

α Thousand Questions

Saadia Faruqi



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First Edition

GLOSSARY

(All words are in Urdu unless otherwise stated.)

abba: Father

alhamdolillah: All praise to God (Arabic)

allahu akbar: God is greater (Arabic)

amma/ammi: Mother

asr: Late afternoon prayer (Arabic)

assalamu alaikum: May peace be on you (Arabic)

azaan/adhaan: Call to prayer

badmaash: Hooligan, gangster

basmati: Variety of rice popular in South Asia

begum: A lady of high rank

beta: Son; child

biryani: A spicy rice dish with meat or vegetables

bun kabab: A sandwich with shallow-fried meat-and-lentil patty, egg, onions, and other ingredients

chaat: Snack food made with a mixture of yogurt, boiled potato, and spices

chai: Tea

charpai: A bed made of rope webbing instead of a mattress

daal: Lentils

dupatta: Long scarf worn by women as part of the shalwar kameez ensemble

Eid: Festival or celebration (Arabic)

fajr: Dawn prayer (Arabic)

gharara: Formal outfit worn by women, consisting of tunic and flared pants gathered at the waist

ghee: Clarified butter

gol gappay: A common street snack of round, hollow, fried shells filled with tamarind water.

goonda: Hooligan, miscreant

hai: Oh!

Inshallah: God willing (Arabic)

jamun: A round fruit also known as black plum

ji: An expression added to someone's name to denote respect or affection

Jummah: Friday

kameez: A long tunic worn by men and women; usually paired with shalwar or other pants.

karahi: A thick, circular cooking pot similar to a wok

kheer: Rice pudding

kya haal hai: How are you?

maghrib: Sunset prayer (Arabic)

masala: Spice mix

mazedaar: Delicious

naan: South Asian baked flatbread

nana: Maternal grandfather

nani: Maternal grandmother

oont: Camel

paan: A snack consisting of the betel leaf with other ingredients folded inside, such as chopped areca nut

paratha: Layered flat bread either fried or sautéed in oil

pithu: A traditional South Asian game called seven stones

pulao: A non-spicy rich dish with meat or vegetables

roti: Thin, round flat bread made with whole flour

rickshaw: A small vehicle used as transport; may be pulled manually or driven with a motor

sahib: Master

sahiba: Mistress

salaam: Peace (Arabic)

shalwar: Baggy pants worn by men and women

shami kabab: Minced meat and lentil patty

shukriya: Thank you

tiffin: A metal box used for carrying lunch

tikka boti: Barbecued meat cubes

ulloo-ka-patha: Son of an owl; used as an insult

wa alaikum assalam: And peace be upon you as well (Arabic)

zeera: Cumin