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Transliteration

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Transliteration

For transliteration from languages which use Arabic script the use of diacritics has been avoided in order to present the text of the journal in a uniform and uncluttered manner. A table of transliterated key terms – complete with diacritics and native script – has been included at the end of an article where it is necessary to avoid confusion.

Note: In some words and names of Persian origin, 'e' and 'o' have been used in lieu of 'i' and 'u' to conform to standard spellings.

TRANSLITERATION KEY:

Arab./Pers./ Urdu Letter	Roman Equivalent	Arab./Pers./ Urdu Letter	Roman Equivalent
ء	'	ش	sh
ا	a	ص	ṣ
ب	b	ض	ḍ
پ	p	ط	ṭ
ت	t	ظ	ẓ
ٹ	ṭ	ع	'
ٹھ	th	غ	gh
ج	j	ف	f
چ	ch	ق	q
ح	ḥ	ك	k
خ	kh	گ	g
د	d	ل	l
ڈ	ḍ	م	m
ذ	dh	ن	n
ر	r	ه	h
ڑ	ṛ	و	w
ز	z	ی	y
ژ	zh	ة	h or t
س	s		

Short Vowels	
اَ	a
اُ	u
اِ	i

Long Vowels	
آ or اِی	ā
اُو	ū
اِی	ī

Diphthongs	
اَو	aw
اِی	ay

NOTES:

The Definite Article: The Arabic definite article ‘*al*’ (always followed by a dash) is only capitalised at the beginning of a sentence, name, or heading, e.g. ‘Hasan al-Basri’ or ‘Al-Basri’. The definite article is never assimilated or abbreviated e.g. ‘*hujjatu-l islam*’, ‘*al-qur’an ul-karim*’, ‘*huruf ash-shamsiyyah*’, ‘*ar-rahmanir rahim*’, and ‘*bidayat ‘l-hikmah*’ are all incorrect. When a noun (*ma’wusuf*) is followed by an adjective (*sifah*), include the definite article ‘*al*’ before both, e.g. ‘*al-harakat al-jawhariyyah*’ not ‘*harakat al-jawhariyyah*’.

Construct phrases: Only the second word of the Arabic *idafah* takes ‘*al*’ e.g. ‘*salat al-fajr*’ not ‘*al-salat al-fajr*’. For Persian, the final *kasrah* of the word in the construct state (*muzaf*) is transliterated as ‘-i’ unless the word ends in a ‘y’, e.g. ‘*Bank-i Markazi-yi Iran*’ and ‘*Hawzih-i ‘Ilmiyyih-i Qum*’.

Patronymic particles: The patronymic particles ‘bint’ and ‘ibn’ should only be capitalised if at the beginning of a name i.e. ‘Ibn Sina’ is correct and so is ‘Ali ibn Sina’, but ‘Ali Ibn Sina’ is incorrect. *Kunyas* (e.g. Abu, Abi, Aba, Umm) are to be capitalized and never assimilated e.g. ‘Bintal Huda’ and ‘Abulqasim’ are incorrect. ‘Bin’ and ‘b.’ should not be used.

Naturalised words: Words that have been admitted into the English language should be transliterated according to their common spelling. For example, ‘Ayatollah’ not ‘*Ayat Allah*’ and ‘Shi’a’ not ‘*Shi’i*’.

Capitalisation: Transliterated words should be capitalised according to English convention, that is, at the beginning of sentences, in titles, and for names. However, when transliterating a sentence or phrase, capitalisation is not required.

Dashes: Where it is thought useful dashes may be used to indicate prefixes and suffixes, e.g. ‘*pish-namaz*’ and ‘*kitab-ha-yi dini*’ (in Persian) and ‘*li-takunnu*’ and ‘*bi-buyutibim*’ (in Arabic).

Inflexion: The inflexion of the end letter of a word is not usually indicated, e.g. ‘*qawl wa fi’l*’ not ‘*qawlun wa fi’lun*’. On occasions it is warranted, e.g. ‘*sami’tu al-adhan*’ not ‘*sami’t al-adhan*’ and ‘*bayya ala al-salah*’ not ‘*bayy ala al-salah*’.

Miscellaneous: In Farsi transliterate with ‘v’ rather than ‘w’, except for cases like ‘*khawajih*’. For Arabic when *ta marbutah* occurs in the middle of a phrase transliterate as ‘t’ rather than ‘h’, e.g. ‘*jazirat al-‘arab*’. Modern Turkish spellings should be used for Ottoman Turkish. For more information see our website.