

CONTENTS

General introduction	page viii
Foreword and acknowledgements	ix
Map of the Muslim world	xi
Months of the Muslim year	xii

1 Introduction

1.1 Scripture, its value and interpretation	1
1.2 Religious history	4
1.3 Ritual	10
1.4 Law	12
1.5 Theology	15
1.6 Sectarian movements	20
1.7 Mysticism	25
1.8 Interpretations of Islam in the modern world	29
1.9 Chronological summary	32

2 Scripture, its value and interpretation 34

2.1 The Qur'an	
2.1.1 <i>Surat al-Fatiha</i> (1) – The Chapter of the Opening (with Arabic transcription)	35
2.1.2 <i>Surat al-Ikhlās</i> (112) – The Chapter of the Pure Religion (with Arabic transcription)	35
2.1.3 <i>Surat al-‘Adiyat</i> (100) – The Chapter of the Swift Mares (with Arabic transcription)	35
2.1.4 The Chapter of the Rolling Up (81)	36
2.1.5 The Chapter of the Spider (29)	36
2.1.6 The Chapter of the Table (5) – excerpts	40
2.1.7 The Chapter of the Night Journey (17) – excerpts	41
2.2 Commentaries on the Qur'an	
2.2.1 Abu Ja‘far al-Tabari on the interpretation of Qur'an 3:7	42
2.2.2 Muqatil ibn Sulayman on the interpretation of surah 1	46
2.2.3 Ibn Kathir on the interpretation of Muhammad as the seal of the prophets, Qur'an 33:40	47
2.3 The nature of the Qur'an: al-Rummani on the idea of inimitability	49

3 Religious history 59

3.1 Stories of the past	
3.1.1 The story of Creation	59
3.1.2 Al-Tabari's account of Abraham and his son whom he was commanded to sacrifice	63

vi CONTENTS

3.2	Muhammad	
3.2.1	<i>Mawlid al-Barzanji</i> – the birth story of Muhammad	66
3.2.2	The night journey and ascension of Muhammad	68
3.2.3	Traditions (<i>hadith</i>) concerning Muhammad	
3.2.3.1	Al-Bukhari on drink	72
3.2.3.2	Muslim on reciting surah 1 in prayer	76
3.2.3.3	Abu Dawud on medicine	77
3.2.4	Muhammad as a statesman: the constitution of Medina	80
3.2.5	Muhammad's end	82
3.3	The future: signs of the end	85
	4 Ritual practice	89
4.1	Al-Baghdadi on the pillars of Islam	
4.2	Popular prayer	89
4.2.1	The ritual prayer	94
4.2.2	Swahili prayer-songs	95
4.2.3	<i>Masnun al-du'a'ayn</i> : the prayers of the prophet	97
4.2.4	The <i>Burda</i> of al-Busiri	98
4.3	Al-Nawawi on proper etiquette in the recitation of the Qur'an	100
	5 Law	105
5.1	Al-Baghdadi on the law in practice and the variation between the schools of law	105
5.2	Al-Ghazzali on birth control from his chapter on the secrets of marriage	108
5.3	Abu Bakr Effendi on the alms tax	110
5.4	Al-Marghinani on divorce	113
	6 Theology	115
6.1	The Letter (<i>Risala</i>) of al-Hasan al-Basri on free will and predestination	115
6.2	The creed of Ibn Qudama	121
6.3	A popular theological statement	126
	7 Sectarian movements	134
7.1	Shi'ism	
7.1.1	The speeches and letters of 'Ali ibn Abi Talib	135
7.1.2	The death of Husayn	139
7.1.3	The death camp	142
7.2	The Isma'ilis	
7.2.1	Prayers and hymns	144
7.2.2	The Aga Khan Karim 'Ali on the Qur'anic 'light'	145
7.3	The Baha'is	
7.3.1	The writings of the Bab: from the Persian <i>Bayan</i>	148
7.3.2	The Glad-Tidings of Baha'u'llah	148
7.3.3	The writings of 'Abbas Effendi: predestination	151

7.3.4 Shoghi Effendi on the goal of modern society	152
7.4 Ahmadiyya: Mirza Ghulam Ahmad on the sources of knowledge and revelation	154
8 Mysticism	158
8.1 Ibn Hanbal's traditions on Muhammad's asceticism	158
8.2 Sufi Qur'an interpretation: Ibn 'Ata' on surah 1	159
8.3 Legends of 'Abd al-Qadir al-Jilani	160
8.4 Sufi prayers	164
8.5 Javanese mysticism	166
8.6 Al-Nasafi on the mystic quest	170
9 Interpretations of Islam in the modern world	175
9.1 Sir Sayyid Ahmad Khan on Islam and science	175
9.2 Sayyid Qutb from <i>This Religion of Islam</i>	179
9.3 Mawlana Mawdudi on birth control	185
9.4 Imam Khumayni's Iran	
9.4.1 The Sunni-Shi'i difference	190
9.4.2 'Muslims must find Islam'	191
9.5 Extract from the Universal Islamic Declaration of the Islamic Council of Europe	192
Notes	197
Bibliography	199
Glossary	205
Index	207