

III

ORIENTAL TERMS

1. TRANSLITERATION OF ORIENTAL WORDS FREQUENTLY USED IN BAHÁ'Í LITERATURE

'Abá	'Arabistán	Bushrúyih	Hawdaj
Ábádih	Asmá'		Ḥaydar-'Alí
'Abbás	Astarábád	<u>Chihríq</u>	Haykal
'Abdu'l-Bahá	'Aváshiq		Ḥazíratu'l-Quds
'Abdu'l-Ḥamíd	Ayádí	Dalá'il-i-Sab'ih	Ḥijáz
'Abdu'l-Ḥusayn	Azal	Dárúghih	Hijrat
'Abdu'llah	'Azamat	Dawlat-Ábád	Ḥimmat-Ábád
Abhá	'Azíz	<u>Dhabíh</u>	Ḥujjat
Abu'l-Faḍl		Duzdáb	Ḥusayn
'Adasíyyih	Báb		
Adhán	Bábí	Fará'id	Ibráhím
Adhirbáyján	Bábu'l-Báb	Farán	Íl
Afnán	Baghdád	Farmán	'Ilm
Aghsán	Bahá	Farrásh-Báshí	Imám
'Ahd	Bahá'í	Fárs	Imám-Jum'ih
Aḥmad	Bahá'u'lláh	Farsakh	Imám-Zádih
Aḥsá'í	Bahíyyih	Fath-'Alí	Íqán
Ahváz	Bahjí	Firdaws	Írán
Akbar	Balúchistán	Firdawsí	'Iráq
'Akká	Bandar-'Abbás		'Iráqí
'Alá'	Báqir	Ganjíh	'Iraq-i-'Ajam
'Alí	Baqíyyatu'lláh	Gílán	Iṣfahán
'Alí-Muḥammad	Bárfurúsh	Gul	'Ishqábád
Alláh-u-Abhá	Başrih	Gulistán	Ishraqát
Alváḥ	Bátúm	Gurgín	Ishtihárd
Alváḥ-i-Saláṭín	Bayán		Islám
Amatu'l-Bahá	Bayt	Ḥabíb	Ismá-'ilíyyih
Amín	Big	<u>Ḥadíth</u>	'Izzat
Amír	Bírjand	Ḥaḍrat	
Amír-Nizám	Bisharát	Ḥájí	Jalál
Amru'lláh	Bismi'lláh	Ḥájí Mírzá Áqásí	Jamádiyu'l-Avval
Ámul	Bukhárá	Ḥájj	Jamál
Anzalí	Burújjird	Hamadán	Jamál-i-Mubarak
Áqá	Búshih	Ḥaram	Jamál-i-Qidam
Aqdas	Bushrú'í	Ḥasan	Jásb

Jubbih	Mashhad	Qamšar	Simnán
Ka'bih	Mashíyyat	Qaşr-i-Shírín	Sístán
Kad-Khudá	Mashriqu'l-Adhkár	Qasvín	Síyáh-Chál
Kalántar	Masjid	Qawl	Siyyid
Kalimát	Maydán	Qayyúm	Şúfi
Kamál	Mázindarán	Qayyúmu'l-Asmá'	Sulaymán
Karand	Mihdí	Qiblih	Sultán
Karbilá	Mihráb	Qúchán	Sultán-Ábád
Káshán	Mílán	Quddús	Sultánu'sh-Shuhadá'
Kashkúl	Mi'rāj	Qudrat	Sunní
Kawmu'sh-Şa'áydih	Mírzá	Qum	Súratu'l-Haykal
Kawthar	Mishkín-Qalam	Qur'an	Súrih
Kázim	Mu'adhdhuin	Qurbán	Súriy-i-Damm
Kázimayn	Muftí	Qurratu'l-'Ayn	Súriy-i-Ghuşn
Khalkhál	Muhammad		Súriy-i-Ra'ís
Khán	Muhammd-'Alí	Rafsanján	Súriy-i-Şabr
Khániqayn	Muhammarih	Rahím	
Khaylí Khúb	Muhammarram	Rahmán	Tabarsí
Khurásán	Mujtahid	Rahmat	Tabríz
Khuy	Mulk	Ra'ís	Táhirih
Kirmán	Mullá	Ramađán	Tajallíyát
Kirmánsháh	Munírih	Rasht	Tákur
Kitáb-i-'Ahd	Muštafá	Rawhání	Taqí
Kitáb-i-Aqdas	Mustagháth	Riđván	Ṭarázát
Kitáb-i-Asmá'	Muzaffri'd-Dín	Rúhu'lláh	Tarbiyat
Kitáb-i-Badí'	Nabíl	Sabzivár	Táshkand
Kitáb-i-Íqán	Nabíl-i-A'zam	Sadratu'l-Muntahá	Tawhíd
Kuláh	Najaf	Şáhibu'z-Zamán	Thurayyá
Kurdistán	Najaf-Ábád	Şahífatu'l-Haramayn	Ṭihrán
	Náqidín	Sa'id	Túmán
Láhiján	Naşír	Salsabíl	Turkistán
Lár	Náşiri'd-Dín	Samarqand	'Ulamá
Lawh	Navváb	Sangsar	Urúmiyyih
Luristán	Naw-Rúz	Sárí	'Uthmán
	Nayríz	Saysán	
Madrisih	Nayshápúr	Sha'bán	Vahíd
Maḥbúbu'sh-Shuhadá	Nuqtih	Sháh	Valí
Mahdi-'Ulyá	Núr	Shahíd	Valí-'Ahd
Máh-Kú	Pahlaví	Shahmírzád	Varqá
Maḥmúd	Páran	Sháhrúd	Vazír (also Vizír)
Maláyir		Sharaf	
Man-Yuzhiruhu'lláh	Qáđi	Sharí'ah	Yá Bahá'u'l-Abhá
Maqám	Qádiyán	Shaykh	Yahyá
Marághih	Qahqahih	Shaykh-Tabarsí	Yazd
Marḥabá	Qá'im	Shaykhu'l-Islám	
Marv	Qájár	Shí'ah (Shí'ih)	Zanján
Masá'il	Qalyán	Shiráz	Zarand
		Shúshhtar	Zaynu'l-Muqarrabín

2. GUIDE TO TRANSLITERATION AND PRONUNCIATION OF THE PERSIAN ALPHABET

THE system outlined below was approved by the Guardian of the Bahá'í Faith for use by Bahá'ís throughout the world in transcribing the Persian and Arabic terms and names which occur frequently in Bahá'í literature, thus ensuring uniformity in the practice of Bahá'í communities which use

the Roman alphabet. Research by Bahá'í scholars has concluded that the system is based on the one adopted by the Tenth International Congress of Orientalists which was held in Geneva 1894, and was also adopted by the Council of the Royal Asiatic Society in October 1896.

Character	TS	IPA	Character	TS	IPA	Character	TS	IPA
س/ز	'	[ʔ]	ر	r	[r]	ف	f	[f]
ب	b	[b]	ز	z	[z]	ق	q	[q]
پ	p	[p]	ژ	zh	[ʒ]	ک	k	[k]
ت	t	[t]	س	s	[s]	گ	g	[g]
ث	th	[s]	ش	sh	[ʃ]	ل	l	[l]
ج	j	[dʒ]	ص	s	[s]	م	m	[m]
چ	ch	[tʃ]	ذ	ḏ	[z]	ن	n	[n]
ه	h	[h]	ط	t	[t]	و	v	[v]
خ	kh	[x]	ظ	z	[z]	ه	h	[h]
د	d	[d]	ع	'	[ʔ]	ی	y	[j]
ذ	dh	[z]	غ	gh	[ɣ]			

TS	IPA	Approximate pronunciation in English
a	[æ]	As in 'bat'
á	[ɑ:]	Between the sound in 'sharp' (British) or 'shop' (American), and that in 'hall'
i	[ɛ]	As in 'best'
í	[i:]	As in 'meet'
u	[ɔ]	As in 'shot' (British) or 'short' (American)
ú	[u:]	As in 'moon'
aw	[oʊ]	As in 'know'
ay	[ɛi]	As in 'hay'

The first of the above tables shows the letters in the Persian alphabet, the equivalent in the transliteration system (TS) and the sound as shown by the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA).

Vowels can be indicated in Persian and Arabic by signs written above or below the preceding consonant, followed, if they are long, by another consonantal letter. These vowel signs, however, are seldom written. Therefore, for simplicity's sake, the second table shows only their transliterated form and their equivalents in the International Phonetic Alphabet.

3. NOTES ON THE PRONUNCIATION OF PERSIAN WORDS

The emphasis in Persian words is more or less evenly distributed, each syllable being equally stressed as in French. For example, do not say 'Tabríz' or 'Tabarsí'; stay as long on one syllable as on the next; 'Tabríz', 'Tabarsí'. (While there are many exceptions to this rule, it is the most generally correct method of treating the question of stress.)

A frequent mistake is the failure to distinguish between broad and flat 'a's. This differentiation makes the language especially musical and should be observed: in the word 'Afnán', for example, pronounce the first 'a' as in 'at' and the second syllable to rhyme with 'on' (American) or 'barn' (British). English-speakers are apt to pronounce a short 'a' plus 'r' like the word 'are'; this is a mistake; 'ar', as in 'Tarbiyat' for example, should be pronounced as in the name 'Harry'.

The same differentiation should be observed in the case of long and short 'i' and long and short 'u'. As the guide to the transliteration indicates, short 'i' is like the 'e' in 'best', and long 'i' like 'ee' in 'meet'; for example, 'Ibráhím' is pronounced 'Ebráheem', 'Islám' is 'Esslahm'. Short 'u' being like 'o' in 'short' (American) or 'shot' (British), and long 'u' like 'oo' in 'moon', the following would be pronounced: 'Quddús'—'Qod-doo'; 'Bárfurúsh'—'Barforoosh'.

Pronounce 'aw' to rhyme with 'low', or 'mown'; 'Naw-Rúz' is 'No-Rooz'.

The following letters have different sounds in Arabic, but in Persian are all pronounced like 'z': 'dh, z, z, d'.

Similarly, the following consonants may all be pronounced 'ss': 'th, s, sh'.

'Zh' is pronounced like the 's' in 'pleasure'. 'Kh' is pronounced like 'ch' in Scottish 'loch' or German 'Nacht'; do not pronounce it as 'k'. English-speakers often experience difficulty pronouncing 'gh' and 'q'; a guttural French 'r' will serve here; otherwise use a hard 'g' as in 'good'.

'H' and 'h', although having different sounds in Arabic are pronounced in Persian approximately as is the English aspirate 'h'. This sound should never be dropped, even when it comes at the end of a word, nor does it lengthen a preceding short vowel.

In the case of double letters, pronounce both as in the case of the 'nn' in the English word 'unneeded', eg. "Abbás".

The characters transliterated (?) represent a pause; it is not unlike the initial sound made in pronouncing such a word as 'every'. The word 'Bahá'í' has a short 'a' in the first syllable, then a long 'á' in the second, followed by a brief pause and then a long 'i'.

The character transliterated (') may also be treated as a pause.

As Persian writing usually indicates no short vowel sounds and as its pronunciation differs in different localities throughout Írán and the Near East as well as among individuals in any given locality, a uniform system of transliteration such as the above, which is in use by Bahá'í communities all over the world, is indispensable to the student.