book traced backwards to the author
<i>Shar'</i>	Also <i>Sharī'a</i> . Corpus of Muslim law
<i>Sharif</i>	Person tracing his descent to the Prophet (or sometimes to the Prophet's clan, the Quraish)
<i>Shurfa</i>	Plural of <i>Sharif</i> . Locally, often called <i>Shurfa</i> , <i>Shirfi</i> or <i>Sirfi</i>
<i>Silsila</i>	Chain of transmission of learning
<i>Tafsīr</i>	Exegesis. Qur'ānic exegesis
<i>Taqīd</i>	Emulation. Emulation of early jurists (contrasts with <i>ijtihād</i>)
<i>Tarīqa</i>	Literally 'way' or 'path'. Sufi ('mystic') order or confraternity
<i>Tawhīd</i>	Doctrinal theology, emphasizing unity or oneness of God
<i>Tejfa</i>	Songhai: Commercial brokers
<i>Tibshāsha</i>	Local name for the post of Pasha (Pashalik).
<i>Timbuktu</i>	
<i>Mundhu</i>	'Governor of Timbuktu during Songhai times. Earlier <i>Timbuktu-Koy</i>
<i>Tindi</i>	Songhai: Tailors, tailoring houses, tailor-alfas
<i>Uṣūl</i>	Field of study relating Muslim legislation to the original sources (<i>uṣūl</i>) of the law
<i>Walī</i>	'Saint'. Person (usually a scholar) believed graced with special <i>baraka</i> and <i>karāmāt</i>
<i>Wilāya</i>	State of being a <i>walī</i> ; 'sainthood'
<i>Wird</i>	Litany of a Sufi order

Unless otherwise indicated, the following terms are either Arabic or locally derived from Arabic.

<i>Alfa</i>	Songhai term for a literatus and, later, for a scholar. Tama-shagh equivalent is <i>Alfagha</i>
<i>Amenokal</i>	Chief of the Tuareg Wulimān (Ouillimiden)
<i>Arukoy</i>	Songhai: Chief of the Corporation of Muleteers
<i>Ashra' Mundhu</i>	Songhai: Chief of Police. Under authority of the Qāḍi. (Cf. <i>Khadim al-Shar'</i>)
<i>Baraka</i>	'Divine Grace'. Complex concept relating to <i>Wilāya</i> and <i>Karamāt</i>
<i>Bashut</i>	Officer in the Ruma military hierarchy, subordinate to the <i>Kāhīa</i>
<i>Fatwa</i>	Formal legal opinion
<i>Ḥādith</i>	Sayings of the Prophet. Corpus of traditions on precedents set by the Prophet
<i>Ḥurrāṭin</i>	Farmers, client farmers. Singular sometimes <i>Ḥarṭān</i>
<i>Ijāza</i>	Certificate authorizing the teaching of a specific book or a branch of learning
<i>Ijāz'</i>	Consensus of Muslims in the classical legislative process
<i>Ijihād</i>	Independent reasoning in Muslim legislation
<i>Kabara Farna</i>	Songhai: Governor of Kabara, in charge of collecting duties on passage of goods
<i>Kāhīa</i>	Lieutenant-Commander in charge of one of the main Ruma divisions
<i>Karāmāt</i>	Special 'gifts', supernatural abilities
<i>Kātib</i>	Secretary or scribe
<i>Khadim al-Shar'</i>	Arabic equivalent of <i>Ashra' Mundhu</i>
<i>Khaṭīb</i>	Literally a scholar who delivered the Friday <i>Khuṭba</i> . A post combining parochial, administrative and judicial functions at Gao
<i>Maktab</i>	Elementary literacy school where the <i>Qur'ān</i> is taught.
<i>Mithqāl</i>	Measure of gold; in Timbuktu roughly equal to four grams
<i>Mu'adhdhin</i>	Caller to prayers; mosque functionary
<i>Mu'allim</i>	Elementary school teacher. (Cf. <i>maktab</i>)
<i>Mu'amalāt</i>	Legal and commercial transactions
<i>Muddāh</i>	Praise singers. Literati who specialize in recitation of poetry in praise of the Prophet (also <i>Maddāhin</i> , singular <i>Maddāh</i>)