

## 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](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	h	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 <sup>ʕ</sup>	s
ض	ḍ	d <sup>ʕ</sup>	z
ط	ṭ	t <sup>ʕ</sup>	t
ظ	ẓ	ð <sup>ʕ</sup>	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	'		?
ا	a	a	æ
آ آئ	á	a:	ɒ:
إ	i	i	e
إِی	í		i:
أ	u	u	o
أو	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	Aghsán	Alváḥ
‘Abdu’l-Bahá	‘Ahd	‘Amá, ‘Amá’
‘Abdu’l-Ḥamid	Aḥmad	Amatu’l-Bahá
‘Abdu’l-Ḥusayn	Aḥsá’í	Amatu’lláh
‘Abdu’lláh	Aḥsanu’l-Qiṣaṣ	Amín
Abhá	Aḥzán	Amír
Abjad	Akbar	Amír-Niẓám
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> habīḥ
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-Ḥijjih, <u>D</u> hu‘l-Ḥijjih
Asmá‘	Báqir	<u>D</u> hi‘l-Qa‘dih, <u>D</u> hu‘l-Qa‘dih
‘Atṭár	Baqíyyatu‘lláh	Ḍiyá‘íyyih
Ayyám	Bárfurú <u>sh</u>	Ḍiyá‘u‘lláh
Ayyám-i-Há	Bayán	Dunyá
‘Ayn	Bayt	
Azal	Baytu‘l-‘Adl-i-A‘zam	Faḍl
A‘zam	Big	Fath
‘Azamat	Bishárát	Fará‘id
‘Azím	Bismi‘lláh	Farmán
‘Azíz	Bismi‘lláhi‘r-Raḥmání‘r-Raḥím	Farrá <u>sh</u> , Farrá <u>sh</u> -Bá <u>sh</u> í
	Bu <u>k</u> hárá	Fárs
Bá	Burhán	Farsa <u>k</u> h
Báb	Burújird	Fath-‘Alí
Bábí	Bú <u>sh</u> ihr	Fáṭimih
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> hihríq	Fu‘ád
Baghdádí		
Bagum	Dahají	Ganjíh
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> hu <u>ş</u> n
Bahíyyih	Dawlat-Ábád	<u>G</u> hu <u>ş</u> n-i-Aṭhar
Bahjí	Dawlih	<u>G</u> hu <u>ş</u> n-i-A‘zam

Gílán	Húr-i-'Ujáb	Isráfíl
Gul	Húrí	'Izrá'íl
Gulistán	Húríyyih	'Izzat
Gurgín	Hurúfát	
	Husayn	Jabal
Há	Husayníyyih	Jabal-i-Básiṭ
Habíb		Jabal-i- <u>Shadíd</u>
Hádí	'Ibád	Jáhiliyyih
Hadíth	Ibn	Jalál
Hadrat	Ibráhím	Jamádiyu'l-Avval
Hadrat-i-A'lá	Iláhí	Jamádiyu' <u>th</u> - <u>Tháni</u>
Háfiz	'Ilm	Jamál
Haft Pursish	Imám	Jamál-i-Mubáarak
Hájí	Imám-Jum'ih	Jamál-i-Qidam
Hájí Mírzá Áqásí	Imám-Zádih	Javád
Hajj	Inshá'alláh	Javáhiru'l-Asrár
Hamadán	Íqán	Jazíriy-i- <u>Khadrá'</u>
Haqq	'Iráqí	Jináb
Haram	'Iráq-i-'Ajam	
Haram-i-Aqdas	Işfahán	Kabír
Hasan	'Ishqábád	Kad- <u>Khudá</u>
Hawdaj	Ishráqát	Káf
Haydar-'Alí	Ishthihárd	Kalántar
Haykal	Islám	Kalím
Hazíratu'l-Quds	Ism	Kalimát
Hikmat	Ism-i-A'zam	Kalimát-i-Firdawsíyyih
Hijáz	Ismá'ilíyyih	Kamál
Hijrat	Ismu'lláh	Karbilá
Hujjat	Ismu'lláhu'l-Aşdaq	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'adhḥin
<u>Kh</u> ádimu'lláh	Maḥmúd	Mubáarak
<u>Kh</u> alífih	Majnún	Mufáviḍát
<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	Muşţafá
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	Qiblih	Ru'yá
Naşır	Quddús	
Náşiri'd-Dín	Qudrat	Şabr
Navváb	Quds	Sabzivár
Naw-Rúz	Qum	Sa'dí
Nayríz	Qur'án	Şád
Nidá	Qurbán	Sadratu'l-Muntahá
Nuqţih	Qurratu'l-'Ayn	Şadr-i-A'zam
Nuqţiy-i-Úlá		Sadrih, Sidrih
Nún	Rabí'u'l-Avval	Şafar
Núr	Rabí'u'th-Thání	Şáhib
Nuşh	Raḥím	Şáhibu'z-Zamán
	Raḥmán	Şahífatu'l-Haramayn
Pahlaván	Raḥmat	Şahífih
Pahlaví	Ra'ís	Şahífiy-i-Shattíyyih
Párán	Rajab	Sa'id
Páshá	Ramaḍán	Salám
	Raqshá	Şalát
Qáđí	Rashh-i-'Amá	Şalát-i-Mayyit
Qadíyán	Rasht	Salmán
Qá'im	Rasúl	Salsabíl
Qalam	Rawḥání, Rúḥání	Samandar
Qalam-i-A'lá	Ridá	Samarqand
Qájár	Riḍván	Sanandaj
Qaşídih	Risálih	Sangsar
Qaşídiy-i-Varqá'íyyih	Risáliy-i-Madaníyyih	Sáqí
Qazvín	Risáliy-i-Siyásíyyih	Sarkár-Áqá
Qawl	Rúḥ	Sárí
Qayyúm	Rúḥíyyih	Saysán
Qayyúm-i-Asmá', Qayyúmu'l-Asmá'	Rúḥu'lláh	Sayyáh

<u>Sh</u> a'bán	Sulṭán-Ábád	Ustád
<u>Sh</u> áh	Sulṭánu' <u>sh</u> - <u>Sh</u> uhadá	'Uṭhmán
<u>Sh</u> áh-Bahrám	Sunnat, Sunnah	
<u>Sh</u> ahíd	Sunni	Vafá
<u>Sh</u> ahmírzád	Súrih	Vaḥíd
<u>Sh</u> ams	Súriy-i-Haykal,	Súratu'l-
<u>Sh</u> ams-i-Tabríz	Haykal	Váḥid
<u>Sh</u> araf	Ṭá	Vakíl
<u>Sh</u> arí'ah, <u>Sh</u> arí'at	Ṭabarsí	Vakílu'd-Dawlih
<u>Sh</u> avvál	Tabríz	Valí
<u>Sh</u> aykh	Tafsír	Valí-'Ahd
<u>Sh</u> aykhí	Ṭáhirih	Valíyy-i-Amru'lláh
<u>Sh</u> aykh-Ṭabarsí	Táj	Varaqatu'l-Firdaws
<u>Sh</u> aykhu'l-Islám	Tajalliyát	Varaqiy-i-'Ulyá
<u>Sh</u> í'ah, <u>Sh</u> í'ih	Tákur	Varqá
<u>Sh</u> í'í	Takyih	Váv
<u>Sh</u> íráz	Taqí	Vazír, Vizír
<u>Sh</u> úshtar	Ṭarázát	Viláyat
Simnán	Tarbíyat	
Şirát	Tawḥíd	Yá
Sirr	<u>Th</u> urayyá	Yá Bahá'u'l-Abhá
Sirru'lláh	Ṭibb	Yá Şáḥibu'z-Zamán
Sistán	Ṭihrán	Yaḥyá
Siyáh- <u>Ch</u> ál	Túmán	Yazd
Siyid	Turkistán	Yúsuf
Siyidu' <u>sh</u> - <u>Sh</u> uhadá		
Şúfi	'Ulamá	Zá
Sulaymán	Umm	Zádih
Sulaymáníyyih	Urúmíyyih	Zamzam
Sulṭán	'Urvatu'l-Vuṭḥá	Zanján

Zarand

Zaynab

Ziyárat

Zarrín-Táj

Zaynu'l-Muqarrabín

Zuhúr

Zawrá'

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).