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NOTE ON DATES

Muslim dates are given according to the Hijra Era, or the event marking the Prophet Muhammad's emigration from Mecca to Medina. Although he arrived in Medina on 24th September, 622, seventeen years later, the Second Caliph Umar (634-44) instituted Muslim dating on the basis of the lunar months, beginning with Muharram. Thus, the first Muharram was calculated to have fallen on 16th July, 622. The adoption of the lunar calendar leads to the loss of one year in every thirtythree years of the Roman calendar. Hence, 1 Muhamma 1403 Hijra (H) or Anno Hegirae (AH) begins on 19th October 1982 and not in 2025 AD. Of the two dates separated by an oblique in this Dissertation, the first is the Hijra (H) or Anno Hegirae (AH) and the second is AD. Where neither H nor AD are mentioned along with dates, AD is invariably implied.

