

## Oriental terms<sup>1</sup>

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### 1. Transliteration of oriental words frequently used in Bahá'í literature

'Abá', [P] 'Abá Ábádih, [IP] Ábádih	'Azíz	Fárs Farsa <u>kh</u>	Işfahán 'Işh <u>q</u> ábád
'Abbás	Báb	Fath-'Alí	Işh <u>r</u> áqát
'Abdu'l-Bahá	Bábí	Firdaws	Işh <u>t</u> ihárd
'Abdu'l-Ĥamíd	Bábu'l-Báb	Firdawsí	Islám
'Abdu'l-Ĥusayn	Bagh <u>d</u> ád		Ismá'ílíya, Ismá'íliyya, [IP] Ismá'íliyyih
'Abdu'lláh	Bahá	Ganja, [IP] Ganjih	'Izzat
Abhá	Bahá'í	Gílán	
Abu'l-Faḍl	Bahá'u'lláh	Gul	Jalál
'Adasiyya, [P] Adasiy, [IP]	Bahiyya, Bahíya, [IP] Bahíyyih	Gulistán	Jamádíyu'l-Avval, [P] Jamádíyu'l-Avval
'Adasíyyih			Jamál
Adhán	Bahjí	Gurgín	Jamál-i-Mubárák, [P] Jamál-i-Mubárák
Ádharbáyján, Ázarbáyján, [IP]	Balú <u>ch</u> istán		al-Jamál al-Qidam, [P] Jamál-i-Qidam
Ádhirbáyján			Qidam
Afnán	Bandar-'Abbás	Ĥabíb	Jásb
			Jubba, [IP] Jubbih
Aghşán	Báqir	Ĥadíth	
'Ahd	Baqíyyatu'lláh, [IP] Baqíyyatu'lláh	Ĥaḍrat	
Aĥmad	Bárfurú <u>sh</u>	Ĥájí	
Aĥsá'í	Başra, [IP] Başrih	Ĥájí Mírzá Áqásí	Ka'ba, [IP] Ka'bih
Ahváz [P]	Bátúm, [IP] Bâtúm	Ĥájj	Kad-K <u>h</u> udá
Akbar	Bayán	Hamadán	Kalántar
'Akká	Bayt	Ĥaram	Kalimát
'Ala'	Big	Ĥasan	Kamál
'Alí	Bírjand	Hawdaj	Karand
'Alí-Muĥammad	Bişhárát	Ĥaydar-'Alí	Karbilá
Alláhu Abhá, [P] Alláh-u-Abhá	Bismi'lláh	Ĥaykal	Káshán
Alwáh, [P] Alváh	Bu <u>kh</u> ará	Ĥazíratu'l-Quds	Kashkúl
Alwáh-i-Salátín, [P] Alváh-i-Salátín	Burújird	Ĥijáz	Kawm aş-Sa'á'idah, [IP] Kawmu'ş-Sa'á'idih
Amatu'l-Bahá	Bú <u>sh</u> ihr	Hijrat	Kawthar
Amín	Bu <u>sh</u> rú'í	Himmat-Ábád	Kázim
Amír	Bu <u>sh</u> rúya, [IP] Bu <u>sh</u> rúyih	Ĥujjat	Kázimayn
Amír-Nizám		Ĥusayn	<u>Kh</u> alk <u>h</u> ál
Amru'lláh	<u>Ch</u> ihríq		<u>Kh</u> án
Ámul		Ibráhím	<u>Kh</u> áníqayn
Anzalí	Dalá'il-i-Sab'a, [IP] Dalá'il-i-Sab'ih	Íl	<u>Kh</u> aylí <u>Kh</u> úb
Áqá	Dárú <u>gh</u> a, [IP] Dárú <u>gh</u> ih	'Ilm	<u>Kh</u> urásán
Aqdas	Dawlat-Ábád	Imám	<u>Kh</u> uy
'Arabistán	<u>Dh</u> abíh	Imám-Jum'ih, [IP] Imám-Jum'ih	Kirmán
Asmá'	Duzdáb	Imám-Záda, [IP] Imám-Zádih	Kirmán <u>sh</u> áh
Astarábád		Íqán	Kitáb-i-'Ahd
'Awá <u>sh</u> iq, [P] 'Avá <u>sh</u> iq	Fará'id	Írán	Kitáb-i-Aqdas
Ayádí	Farán	'Iráq	Kitáb-i-Asmá'
Azal	Farmán	'Iráqí	Kitáb-i-Badí'
'Azamat	Farrá <u>sh</u> -Bá <u>sh</u> í	'Iráq al-'Ajam, [P] 'Iráq-i-'Ajam	Kitáb-i-Íqán

<sup>1</sup> *Bahá'í World 1979–1982*, vol. 18, pp. 893–904. [P] = Persian; [IP] = Işfahání Persian; [?] = unknown. There is a strong Persian bias, usually Işfahání Persian, to the transcription used.—M.W.T. Online at [bahai-library.com/bw18/oriental\\_words](http://bahai-library.com/bw18/oriental_words)

Kuláh	Muṣṭafá	Ra'ís	Sultánu' <u>sh</u> - <u>Shuhadá'</u>
Kurdistán	Mustag <u>h</u> á <u>th</u>	Rafsanján	Sunní
	Muzaffari'd-Dín	Rahím	Súratu'l-Haykal
Láhíján		Rahmán	Súra, [IP] Súrih
Lár	Nabíl	Rahmat	Súriy-i-Damm
Lawḥ	Nabíl-i-A'zam	Ramaḍan	Súriy-i- <u>G</u> husn
Luristán	Najaf	Ra <u>sh</u> t	Súriy-i-Ra'ís
	Najaf-Ábád	Rawhání	Súriy-i-Şabr
	Náqiḍún, Náqiḍín	Riḍwán, [P] Riḍván	
Madrasa, [IP] Madrasah, Madrisih	Naşír	Rúḥu'lláh	Ṭabarsí
Maḥbúbu' <u>sh</u> - <u>Shuhadá'</u>	Náşiri'd-Dín		Ṭabriz
Maḥd-i-'Ulyá	Nawwáb, [P] Navváb	Sa'íd	Ṭáhira, [IP] Ṭáhiriḥ
Máh-Kú	Naw-Rúz	Sabzivár	Ṭajalliyát
Maḥmúd	Nayríz	Şáhibu'z-Zamán	Tákur
Maláyir	Níshápúr	Şahífatu'l-Ḥaramayn	Taqí
Man-Yužhiruhu'lláh	Nuḡṭih	Salsabíl	Ṭarázát
Maqám	Núr	Samarqand	Ṭarbiyat
Mará <u>gh</u> a, [IP] Mará <u>gh</u> ih		Sangsar	Tá <u>sh</u> kand
Marhabá		Sarí	Tawḥid
Marw, [P] Marv	Pahlawí [P], Pahlaví	Saysán	<u>Ṭ</u> urayyá
Masá'il	Parán	<u>Sh</u> a'bán	Ṭihrán
Mashhad		<u>Sh</u> áh	Túmán
Mashíyyat	Qá'im	<u>Sh</u> ahíd	Turkistán
Mashriqu'l- <u>Adh</u> kár	Qáḍí	<u>Sh</u> ahmírzád	
Masjid	Qáḍiyán	<u>Sh</u> áhrúd	'Ulamá', [P] 'Ulamá
Maydán	Qahqaha, [P] Qahqahih	<u>Sh</u> araf	Urúmiyyah, [IP] Urúmiyyih
Mázindarán	Qájár	<u>Sh</u> arí'ah	'U <u>th</u> mán
Mihdí	Qalyán	<u>Sh</u> aykh	
Miḥráb	Qamşár	<u>Sh</u> aykh-Ṭabarsí	Wahíd, [P] Wahíd
Mílán	Qaşr-i- <u>Sh</u> írín	<u>Sh</u> ay <u>kh</u> u'l-Islám	Walí, [P] Valí
Mi'ráj	Qawl	<u>Sh</u> í'ah, [IP] <u>Sh</u> í'ih	Wálí, [P] Váli
Mírzá	Qayyúm	<u>Sh</u> íráz	Wálí-'Ahd, [P] Váli-'Ahd
Mishkín-Qalam	Qayyúmu'l-Asmá'	<u>Sh</u> úsh <u>tar</u>	Warqá', [P] Varqá
Mu' <u>adhd</u> hin	Qazvín	Sidr al-Muntahá, [P] Sadratu'l-	Wazír, [P] Vazír, Vizír
Muftí	Qibla, [IP] Qiblih	Muntahá	
		Simnán	
Muḥammad	Qú <u>ch</u> án	Sístán	Yá-Bahá'u'l-Abhá
Muḥammad-'Alí	Quddús	Síyáh- <u>Ch</u> ál	Yahyá
Muḥammara, [IP]	Qudrat		
Muḥammariḥ			
Muḥarram	Qum	Siyid	Yazd
Mujtahid	Qur'án	Şúfí	
Mulk	Qurbán	Sulaymán	Zanján
Mullá	Qurratu'l-'Ayn	Sultán	Zarand
Muníra, [IP] Muníriḥ		Sultán-Ábád	Zaynu'l-Muqarrabín

## 2. Guide to transliteration and pronunciation of the Persian alphabet

ا	á	خ	kh	ص	ş	ك	k
ب	b	د	d	ض	ḍ	گ	g
پ	p	ذ	dh	ط	ṭ	ل	l
ت	t	ر	r	ظ	ẓ	م	m
ث	th	ز	z	ع	‘ (‘Ayn)	ن	n
ج	j	ژ	zh	غ	gh	و	v/w
چ	ch	س	s	ف	f	ي	y
ح	ḥ	ش	sh	ق	q	ء	’ (Hamza)

th	pronounced as s	a	as	in account
dh	pronounced as z	á	as	in arm
zh	pronounced as j (French)	i	as e	in best
ş	pronounced as s	í	as ee	in meet
ḍ	pronounced as z	u	as o	in short
ṭ	pronounced as t	ú	as oo	in moon
ẓ	pronounced as z	aw	as	in mown

The ‘í’ added to the name of a town signifies ‘belonging to’. Thus Shíráz<sup>í</sup> means native of Shíráz.

## 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 *Ṭabarsí*; stay as long on one syllable as on the next; *Tabríz*; *Ṭabarsí*. (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 *account*, and the second syllable to rhyme with *on*. Americans are apt to pronounce short ‘a’ plus ‘r’ like the verb form *are*; this is a mistake; ‘ar’ should be pronounced as in the word *hurry*—cf. *Tarbiyat*.

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 ‘e’ in *best*, and long ‘í’ like ‘ee’ in *meet*; for example, *Ibráhím* is pronounced *Eb-ráheem*; *Islám* is *Ess-lahm*. Short ‘u’ being like ‘o’ in *short*, and long ‘ú’ like ‘oo’ in *moon*, the following would be pronounced:

Quddús—Qod-dooss; Bárfurúsh—Bárforoosh.

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

The following consonants may be pronounced like z: dh, z, ž, đ.

The following consonants may be pronounced like ss: th, s, ş.

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'. Westerners often experience difficulty pronouncing 'gh' and 'q'; a guttural French 'r' will serve here; otherwise use hard 'g' as in good.

H and h, approximately like the English aspirate 'h', should never be dropped. Ṭihrán is Teh-ron; madrisih is mad-res-seh; Mihráb is Meḥ-rob.

In the case of double letters pronounce each separately: 'Ab-bás.

The character transliterated (') represents a pause; it is not unlike the initial sound made in pronouncing such a word as every. The word Bahá'í is phonetically as follows: 'a' as in account; 'á' as in hall; ('), pause; 'í' as ee in meet.

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

N.B. As Persian often indicates no vowel sounds and as its pronunciation differs in different localities throughout Persia 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.

## 4. Definitions of some of the Oriental terms used in Bahá'í literature

**Ab** *Father*

**Abá** (See **Abú**)

**'Abá** A loose, sleeveless cloak or mantle, open in front.

**'Abd** *Servant, bondsman; worshipper (of God).*

**'Abdu'l-Bahá** *Servant of Bahá:* title of the eldest son of Bahá'u'lláh, and Centre of His Covenant.

**Abhá** *Most Glorious.* (See **Alláh-u-Abhá**; **Bahá'u'l-Abhá**)

**Abí** (See **Abú**)

**Abjad notation** System whereby each letter of the Arabic alphabet is assigned a specific numerical value.

**Abú, Abá, Abí** *Father of.*

**Adhán** Muslim call to prayer.

**Adíb** *Refined, cultured, learned; writer, scholar, man of letters.* Title of one of the early Hands of the Cause.

**'Adl** *Justice.* (See **Baytu'l-'Adl-i-A'zam**)

**Afnán** Literally *Twigs:* the Báb's kindred; specifically, descendants of His three maternal uncles and His wife's two brothers.

**Ághá** Originally *lord, nobleman; officer, commander:* placed after a woman's name *Ághá* is a courtesy title comparable with *Áqá*; may also form part of a compound proper name.

**Aghsán** Literally *Branches:* denotes sons and male descendants of Bahá'u'lláh.

**AH** *Anno Hegirae* (in the year of the Emigration): denotes the Muslim Era, reckoned from the year of Muḥammad's flight from Mecca to Medina in CE 622. (See **Hijrat**)

**'Ahd** *Covenant, bond, treaty; The Covenant (of God).*

**Aḥsanu'l-Qiṣaṣ** Literally *The Best of Stories:* a name for the Súrih of Joseph. *Tafsír-i-Aḥsanu'l-Qiṣaṣ:* the Báb's *Commentary on the Súrih of Joseph, the Qayyamu'l-Asmá'.*

**Akbar** *Greater, greatest.* (See **Allah-u-Akbar**; **Kabír**)

**al-** The definite article in Arabic.

**A'lá** *Most Exalted.* (See **Ḥaḍrat-i-A'lá**; **Qalam-i-A'lá**)

**'Alá'** *Loftiness:* nineteenth month of the Badí' calendar. (See **Há'**)

**al-Abhá** *The Most Glorious.* (See **Bahá'u'l-Abhá**)

**'Alí** The first Imám and rightful successor of Muḥammad; also the fourth Caliph according to the **Sunnah**.

**Alláh** God.

**Alláh-u-Abhá** *God is Most Glorious:* The Greatest Name, adopted during the period of Bahá'u'lláh's exile in Adrianople as a greeting among the Bahá'ís.

**Alláh-u-Akbar** *God is Most Great:* Muslim salutation, and opening words of the call to prayer, superseded by **Alláh-u-Abhá** as a greeting among the Bahá'ís during the Adrianople period.

**al-Madinah** Literally *The City (of the Prophet).* (See **Mecca**)

**Amih** *Maid (servant), handmaid(en).* **Amatu'l-Bahá:** *Maid-servant of Bahá;* **Amatu'lláh:** *Handmaiden of God.*

**Amín** *Faithful, trustworthy, honest; trustee.* Title bestowed by Bahá'u'lláh on Ḥájí *Sháh*-Muḥammad-i-Man<sup>sh</sup>ádí and Ḥájí Abu'l-Ḥasan-i-Ardikání, first trustees of the **Ḥuququ'lláh**.

**Amír** *Prince, ruler; commander, governor.*

**Anís** Literally *companion, friend, associate:* appellation given by the Báb to Mírzá Muḥammad-'Alíy-i-Zunúzí, the youthful disciple who shared His martyrdom.

**Áqá** *Master; The Master:* title given by Bahá'u'lláh to 'Abdu'l-Bahá. Also used, preceding a name, in an honorific sense: *Mister, Sir.* (See **Sarkár-Áqá**)

**Aqdas** *Most Holy.* (See **Kitáb-i-Aqdas**)

**Ard** *Earth, land, territory.* (See **Ṣád**; **Shín**; **Sirr**; **Ṭá'**)

**'Áshúrá** Tenth day of the month of Muḥarram, anniversary of the martyrdom of the Imám Ḥusayn.

**Asmá'** *Names:* ninth month of the Badí' calendar.

**Ayádí** Literally *hands; Hand(s) of the Cause.*

**Ayyám** *Days.* (See **Há'**)

**A'zam** *Greatest.* (See **Baytu'l-'Adl-i-A'zam**; **Ism-i-A'zam**; **Ṣadr-i-A'zam**)

**'Azamat** *Grandeur:* fourth month of the Badí' calendar.

**'Azím** Literally *mighty, great, glorious:* title

given by the Báb to Mullá Shaykh ‘Alí of Khurásán.

**Báb** *Gate*: title assumed by Mírzá ‘Alí-Muḥammad after the declaration of His Mission in Shíráz on 23 May 1844.

**Bábí** Follower of the Báb.

**Bábu’l-Báb** *The Gate of the Gate*: title of Mullá Ḥusayn, the first Letter of the Living.

**Badí’** *Wonderful*: (1) Title of Áqá Buzurg of Khurásán, the seventeen-year-old bearer of Bahá’u’lláh’s Tablet to Náṣiri’d-Dín Sháh. (2) Style of the new nineteen-month calendar of the Bahá’í Era. (See **BE**)

**Bagum** *Lady (of rank), dame, begum*: placed after a woman’s given name *Bagum* is a courtesy title comparable with **Big**.

**Bahá’** *Glory, splendour, light*: (1) The Greatest Name. (See **Bahá’u’lláh**) (2) First month of the Badí’ calendar.

**Bahá’í** Follower of Bahá’u’lláh.

**Bahá’u’l-Abhá** *The Glory of the Most Glorious*. **Yá Bahá’u’l-Abhá!** *O Thou the Glory of the Most Glorious!*

**Bahá’u’lláh** *The Glory of God*: title of Mírzá Ḥusayn-‘Alí: born in Ṭíhrán on 12 November 1817; ascended in Bahjí, near ‘Akká, on 29 May 1892.

**Bahjí** Literally *delight, gladness, joy*: denotes that part of the Plain of ‘Akká where the Shrine and Mansion of Bahá’u’lláh are situated.

**Baní-Háshim** Literally *Sons of Háshim* (great grandfather of Muḥammad): clan of Quraysh from which Muḥammad was descended.

**Baqíyyatu’lláh** *Remnant of God*: traditional appellation of the Qá’im, derived from the Qur’án; designation of the Báb as the Promised One of Islám, and applied by Him to Bahá’u’lláh.

**Bayán** Literally *exposition, explanation, lucidity, eloquence, utterance*: title given by the Báb to His Revelation, and to two of His Writings, one in Persian, the other in Arabic.

**Bayt** *House*.

**Baytu’l-‘Adl-i-A’zam** *The Supreme House of Justice*: a title of the Universal House of Justice.

**BE** *Bahá’í Era*: denotes the Badí’ calendar, reckoned from the year of the Báb’s declaration of His Mission in 1844.

**Big** Literally *lord, prince; governor, bey*: placed after the given name, **Big** was used as a courtesy title for middle-ranking officials. (See **Khán**)

**Bishárát** *Glad-Tidings*: title of one of the Tablets of Bahá’u’lláh revealed after the **Kitáb-i-Aqdas**.

**Bismilláhi’r-Raḥmání’r-Raḥím** *In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful*: invocation prefixed to all but the ninth súrih of the Qur’án, and composed (in Arabic) of nineteen letters.

**Caliph** *vicar, deputy*: successor of the Prophet Muḥammad, supreme civil and spiritual head of the Islamic world, a title claimed by successive dynasties.

**Caravanserai, -sera, -sary** (See **Khán**)

**Dárúghih** *High constable*.

**Darvish** (Religious) *mendicant, dervish, Muslim mystic*. (See **Şúfí**)

**Dawlih** *State, government*.

**Dayyán** Literally *conqueror, ruler; Judge* (an epithet of the Godhead): title conferred by the Báb on Mírzá Asadu’lláh, learned divine of Khuy.

**Dhabíh** Literally *slain, sacrificed, offered up*: Designation of Áqá Siyyid Ismá’íl-i-Zavári’í, enraptured follower of Bahá’u’lláh. Title given by Bahá’u’lláh to Ḥájí Muḥammad Ismá’íl-i-Káshání, ardent early teacher of the Cause.

**Dhi’b** *The Wolf*: appellation applied by Bahá’u’lláh to Shaykh Muḥammad-Báqir who, together with Mír Muḥammad-Ḥusayn (the **Raqshá**), precipitated the deaths of the King and Beloved of Martyrs, and instigated the martyrdom of many other Bahá’ís, particularly in Işfahán and Yazd. (See **Maḥbúbu’s-Shuhadá**; **Sultánu’s-Shuhadá**)

**Dhikr** *Mention, remembering; remembrance of God; praise and thanksgiving; recital of the names of God, religious exercise or ceremony; The Qur’án, The Word of God*. (Plural: **Adhkár**; see **Mashriqu’l-Adhkár**)

**Dhi’l-Ḥijjih** Twelfth month of the Muslim lunar calendar.

**Dhi’l-Qa’dih** Eleventh month of the Muslim lunar calendar.

**el-Abhá** (See **al-Abhá**)

**Farmán** *Order, command, firman, edict, royal decree*.

**Farrásh** *Footman, lictor, attendant*. **Farrásh-**

- Báshí** The head-farrásh.
- Farsakh** Unit of measurement, approximately 3–4 miles or nearly 5.5 kilometres.
- Fátimih** Daughter of the Prophet, wife of the Imám ‘Alí, and mother of Imám Ḥusayn.
- Fatvá** A legal pronouncement or decree by a Muslim muftí.
- Firdaws** *Garden; Paradise.*
- Firmán** (See **Farmán**)
- Ghuṣn** Literally *Branch*: son or male descendant of Bahá’u’lláh. (Plural: **Aghṣán**)
- Ghuṣn-i-A’zam** *The Most Great Branch*: title conferred by Bahá’u’lláh on ‘Abdu’l-Bahá.
- Ghusn-i-Aṭhar** *The Purest Branch*: title conferred by Bahá’u’lláh on Mírzá Mihdí, brother of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá who died in the Most Great Prison in ‘Akká.
- Há’** The thirty-first letter of the Persian alphabet, with a numerical value of five. **Ayyám-i-Há’** Literally *The days of Há’*: the Intercalary Days, so named by Bahá’u’lláh in the *Kitáb-i-Aqdas*, where He also ordained that they should immediately precede the month of ‘Alá’, the month of fasting which closes the Bahá’í year. Every fourth year the number of the Intercalary Days is raised from four to five to accommodate the extra day of the leap year.
- Ḥadíth** Literally *report, account; Prophetic Tradition*. The whole body of the sacred tradition of the Muslims is called the **Ḥadíth**. (Plural: **Aḥadíth**)
- Ḥaḍrat** Literally *presence*. Placed before a name, in the form of *Ḥaḍrat-i- —*, the word is a courtesy title signifying ‘His Majesty’, ‘His Holiness’.
- Ḥaḍrat-i-A’lá** *His Holiness, The Most Exalted One*: a title of the Báb.
- Hájí** A Muslim pilgrim (**Hájj**) who has performed the pilgrimage to Mecca.
- Haram** *Sanctuary, sacred precinct or court*. (See **Hill**)
- Haram-i-Aqdas** *The Most Holy Court*: a designation given by the Guardian to the north-western quadrant of the garden surrounding the Shrine of Bahá’u’lláh.
- Hawdaj** *Howdah*: a litter carried by a camel, mule, horse or elephant for travelling purposes.
- Ḥazíratu’l-Quds** *The Sacred Fold*: official title designating headquarters of Bahá’í administrative activity in a particular country or region.
- Hijrat, Hijra(h)** Literally *Emigration; Hegira*: the date of Muḥammad’s flight from Mecca to Medina in CE 622: the basis of Islamic chronology.
- Hill** Non-sacred ground, an antonym of **Haram**.
- Howdah** (See **Hawdaj**)
- Hujjat** Literally *proof, argument, reason*: title of Mullá Muḥammad-‘Alí-i-Zanjání, hero of the Zanján upheaval.
- Huqúqu’lláh** *Right of God*: payment by the believers, instituted in the *Kitáb-i-Aqdas*.
- Ḥusayn** The third Imám, second son of ‘Alí and Fátimih, martyred on the plains of Karbilá on 10 Muḥarram AH 61 (CE 680).
- Ḥusayniyyih** A place where the martyrdom of the Imám Ḥusayn is mourned, or where Muslim passion-plays may be presented. The term is the designation that was given to Bahá’u’lláh’s Most Great House in Baghdád after its forcible occupation by the Shí’ah community.
- i-** Sound inserted in pronunciation (though not represented in Persian script) at the end of a word to indicate that the following word stands in a possessive or adjectival relation to it.
- Ibn** *Son*.
- Íl** *Clan, tribe*.
- ‘Ilm** *Knowledge*: twelfth month of the Badí’ calendar.
- Imám** *Head, chief, leader*. (1) Muslim cleric who leads the congregation in prayer. (See **Imám-Jum’ih**) (2) Title applied by the **Shi’ya’** (Shi’ahs) [singular **Shí’ah**] to each of the twelve successors of Muḥammad in the line of ‘Alí. (See **‘Alí**; **Ḥusayn**)
- Imám-Jum’ih** Muslim clergyman who performs the Friday prayers, the leading imám in a town or city; chief of the mullas [‘ulamá’], who recites the Friday prayers for the sovereign.
- Imám-Zádih** Descendant of an Imám or his shrine.
- In shá’a’lláh** *If God wills*.
- Íqán** Literally *Certitude*: title of Bahá’u’lláh’s Epistle to Hájí Mírzá Siyyid Muḥammad, a maternal uncle of the Báb.
- Ishráqát** *Splendours*: title of one of the Tablets of Bahá’u’lláh revealed after the *Kitáb-i-Aqdas*.

**Ism** *Name*. (Plural: **Asmá'**)

**Ism-i-A'ẓam** *The Greatest Name*.

**Ismu'lláh** Literally *The Name of God*: title bestowed by Bahá'u'lláh on a number of believers.

**Isráfíl** Angel who sounds the trumpet on the Day of Judgement.

**'Izzat** *Might*: tenth month of the Badí' calendar.

**Jabal** *Mountain*. **Jabal-i-Básit** *The Open Mountain*, **Jabal-i-Shadíd** *The Grievous Mountain*: the Báb's allusions to the fortress of Máh-Kú and the castle of Chihríq respectively.

**Jáhiliyyih** *The Age of Ignorance*: denotes the state of paganism prevailing in Arabia before the advent of Muḥammad.

**Jalál** *Glory*: second month of the Badí' calendar.

**Jamádíyu'l-Avval** Fifth month of the Muslim lunar calendar.

**Jamádíyu'th-Thání** Sixth month of the Muslim lunar calendar.

**Jamál** *Beauty*: third month of the Badí' calendar.

**Jamál-i-Mubárak** Literally *The Blessed Beauty*: a title of Bahá'u'lláh.

**Jihád** Literally *striving, endeavour; crusade; holy war*, enjoined in the Qur'án, abrogated by Bahá'u'lláh.

**Jináb** Literally *threshold*: placed before a name, in the form **Jináb-i-** —, the word is a courtesy title signifying 'His Excellency', 'His Honour'.

**Jubbih** An outer coat or cloak.

**Ka'bih** *The Kaaba*: ancient shrine at Mecca, chosen by Muḥammad to be the centre of pilgrimage for Muslims. The most holy shrine in Islám and **Qiblih** of the Muslim world.

**Kabír** Literally *great, big, old*. (See **Akbar**)

**Kad-Khudá** Chief of a ward or parish in a town; headman of a village.

**Kalántar** *Mayor*.

**Kalím** *Speaker, interlocutor*. Title given by Bahá'u'lláh to His faithful brother, Mírzá Músá. (See **Kalímu'lláh**)

**Kalimát** *Words*: seventh month of the Badí' calendar.

**Kalímu'lláh** *He Who Conversed With God*: title of Moses, given to Him in the Islamic Dispensation.

**Kamál** *Perfection*: eighth month of the Badí' calendar.

**Karbilá'í** Style of a Muslim who has performed the pilgrimage to Karbilá; as a title it is placed before the given name.

**Kawthar** Literally plentiful, abundant, sweet (potion): a river in Paradise, whence all other rivers derive their source.

**Khádímu'lláh** *Servant of God*: title of Mírzá Áqá Ján, amanuensis of Bahá'u'lláh.

**Khalífih** (See **Caliph**)

**Khalíl** *Friend*: (1) (See **Khalílu'lláh**) (2) Title of Hájí Muḥammad-Ibráhím-i-Qazvíní, conferred on him by the Báb.

**Khalílu'lláh** *Friend of God*: title given to Abraham in the Qur'án.

**Khán** (1) Prince, lord, nobleman, chieftain. Originally used as a courtesy title for officers and high-ranking officials, **Khán** came to denote—placed after a given name—simply 'gentleman'. (See **Big**) (2) Exchange, market; inn, caravanserai: an inn constructed around a central court where caravans (trains of pack animals) may rest for the night.

**Khánum** *Lady; wife*. Placed after a woman's given name, **Khánum** is a courtesy title meaning 'gentlewoman' comparable with **Khán**.

**Khiḍr** *The Green One*: a prophet, companion of Moses according to Islamic tradition, associated with the unnamed personage mentioned in Qur'án 18:60–82; believed to have drunk from the fountain of life and to be its custodian, he symbolizes the true guide.

**Khuṭbih** Sermon delivered in the mosques on Fridays at noon by the imám.

Kiblah (See **Qiblih**)

**Kitáb** *Book*.

**Kitáb-i-Aqdas** *The Most Holy Book*: title of Bahá'u'lláh's Book of Laws and Ordinances.

**Kitáb-i-Íqán** (See **Íqán**)

**Koran** (See **Qur'án**)

**Kuláh** The Persian lambskin hat worn by government employees and civilians.

**Kull-i-Shay'** Literally *all things*: the term, whose numerical value is 361, signifies 19 cycles of 19 years in the Badí' calendar.

**Lawḥ** Literally *slate, sheet, table; Tablet*. (Plural: **Alvah**)

**Madínih** (See **Medina**)



**Madrisih** *Seminary, school, religious college.*

**Mahbúbu'sh-Shuhadá** *Beloved of Martyrs:* title conferred by Bahá'u'lláh on Mírzá Muḥammad-Ḥusayn, martyred in Iṣfahán together with his brother, the Sulṭánu'sh-Shuhadá. (See **Dhi'b**)

**Mahdí** (See **Mihdí**)

**Makkih** (See **Mecca**)

**Man-Yuzhiruhu'lláh** *He Whom God Will Make Manifest:* title given by the Báb to the Promised One.

**Marhabá** *Welcome! Bravo! Well done!*

**Masá'il** *Questions:* fifteenth month of the Badí' calendar.

**Mashhadí** Style of a Muslim who has performed the pilgrimage to Mashhad; as a title it is placed before the given name.

**Mashíyyat** *Will:* eleventh month of the Badí' calendar.

**Mashriqu'l-Adhkár** Literally *The Dawning-place of the Praise of God:* title designating a Bahá'í House of Worship.

**Masjid** *Mosque:* a Muslim place of worship.

**Maydán** A square or open place.

**Mecca** Birthplace of the Prophet Muḥammad and scene of the early, difficult years of His ministry before His emigration to Medina. (See **Hijrat**; **Ka'bih**)

**Medina** The 'City of the Prophet', Muḥammad's adoptive home after His flight from Mecca, and scene of the latter years of His ministry, during which His Faith spread throughout the Arabian Peninsula, and its social teachings were promulgated. (See **Hijrat**)

**Mihdí** Literally *directed, guided; one who is rightly guided;* The **Mahdí:** a designation of the Twelfth Imám; title of the Manifestation expected by Islám.

**Mihráb** A niche in the wall of a mosque indicating the direction of Mecca, before which the imám stands when leading the congregation in prayer; the most important part of a mosque.

**Mír** A contraction of **amír**, used, when prefixed to a name, to denote descent from the House of the Prophet. (See **Siyyid**)

**Mi'ráj** *The Ascent:* Muḥammad's mystic vision of the 'night journey' in which He ascended into heaven.

**Mírzá** A contraction of *amír-zádih*, meaning 'son of an **amír**'. When affixed to a name it signifies 'Prince'; when prefixed, it either denotes a clerk, secretary, scribe or scholar, or conveys a merely honorific sense: *Mister*.

**Mishkín-Qalam** Literally *the musk-scented pen:* title applied to Mírzá Ḥusayn-i-Iṣfahání, a distinguished Bahá'í calligraphist.

**Mu'adhdhin** *Muezzin:* the one who sounds the **adhán**, the Muslim call to prayer.

**Mubárah** *Blessed.* (See **Jamál-i-Mubárah**)

**Muftí** Expounder of Muslim law; gives a fatvá or sentence on a point of religious jurisprudence.

**Muḥarram** First month of the Muslim lunar calendar, the first ten days of which are observed by the Shi'ahs as part of their mourning period for the Imám Ḥusayn, whose martyrdom occurred on the tenth day, 'Áshúrá.

**Mujtahid** Muslim doctor-of-law. Most of the mujtahids of Írán have received their diplomas from the most eminent jurists of Karbilá and Najaf.

**Mulk** *Dominion:* eighteenth month of the Badí' calendar.

**Mullá** Muslim trained in theology and Islamic jurisprudence; theologian, priest. Mawálí or '**ulamá'** may be used as plurals.

**Mustagháth** *He Who Is Invoked (for Help), God:* term used by the Báb in reference to the advent of Bahá'u'lláh on the Day of the Latter Resurrection.

**Mutaṣarrif** *Governor:* lower in rank than a **válí**.

**Nabíl** *Learned, noble:* title bestowed by Bahá'u'lláh on a number of the believers, most prominent among whom were Mullá Muḥammad-i-Zarandí, author of *The Dawn-Breakers* (Nabíl-i-A'ẓam), and Mullá Muḥammad-i-Qá'iní (Nabíl-i-Akbar).

**Navváb** An honorific implying *Grace, Highness:* title of Ásíyih **Khánum**, wife of Bahá'u'lláh and mother of 'Abdu'l-Bahá.

**Naw-Rúz** Literally *New Day:* Bahá'í New Year's Day, date of the vernal equinox; according to the Persian calendar, the day on which the sun enters Aries.

**Nuqṭih** *Point.*

**Nuqṭiy-i-Úlá** *The Primal Point:* a title of the Báb.

**Núr** *Light:* fifth month of the Badí' calendar.

**Pahlaván** *Athlete, champion:* term applied

to brave and muscular men.

**Páshá** Honorary title formerly given to a Turkish officer of high rank such as military commander or provincial governor.

**Písh-Kísh** *Present, tip, douceur.*

**Qádí** Muslim judge—civil, criminal, or ecclesiastic.

**Qá'im** *He Who Shall Arise*: title designating the Promised One of Islám.

**Qalam** *Pen.*

**Qalam-i-A'lá** *The Pen of the Most High*: a designation of Bahá'u'lláh.

**Qalyán** *Narghile, hookah, hubble-bubble pipe.* Oriental pipe in which the smoke is drawn through water in a vase by means of a long tube.

**Qawl** *Speech*: fourteenth month of the Badí' calendar.

**Qayyúmu'l-Asmá'** (See **Aḥsanu'l-Qiṣaṣ**)

**Qiblih** Literally *that which faces one; prayer-direction; point of adoration*: the focus to which the faithful turn in prayer. The Qiblih for Muslims is the **Ka'bih** in Mecca; for Bahá'ís, the Most Holy Tomb of Bahá'u'lláh at Bahjí: 'the Heart and Qiblih of the Bahá'í world'.

**Quddús** Literally *Pure, Holy, Blessed*: title conferred by Bahá'u'lláh on Mullá Muḥammad-'Alí-i-Bárfurúshí, last of the eighteen Letters of the Living at the Conference of Badašht.

**Qudrat** *Power*: thirteenth month of the Badí' calendar.

**Qur'án** *The Reading; The Recitation; That Which Ought To Be Read.* The Book revealed to Muḥammad: The Koran, Holy Book of the Muslims.

**Qurbán** *Sacrifice.*

**Qurratu'l-'Ayn** Literally *Solace of the Eyes*: a term applied to an object of affection. (1) Title conferred upon **Táhirih** by Siyyid Kázim of Rasht. (2) Term used by the Báb in the *Qayyúmu'l-Asmá'* to refer both to Bahá'u'lláh and to Himself.

**Ra'ís** *President, head, leader.* **Lawḥ-i-Ra'ís**: Tablet addressed by Bahá'u'lláh to 'Alí Páshá, the Ottoman Grand Vizier.

**Rabb-i-A'lá** *Exalted Lord*: one of the designations of the Báb.

**Rabí'u'l-Avval** Third month of the Muslim lunar calendar.

**Rabí'u'th-Thání** Fourth month of the Muslim lunar calendar.

**Raḥmat** *Mercy*: sixth month of the Badí' calendar.

**Rajab** Seventh month of the Muslim lunar calendar.

**Ramaḍán** Ninth month of the Muslim lunar calendar in which the Fast is observed.

**Raqshá** *The She-Serpent*: appellation applied by Bahá'u'lláh to Mír Muḥammad-Ḥusayn, the Imám-Jum'ih of Iṣfahán, accomplice of **Shaykh** Muḥammad-Báqir. (See **Dhi'b**)

**Riḍván** Literally *good-pleasure, favour, acceptance; garden, Paradise*; name of the custodian of Paradise. The holiest and most significant of all Bahá'í festivals, commemorating Bahá'u'lláh's Declaration of His Mission to His companions in 1863, a twelve-day period extending from 21 April to 2 May, and celebrated annually.

**Šád** The seventeenth letter of the Persian alphabet. **Arḍ-i-Šád** Literally *Land of Šád*: Iṣfahán.

**Sadratu'l-Muntahá** [**Sidratu'l-Muntahá**] *The Divine Lote Tree, The Tree beyond which there is no passing*: symbolic of the Manifestation of God. (See **Sidrih**)

**Šadr-i-A'zam** *Grand Vizier, Prime Minister.*

**Šafar** Second month of the Muslim lunar calendar.

**Šāhibu'z-Zamán** *Lord of the Age*: one of the titles of the promised **Qá'im**. **Yá Šāhibu'z-Zamán!** Rallying-cry of the early Bábís.

**Salám** *Peace, salutation.* **Salámun 'Alaykum** *Peace be with you!* a greeting among Muslims. **Va's-Salám** *And peace (be with you)*: formula used to conclude an epistle or dissertation, indicating that the author has nothing further to say.

**Salsabíl** *Pure, limpid water.* A fountain in Paradise.

**Samandar** Literally *salamander; phoenix*. A mythical creature indestructible by fire. Title bestowed by Bahá'u'lláh on **Shaykh** Názim-i-Samandar of Qazvín.

**Sarkár-Áqá** Literally *The Honourable Master*. A designation of 'Abdu'l-Bahá.

**Ša'bán** Eighth month of the Muslim lunar calendar.

**Šáh** *King*, especially of Írán.

**Šáh-Bahrám** World Saviour and Promised One of the Zoroastrians, identified by Bahá'ís with Bahá'u'lláh.

**Shahíd** *Martyr*. (Plural: **Shuhadá**; see **Maḥbúbu'sh-Shuhadá**; **Siyyidu'sh-Shuhadá**; **Sultánu'sh-Shuhadá**)

**Sharaf** *Honour*: sixteenth month of the Badí' calendar.

**Sharí'at, Sharí'ah** Literally *path, way; custom, law*. Muslim canonical law.

**Shavvál** Tenth month of the Muslim lunar calendar.

**Shaykh** *Venerable old man; tribal or village chief, patriarch, sheik; learned man, elder, professor; clerical dignitary, superior of dervish order*. (See **Shaykhu'l-Islám**)

**Shaykhí** (Follower) of the school founded by **Shaykh** Aḥmad-i-Aḥsá'í. Among his doctrines, in addition to the imminent dual Advent, was that the Prophet Muḥammad's material body did not ascend to heaven on the night of the **Mi'ráj**.

**Shaykhu'l-Islám** *High Priest, Grand Muftí*: highest rank in the Muslim religious hierarchy; also, title of the head of a religious court, appointed to every large city by the **Sháh**.

**Shí'ah, Shí'ih** Literally *faction, party, sect*: partisans of 'Alí and of his descendants as the sole lawful 'Vicars of the Prophet'. The Shí'ahs [pl. **Shiya'**] reject the first three Caliphs, believing that the successorship in Islám belonged by divine right to 'Alí (first Imám and fourth Caliph) and to his descendants. Originally, the successorship was the vital point of difference, and Islám was divided because Muḥammad's (albeit verbal) appointment of 'Alí was disregarded. (See **Sunnah; Imám**)

**Shí'í, Shí'ite** Member of the **Shí'ah** (or Party) of 'Alí; Muslim of the **Shí'ah** branch of Islám.

**Shín** The sixteenth letter of the Persian alphabet. **Arḍ-i-Shín** Literally Land of **Shín**: **Shíráz**.

**Sidrih** *Lote tree*. (See **Sadratu'l-Muntahá**)

**Sirát** Literally *path, way; The Way of God; The Religion of God; 'The Bridge' leading to heaven*. Denotes the True Faith of God.

**Sirr** *Secret, mystery*. **Arḍ-i-Sirr** Literally *The Land of Mystery*: Adrianople.

**Sirru'lláh** *The Mystery of God*: a designation of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, conferred on Him by Bahá'u'lláh.

**Síyáh-Chál** *Black Pit*: the subterranean dungeon in Tíhrán to which Bahá'u'lláh was consigned in August 1852. Here, chained in darkness three flights of stairs underground, in the company of some 150 thieves and assassins, He received the first intimations of His world Mission; regarded by Bahá'ís as the holiest place in Írán's capital.

**Siyyid** Literally *chief, lord, prince*: descendant of the Prophet Muḥammad.

**Siyyidu'sh-Shuhadá** *Prince of Martyrs*: title of the Imám Ḥusayn.

**Súfí** An exponent of Sufism, a Muslim mystic or **darvish**.

**Sultán** *Sovereignty*: (1) Seventeenth month of the Badí' calendar. (2) King, sovereign, monarch, sultán.

**Sultánu'sh-Shuhadá** *King of Martyrs*: title conferred by Bahá'u'lláh on Mírzá Muḥammad-Ḥasan, martyred brother of the **Maḥbábu'sh-Shuhadá**.

**Sunnah** Literally *way, custom, practice; The Way of the Prophet* as reported in the Ḥadíth. Designates by far the largest sect of Islám, which includes the four so-called orthodox sects: Hanbalites, Hanafites, Malikites and Shafiites. Sunnis accept the Caliphs as legitimate, believing that the position of Caliph is elective. (See **Shí'ah; Caliph**.)

**Sunni, Sunnite** Muslim of the **Sunnah** branch of Islám.

**Súrih** Name of a chapter of the Qur'án; used by the Báb and Bahá'u'lláh in the titles of some of Their Writings.

**Súriy-i-Mulúk** *Súrih of the Kings*. Tablet revealed by Bahá'u'lláh while in Adrianople.

**Ṭá'** The nineteenth letter of the Persian alphabet, with a numerical value of nine. **Arḍ-i-Ṭá'** Literally *Land of Ṭá'*: Tíhrán.

**Ṭáhirih** Literally *The Pure One*: title conferred on Zarrín-Ṭáj by Bahá'u'lláh at the Conference of Badasht.

**Ṭáj** Literally *crown*. Tall felt head-dress adopted by Bahá'u'lláh in 1863, on the day of His departure from His Most Holy House in Baghdád.

**Tajalliyát** *Effulgences*: title of one of the Tablets of Bahá'u'lláh revealed after the *Kitáb-i-Aqdas*.

**Takyih** *Religious house, monastery; hostel for pilgrims; religious theatre* for presenting

Muslim passion-plays; place at which the martyrdom of Ḥusayn is commemorated. (See **Ḥusaynīyyih**)

**Ṭarázát** *Ornaments*: title of one of the Tablets of Bahá'u'lláh revealed after the *Kitáb-i-Aqdas*.

**Túmán** Discontinued unit of Iranian currency.

**‘Ulamá’** [Pers. **‘Ulamá**] Literally *learned men, scholars; clerical authorities, theologians, divines*: the Muslim religious hierarchy. (singular: **‘Álim**)

**Umm** *Mother*.

**‘Urvatu’l-Vuṭḥqá** *The Sure Handle, Firm Cord*: a Qur’anic term, used in the Bahá’í Writings to symbolize the Covenant and Testament.

**Ustád** *Teacher, professor; mechanic, artisan, craftsman*.

**Vahíd** *Single, unique, peerless*: title of Siyyid Yaḥyáy-i-Dárábí, hero of the Nayríz upheaval.

**Váḥid** Literally *unity; one, single, unique; The One, Indivisible God*. The word, whose numerical value is nineteen, denotes: (1) A ‘unity’ or section of the Bayán. The Persian Bayán consists of nine Vahids [plural **Wuḥidún**] of nineteen chapters each, except the last, which has only ten chapters. (2) The eighteen Letters of the Living (the Báb’s first disciples) and the Báb Himself, who together constitute the first Váḥid of the Bábí Dispensation. (3) Each cycle of nineteen years in the Badí’ calendar. (See **Kull-i-Shay’**)

**Valí** [Ar. **Walíy**] *Guardian*.

**Válí** *Governor* (of a province).

**Válí-‘Ahd** *Crown prince, heir to the throne*. **Varaqih** *Leaf*; often used metaphorically in the Bahá’í Writings to refer to a woman.

**Varaqiy-i-‘Ulyá** Literally *The Most Exalted Leaf; The Greatest Holy Leaf*: title of Bahá’íyyih (or Bahíyyih, Ar. Bahiyyah or Bahíyah) **Khánum**, saintly daughter of Bahá'u'lláh and ‘the outstanding heroine of the Bahá’í Dispensation’.

**Varqá** *Bird, nightingale; The Heavenly Dove*.

**Va’s-Salám** (See **Salám**)

**Vazír** *Vizír, minister (of state), vizier*. **Vazír-i-A‘ẓam**: *Grand Vizier, Prime Minister*.

**Viláyat** *Guardianship*.

**Waqf** Literally *bequeathing (for charitable uses); pious bequest, religious endowment, estate held in mortmain*. Denotes landed property endowed to the Muslim community; in Írán, the estate of the expected Imám.

**Yá** Vocative particle meaning ‘O’. (See **Bahá’u’l-Abhá; Şaḥibu’z-Zamán**)

**Zádih** *Born; offspring, son*. Used as a suffix after a proper name it means ‘Son of —’. (See **Imám-Zádih; Mírzá**)

**Zarrín-Táj** Literally *Crown of Gold*: title by which Fátimih, daughter of Mullá Şáliḥ-i-Baraqqání of Qazvín—better known as **Ṭáhirih**—was designated by her family and kindred.

**Zawrá’** A term signifying Baghdád.

**Zamzam** Literally *copious (water)*: sacred well within the precincts of the Great Mosque in Mecca. Though salty, its water is much esteemed for pious uses, such as ablutions, and drinking after a fast.

**Zaynu’l-Muqarrabín** Literally *Ornament of the Near (or Favoured) Ones*. Title bestowed by Bahá'u'lláh on Mullá Zaynu’l-‘Ábidín of Najaf-Ábád, faithful apostle and trusted scribe.