

The Transliteration System Used in Bahá'í Literature

The Bahá'í transliteration system was adopted by Shoghi Effendi for use generally in all languages which are written in the Roman alphabet. It is intended to enable all the Bahá'ís who use such languages to have a common and uniform spelling of names and terms in Arabic and Persian, and to prevent the confusion which could result from a multiplicity of transliteration systems. It is in many respects similar to some of the other principal academic systems. This transliteration system is uniquely designed to be used for both Arabic and Persian words, which greatly simplifies the matter for Bahá'í texts, in which the two languages are inextricably intertwined.

Unlike transcription, transliteration is not intended as a guide to the pronunciation of the words of one language in the phonetic system of a different language, but rather to provide a key to the spelling of the words in the original language. The symbols used in transliteration thus serve only as an approximate indication of pronunciation. As the symbols are a key to the spelling in the original language, their pronunciation is determined by the context: Arabic pronunciation in an Arabic context, and Persian in a Persian context, while Arabic terms embedded in a Persian text are subject to the rules of Persian. The International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) symbols representing the pronunciation of the letters in Persian and Arabic are provided next to each letter. To listen to the pronunciation of each symbol, please refer to https://www.internationalphoneticassociation.org/IPAcharts/inter_chart_2018/IPA_2018.html

GUIDE TO TRANSLITERATION AND PRONUNCIATION OF THE ARABIC AND PERSIAN ALPHABETS

Letter	Transliteration	International Phonetic Alphabet symbol	
		Arabic	Persian
ا	á	a:	ɒ:
ب	b		b
پ	p		p
ت	t		t
ث	<u>th</u>	θ	s
ج	j		dʒ
چ	<u>ch</u>		tʃ
ح	ḥ	ħ	h
خ	<u>kh</u>		x
د	d		d
ذ	<u>dh</u>	ð	z
ر	r		r
ز	z		z
ژ	<u>zh</u>		ʒ
س	s		s
ش	<u>sh</u>		ʃ
ص	ṣ	s ^ʕ	s
ض	ḍ	d ^ʕ	z
ط	ṭ	t ^ʕ	t
ظ	ẓ	ð ^ʕ	z
ع	‘	ʕ	ʔ
غ	<u>gh</u>	ɣ	q
ف	f		f
ق	q		q

Letter	Transliteration	International Phonetic Alphabet symbol	
		Arabic	Persian
ك	k	k	k
گ	g		g
ل	l	l	
م	m	m	
ن	n	n	
و	v, ú	w, u:	v, u:
ه	h	h	
ی	y, í	j, i:	
ء	'	ʔ	
ا	a	a	æ
آ	á	a:	ɒ:
إ	i	i	e
إِی	í	i:	
أ	u	u	o
أُ	ú	u:	
أَی	ay	aj	ej
أَو	aw	aw	ow

Transliteration of Some Arabic and Persian Words Used in Bahá'í Literature

Ábádih	Afnán	Alláh-u-Abhá
‘Abbás	Ághá	Alláh-u-Akbar
‘Abdu’l-‘Azíz	Aghṣán	Alváḥ
‘Abdu’l-Bahá	‘Ahd	‘Amá, ‘Amá’
‘Abdu’l-Ḥamíd	Aḥmad	Amatu’l-Bahá
‘Abdu’l-Ḥusayn	Aḥsá’í	Amatu’lláh
‘Abdu’lláh	Aḥsanu’l-Qiṣaṣ	Amín
Abhá	Aḥzán	Amír
Abjad	Akbar	Amír-Nizám
Abú, Abá, Abí	‘Akká	Amru’lláh
Abu’l-Faḍl	A’lá	Ámul
‘Adasíyyih	‘Alá/‘Alá’	Anís
Adhán	‘Alí	Anísá
Ádhirbáyján	‘Alí-Muḥammad	Áqá
Adíb	Alif	Aqdas
‘Adl	Alláh	Arḍ

Arđ-i-Bá	Bákú	Dayyán
‘Áshiq	Balú <u>ch</u> istán	<u>D</u> habíh
Ashraf	Bandar-‘Abbás	<u>D</u> hi‘b
‘Áshúrá	Baní-Háshim	<u>D</u> hikr
Aşl-i-Kullu‘l- <u>K</u> hayr	Baqá	<u>D</u> hi‘l- <u>H</u> ijjih, <u>D</u> hu‘l- <u>H</u> ijjih
Asmá‘	Báqir	<u>D</u> hi‘l-Qa‘dih, <u>D</u> hu‘l-Qa‘dih
‘Attár	Baqíyyatu‘lláh	Điyá‘íyyih
Ayyám	Bárfurú <u>sh</u>	Điyá‘u‘lláh
Ayyám-i-Há	Bayán	Dunyá
‘Ayn	Bayt	
Azal	Baytu‘l-‘Adl-i-A‘zam	Fađl
A‘zam	Big	Fath
‘Azamat	Bishárát	Fará‘id
‘Azím	Bismi‘lláh	Farmán
‘Azíz	Bismi‘lláhi‘r-Raḥmání‘r-Raḥím	Farrásh, Farrásh-Báshí
	Bu <u>k</u> hárá	Fárs
Bá	Burhán	Farsa <u>k</u> h
Báb	Burújird	Fath-‘Alí
Bábí	Búshih	Fátimih
Bábu‘l-Báb	Bu <u>sh</u> rú‘í	Fatvá
Badasht	Bu <u>sh</u> rúyih	Firdaws
Badí‘		Firdawsí
Badí‘u‘lláh	<u>C</u> ihríq	Fu‘ád
Baghdádí		
Bagum	Dahají	Ganjih
Bahá	Dalá‘il-i-Sab‘ih	<u>G</u> hulám
Bahá‘í	Damm	<u>G</u> hulámu‘l- <u>K</u> huld
Bahá‘u‘lláh	Darv <u>sh</u>	<u>G</u> huşn
Bahíyyih	Dawlat-Ábád	<u>G</u> huşn-i-Aṭhar
Bahjí	Dawlih	<u>G</u> huşn-i-A‘zam

Gílán	Húr-i-'Ujáb	Isráfíl
Gul	Húrí	'Izrá'íl
Gulistán	Húríyyih	'Izzat
Gurgín	Hurúfát	
	Husayn	Jabal
Há	Husayníyyih	Jabal-i-Básiṭ
Hábíb		Jabal-i- <u>Shadíd</u>
Hádí	'Ibád	Jáhiliyyih
Hadí <u>th</u>	Ibn	Jalál
Hāḍrat	Ibráhím	Jamádiyu'l-Avval
Hāḍrat-i-A'lá	Iláhí	Jamádiyu' <u>th</u> - <u>Tháni</u>
Háfiz	'Ilm	Jamál
Haft Pursish	Imám	Jamál-i-Mubáarak
Háji	Imám-Jum'ih	Jamál-i-Qidam
Háji Mírzá Áqásí	Imám-Zádih	Javád
Hajj	In <u>shá</u> 'alláh	Javáhiru'l-Asrár
Hamadán	Íqán	Jazíriy-i- <u>Khadrá</u> '
Hāqq	'Iráqí	Jináb
Haram	'Iráq-i-'Ajam	
Haram-i-Aqdas	Iṣfahán	Kabír
Hāsan	'I <u>shqábád</u>	Kad- <u>Khudá</u>
Hawdaj	I <u>shráqát</u>	Káf
Hāydar-'Alí	I <u>sh</u> tihárd	Kalántar
Haykal	Islám	Kalím
Hāzíratu'l-Quds	Ism	Kalimát
Hikmat	Ism-i-A'zam	Kalimát-i-Firdawsíyyih
Hijáz	Ismá'ilíyyih	Kamál
Hijrat	Ismu'lláh	Karbilá
Hūjjat	Ismu'lláhu'l-Aṣḍaq	Karbilá'í
Huqúqu'lláh	Ismu'lláhu'l-Muníb	Karím

Karmil	Lawḥ	Miḥráb
Káshán	Laylí	Mílán
Kashkúl		Mím
Kawthar	Madíniḥ	Mír
Kázim	Madrisih	Mi' ráj
Kázimayn	Maḥbúbu'sh-Shuhadá	Mírzá
<u>Kh</u> adíjih	Mahd-i-'Ulyá	Mishkín-Qalam
<u>Kh</u> ádim	Máh-Kú	Mu'adhḍhin
<u>Kh</u> ádimu'lláh	Maḥmúd	Mubárah
<u>Kh</u> alífih	Majnún	Mufávaḍát
<u>Kh</u> alíl	Man-Yuzhiruhu'lláh	Muftí
<u>Kh</u> án	Mánikchí Şáhib	Muḥammad
<u>Kh</u> ániqayn	Maqám	Muḥammad-'Alí
<u>Kh</u> ánum	Maqşúd	Muḥarram
<u>Kh</u> iḍr	Marághih	Mujtahid
<u>Kh</u> uṭbih	Marḥabá	Mulk
<u>Kh</u> urásán	Marv	Mulúk
<u>Kh</u> uy	Maryam	Mullá
Kirmán	Masá'il	Muníriḥ
Kirmánsháh	Mashhad	Muşṭafá
Kitáb	Mashhadí	Mustagháth
Kitáb-i-'Ahd	Mashíyyat	Mutaşarrif
Kitáb-i-Aqdas	Mashriqu'l-Adhkár	Muzaffari'd-Dín
Kitáb-i-Asmá', Kitábu'l-Asmá'	Ma'shúq	
Kitáb-i-Badí'	Masjid	Nabíl
Kitáb-i-Íqán	Mathnaví	Nabíl-i-Akbar
Kuláh	Mawlúd	Nabíl-i-A'zam
Kull-i-Shay'	Maydán	Najaf
	Mázindarán	Najaf-Ábád
Lám	Mihdí, Mahdí	Náqiḍín

Náqús	Asmá'	Rúhu'lláh
Naşır	Qiblih	Ru'yá
Náşiri'd-Dín	Quddús	
Navváb	Qudrat	Şabr
Naw-Rúz	Quds	Sabzivár
Nayríz	Qum	Sa'dí
Nidá	Qur'án	Şád
Nuqţih	Qurbán	Sadratu'l-Muntahá
Nuqţiy-i-Úlá	Qurratu'l-'Ayn	Şadr-i-A'zam
Nún		Sadrih, Sidrih
Núr	Rabí'u'l-Avval	Şafar
Nuşh	Rabí'u' <u>th</u> -Thání	Şáhib
	Raḥím	Şáhibu'z-Zamán
Pahlaván	Raḥmán	Şahífatu'l-Haramayn
Pahlaví	Raḥmat	Şahífih
Párán	Ra'ís	Şahífiy-i-Şhattíyyih
Páshá	Rajab	Sa'id
	Ramaḍán	Salám
Qáđí	Raqshá	Şalát
Qádíyán	Rashh-i-'Amá	Şalát-i-Mayyit
Qá'im	Rasht	Salmán
Qalam	Rasúl	Salsabíl
Qalam-i-A'lá	Rawḥání, Rúḥání	Samandar
Qájár	Riḍá	Samarqand
Qaşidih	Riḍván	Sanandaj
Qaşidiy-i-Varqá'íyyih	Risálih	Sangsar
Qazvín	Risáliy-i-Madaníyyih	Sáqí
Qawl	Risáliy-i-Siyásíyyih	Sarkár-Áqá
Qayyúm	Rúḥ	Sárí
Qayyúm-i-Asmá', Qayyúmu'l-	Rúḥíyyih	Saysán

Sayyáh	Sulṭán	‘Urvatu’l-Vuṭḥqá
<u>Sha</u> ‘bán	Sulṭán-Ábád	Ustád
<u>Sháh</u>	Sulṭánu’ <u>sh-Shuhadá</u>	‘Uṭḥmán
<u>Sháh</u> -Bahrám	Sunnat, Sunnah	
<u>Shahíd</u>	Sunní	Vafá
<u>Shahmírzá</u> d	Súrih	Vaḥíd
<u>Shams</u>	Súriy-i-Haykal,	Súratu’l- Váḥid
<u>Shams-i-Tabríz</u>	Haykal	Vakíl
<u>Sharaf</u>	Ṭá	Vakílu’d-Dawlih
<u>Sharí’ah</u> , <u>Shari’at</u>	Ṭabarsí	Valí
<u>Shavvál</u>	Tabríz	Valí-‘Ahd
<u>Shaykh</u>	Tafsír	Valíyy-i-Amru’lláh
<u>Shaykhí</u>	Ṭáhirih	Varaqatu’l-Firdaws
<u>Shaykh</u> -Ṭabarsí	Táj	Varaqih
<u>Shaykhu</u> ’l-Islám	Tajalliyát	Varaqiy-i-‘Ulyá
<u>Shí’ah</u> , <u>Shí’ih</u>	Tákur	Varqá
<u>Shí’í</u>	Takyih	Váv
<u>Shíráz</u>	Taqí	Vazír, Vizír
<u>Shúshtar</u>	Ṭarázát	Viláyat
Simnán	Tarbíyat	
Şirát	Tawḥíd	Yá
Sirr	<u>Thurayyá</u>	Yá Bahá’u’l-Abhá
Sirru’lláh	Ṭibb	Yá Şáḥibu’z-Zamán
Sistán	Ṭihrán	Yaḥyá
Siyáh- <u>Chál</u>	Túmán	Yazd
Siyid	Turkistán	Yúsuf
Siyidu’ <u>sh-Shuhadá</u>		
Şúfi	‘Ulamá	Zá
Sulaymán	Umm	Zádih
Sulaymáníyyih	Urúmíyyih	Zamzam

Zanján

Zawrá'

Ziyárat

Zarand

Zaynab

Zuhúr

Zarrín-Táj

Zaynu'l-Muqarrabín

The words Islam, Shah, and Sultan are now spelled without diacritics when they occur alone but are transliterated when part of a Persian or Arabic phrase, title, or name (e.g., Muḥammad Sháh).