

# 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	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 <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
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	Aghşán	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	Balúchistán	<u>Dhabíh</u>
Ashraf	Bandar-‘Abbás	<u>Dhi</u> ’b
‘Áshúra	Baní-Háshim	<u>Dhikr</u>
Aşl-i-Kullu’l- <u>Khayr</u>	Baqá	<u>Dhi</u> ’l- <u>Hijjih</u> , <u>Dhu</u> ’l- <u>Hijjih</u>
Asmá’	Báqir	<u>Dhi</u> ’l-Qa‘dih, <u>Dhu</u> ’l-Qa‘dih
‘Atťár	Baqíyyatu’lláh	Điyá’íyyih
Ayyám	Bárfurúsh	Điyá’u’lláh
Ayyám-i-Há	Bayán	Dunyá
‘Ayn	Bayt	
Azal	Baytu’l-‘Adl-i-A‘zam	Fađl
A‘zam	Big	Fatḥ
‘Azamat	<u>Bishárát</u>	Fará’id
‘Azím	Bismi’lláh	Farmán
‘Azíz	Bismi’lláhi’r-Raḥmáni’r-Raḥím	Farrásh, Farrásh-Báshí
	Bu <u>kh</u> ará	Fárs
Bá	Burhán	Farsa <u>kh</u>
Báb	Burújird	Fatḥ-‘Alí
Bábí	Búshihr	Fáṭimih
Bábu’l-Báb	Bu <u>shrú</u> ’í	Fatvá
Badas <u>ht</u>	Bu <u>shrú</u> yih	Firdaws
Badí‘		Firdawsí
Badí‘u’lláh	<u>Chihríq</u>	Fu’ád
Bag <u>hd</u> adí		
Bagum	Dahají	Ganjíh
Bahá	Dalá’il-i-Sab‘ih	<u>Ghulám</u>
Bahá’í	Damm	<u>Ghulámu</u> ’l- <u>Khuld</u>
Bahá’u’lláh	Darv <u>ish</u>	<u>Ghuşn</u>
Bahíyyih	Dawlat-Ábád	<u>Ghuşn</u> -i-Aṭḥar
Bahjí	Dawlih	<u>Ghuşn</u> -i-A‘zam

Gílán	Ḥúr-i-'Ujáb	Isráfíl
Gul	Ḥurí	'Izrá'il
Gulistán	Ḥuríyyih	'Izzat
Gurgín	Ḥurúfát	
	Ḥusayn	Jabal
Há	Ḥusayníyyih	Jabal-i-Básiṭ
Ḥabíb		Jabal-i- <u>Shadíd</u>
Hádí	'Ibád	Jáhiliyyih
Ḥadíth	Ibn	Jalál
Ḥaḍrat	Ibráhím	Jamádiyu'l-Avval
Ḥaḍrat-i-A'lá	Iláhí	Jamádiyu' <u>th</u> - <u>Thání</u>
Ḥáfiz	'Ilm	Jamál
Haft Pursish	Imám	Jamál-i-Mubáarak
Ḥájí	Imám-Jum'ih	Jamál-i-Qidam
Ḥájí Mírzá Áqásí	Imám-Zádih	Javád
Ḥajj	In <u>shá'</u> alláh	Javáhiru'l-Asrár
Hamadán	Íqán	Jazíriy-i- <u>Khaḍrá'</u>
Ḥaqq	'Iráqí	Jináb
Ḥaram	'Iráq-i-'Ajam	
Ḥaram-i-Aqdas	Iṣfahán	Kabír
Ḥasan	'I <u>shqábád</u>	Kad- <u>Khudá</u>
Hawdaj	I <u>shráqát</u>	Káf
Ḥaydar-'Alí	I <u>sh</u> tihárd	Kalántar
Haykal	Islám	Kalím
Ḥazíratu'l-Quds	Ism	Kalimát
Ḥikmat	Ism-i-A'zam	Kalímát-i-Firdawsíyyih
Ḥijáz	Ismá'ílíyyih	Kamál
Hijrat	Ismu'lláh	Karbilá
Ḥujjat	Ismu'lláhu'l-Aṣdaq	Karbilá'í
Ḥuququ'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> adījih	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 Sháhib	Muḥammad
<u>Kh</u> ániqayn	Maqám	Muḥammad-'Alí
<u>Kh</u> ánum	Maqṣúd	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	Muṣṭafá
Kitáb	Mashhadí	Mustagháth
Kitáb-i-'Ahd	Mashíyyat	Mutaṣarrif
Kitáb-i-Aqdas	Mashriqu'l-Adhkár	Muẓaffari'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'ẓam
Kull-i-Shay'	Maydán	Najaf
	Mázindarán	Najaf-Ábád
Lám	Mihdí, Mahdí	Náqiḍín

Náqús	Asmá'	Rúhu'lláh
Naşír	Qiblih	Ru'yá
Naşiri'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> - <u>Th</u> ání	Şáhib
	Raḥím	Şáhibu'z-Zamán
Pahlaván	Raḥmán	Şahífatu'l-Ḥaramayn
Pahlaví	Raḥmat	Şahífih
Parán	Ra'ís	Şahífiy-i- <u>Sh</u> aţţíyyih
Páshá	Rajab	Sa'id
	Ramaḍán	Salám
Qáđi	Raqshá	Şalát
Qádiyán	Rashh-i-'Amá	Şalát-i-Mayyit
Qá'im	Rasht	Salmán
Qalam	Rasúl	Salsabíl
Qalam-i-A'lá	Rawḥání, Rúḥání	Samandar
Qájár	Riḍá	Samarqand
Qaşídih	Riḍván	Sanandaj
Qaşídiy-i-Varqá'íyyih	Risálih	Sangsar
Qazvín	Risáliy-i-Madaníyyih	Sáqí
Qawl	Risáliy-i-Síyásíyyih	Sarkár-Áqá
Qayyúm	Rúḥ	Sarí
Qayyúm-i-Asmá', Qayyúmu'l-	Rúḥíyyih	Saysán

Sayyáh	Sultán	‘Urvatu’l-Vu <u>th</u> qá
<u>Sh</u> a‘bán	Sultán-Ábád	Ustád
<u>Sh</u> áh	Sultánu’ <u>sh</u> - <u>Sh</u> uhadá	‘U <u>th</u> mán
<u>Sh</u> áh-Bahrám	Sunnat, Sunnah	
<u>Sh</u> ahíd	Sunní	Vafá
<u>Sh</u> ahmírzád	Súrih	Vahíd
<u>Sh</u> ams	Súriy-i-Haykal, Súratu’l-	Váhid
<u>Sh</u> ams-i-Tabríz	Haykal	Vakíl
<u>Sh</u> araf	Ṭá	Vakílu’d-Dawlih
<u>Sh</u> arí‘ah, <u>Sh</u> arí‘at	Ṭabarsí	Valí
<u>Sh</u> avvál	Tabríz	Valí-‘Ahd
<u>Sh</u> aykh	Tafsír	Valíyy-i-Amru’lláh
<u>Sh</u> aykhí	Ṭáhirih	Varaqatu’l-Firdaws
<u>Sh</u> aykh-Ṭabarsí	Táj	Varaqih
<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> iráz	Taqí	Vazír, Vizír
<u>Sh</u> úshtar	Ṭarázát	Viláyat
Simnán	Tarbíyat	
Şirát	Tawhíd	Yá
Sirr	<u>Th</u> urayyá	Yá Bahá’u’l-Abhá
Sirru’lláh	Ṭibb	Yá Şáhibu’z-Zamán
Sistán	Ṭihrán	Yaḥyá
Siyáh- <u>Ch</u> ál	Túmán	Yazd
Siyyid	Turkistán	Yúsuf
Siyyidu’ <u>sh</u> - <u>Sh</u> uhadá		
Şúfí	‘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).