

Construction of Fársí Names in the 1800s

Fársí (the Persian language) names in the 1800s were usually constructed with three main parts:

1. PREFIX	-	2. NAME	-	3. IDENTIFYING ATTRIBUTION
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1. PREFIX

Examples of common prefixes used are:

<i>Hájí</i>	means that the person has been on <i>Hajj</i> [pilgrimage to Mecca].
<i>Mírzá</i>	The word <i>Mírzá</i> is a contraction of the word <i>Amír-Zádih</i> , which means son of an <i>Amír</i> [<i>amír</i> means head of a group/region]. Its location in the name changes its meaning. When prefixed to a name, it simply means Mr. This is its most common usage. However, when <i>Mírzá</i> is affixed to a name [that is as an Identifying Attribution], it signifies prince.
<i>Mullá</i>	is used as an honorific title for a member of the Islamic clergy [religious leaders]. It signifies a person who has higher education in Islamic theology and <i>sharíá</i> law. <i>'ulamá</i> is the plural of the word <i>mullá</i> .
<i>Shaykh</i>	signifies that the person is a head of a group or a region. It is also sometimes just used as an honorific title.
<i>Siyid</i>	signifies that the person is a descendant of the Prophet Muhammad.

Sometimes more than one prefix is used, for example *Hájí Siyyid* meaning this person has been on pilgrimage to Mecca and is also a descendant of the Prophet Muhammad.

2. NAME

Shí'a names often are constructs from names of the Prophet Muhammad, the Imáms or their family members.

For names of the Imáms see [Resources: Brief Background on *Shí'a* Islam.](#)

3. IDENTIFYING ATTRIBUTION

In the absence of surnames, an identifying attribution would be added to the name at the end. This would usually be a reference to one of the following:

- the person's place of birth
- the person's occupation
- or to some other aspect of the person's life

In Farsí, this attribution is usually done by adding *-i* which denotes "of" or "from". For example, "Muhammad from Núr" is written as *Muhammad-i-Núrí*.

The *-i* added after a location's name is part of the genitive inflection, for example a person from Shíráz is referred to as a Shírází; a person from Qazvín is referred to as a Qazvíní; a person from Tabríz is referred to as a Tabrízí; a person from Zarand is referred to as a Zarandí and so forth.

Other attributions such as occupation are sometimes used. For example, "Muhammad the teacher" is written as *Muhammad-i-Mu'allim* [*mu'allim* means teacher].

Note: In Arabic *ibn* or *bin* (both mean "son of") are often used, for example '*Alí-ibn-Abí Talib* means "Alí son of Abí Talib".

Transliteration

Transliteration means the spelling of a non-English word into English with diacriticals to help in the pronunciation. In the Glimmerings text, in most instances, we have used the transliteration system as used in the original English *Dawn-Breakers*.

Fársí has absorbed many Arabic words. However, in Fársí the Arabic words are pronounced slightly differently. This affects the way the word is transliterated. Below are some examples of this:

Arabic form	Fársí form	Meaning
<i>súra</i> 🗣️	<i>súrih</i> 🗣️	A chapter (of the Qur'án)
<i>madrasa</i> 🗣️	<i>madrisih</i> 🗣️	A religious school
<i>Fátima</i> 🗣️	<i>Fátimih</i> 🗣️	Prophet Muhammad's daughter's name

The original English *Dawn-Breakers* uses the Fársí transliteration of the Arabic words, and in most instances, we have kept that form in the Glimmerings notes.

It should also be noted that the transliteration system commonly used nowadays is different from that used in the original English *Dawn-Breakers*. For example:

In original Dawn-Breakers	Today's transliteration system
<u>Sh</u> íráz 🗣️	Shīrāz
Bárfurú <u>sh</u> í 🗣️	Bārfurūshī
'Alí 🗣️	'Alī

In the Glimmerings text we have in most instances used the transliteration system used in the original English *Dawn-Breakers*, except that the underlining of letters is not used in the web text.

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