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GLOSSARY

Astân-e Qods-e Razavî: the Holy Shrine of Imâm Rezâ. The term refers to the entire complex of buildings and space comprising the Holy Precincts.

Bast: place of sanctuary. Here, particularly the two great esplanades leading from the *Bâlâ Khiyâbân* and the *Pâ'in Khiyâbân* to the buildings of the Holy Precincts.

Dâr: abode.

Dâr al-Hoffâz: the "Abode of Readers;" a chamber situated south of the Tomb Chamber of Imâm Rezâ where the "hoffâz" or readers of the Qur'ân chant verses of the Holy Book.

Dâr as-Sa'âdeh: "the Abode of Bliss." a chamber situated east of the Tomb Chamber.

Dâr as-Siyyâdeh: "Abode of Happiness;" a chamber situated southeast of the Tomb Chamber.

Dâr az Zekr: "The Abode of Mention".

Ezâreh: the "skirting" around the lower part of the wall, above the floor.

Gebleh: the faithful must face it at the time of prayer.

Gerêh: decorative node.

Imâm: descendant of the Prophet. They have been recognized by the followers of Shi'i religion.

Îvân: a large recessed opening in the wall forming a kind of chamber, enclosed on three sides but open to the court.

Îvân-e Maqsûreh: "maqsûreh" means small. The *Ivân-e Maqsûreh* is, however, the large îvân in the Gowhar Shâd Mosque.

Kashî: tile-work.

Khiyâbân: avenue.

Kishik-khâneh: guardhouse.

Kufic: a type of calligraphy, or script.

Madrasa: theological college.

Mihrâb: a kind of niche in the wall, indicating the direction of the *qebleh*, which the faithful must face at the time of prayer.

Mogar-ar: typical element of decoration with a single piece kashî.

Muezzin: the person who chants the call to prayer.

Muqarnas: decorations worked in stalactites or in vine-tendrils.

Naqqâreh-khâneh: a place, usually a kind of balcony, from where a drum and other instruments are sounded at specific times of the day.

Naskh: a type of calligraphy, or script.

Nastaliq: a type of calligraphy, or script.

Qalamkâr: hand-printed textiles.

Qâsideh: a form of poetry usually used for public occasions, in which each couplet ends on the same letter of the alphabet.

Qobbeh: a small dome.

Ra's: the roof or cupola covering that part of a minaret where the *muezzin* stands.

Sahn: court.

Sangâb: a small pool, carved out of a single piece of marble.

Saqqâ-khâneh: public drinking fountain.

Sarphûsh: the balcony-like part of the minaret, where the *muezzin* stands to issue the call to prayer.

Shabestân: oratory.

Shâh-neshin: a royal box, possibly in the form of a niche or raised platform.

Soffeh: a large deep-recessed niche.

Šolš: a type of calligraphy or script.

Sûra: verse from the Qur'ân.

Talar: ceremony chamber.

Timcheh: a saray, or courtyard.

Torange: medallion having on it an inscription.

Vâli: governor, deputy.

Zarih: the "veil" or grill, usually of steel or wood, placed around the sarcophagus of a religious personage.

Note: in the text the Hejira form first (and occasionally the current Persian solar calendar) followed by the Christian date.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to express my deep- felt thanks to the following scholars and friends whose generous assistance permitted me to bring this work to completion: Dr. Farhang Mehr; Dr. K. P. Bahadori; Senator M. Forunghi; Dr. A. Valian; Prof. R. Saldarelli; Arch. K. Pirnia; Prof. P. San Paolesi; Dr. Bakhash; Prof. P. Innocenti; J. Choubineh; A. Parvahan, Eng. Prof. R. Frye; Dr. M. Navvabi; Dr. H. Khubnazar; A. Vessal, Eng.; Dr. I. Khademi; A. Moqen; H. Kowsar; R. Tosatti; P. Baracchi; Dishidi, Eng.; H. Motamed; M. Ardjomand, B. Sc. Eng.

Type setting Monophoto by Panda Fotocomposizione, Firenze – Colour separations, printing offset lithography by Fotolito Toscana, Firenze – Printed by Arti Grafiche Parigi & Maggiorelli, Firenze – Binding by Legatoria nuova, Bologna.

Printed in Florence (Italy) in the month of March 1976