

**A PRIMER OF PERSIAN,  
CONTAINING SELECTIONS FOR  
READING AND COMPOSITION  
WITH THE ELEMENTS OF SYNTAX**

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A Primer of Persian, Containing Selections for Reading and Composition with the Elements of Syntax by G. S. A. Ranking

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**G. S. A. RANKING**

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# A PRIMER OF PERSIAN

CONTAINING SELECTIONS FOR  
READING AND COMPOSITION  
WITH THE ELEMENTS OF SYNTAX

BY

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## INTRODUCTORY

THIS little work has been compiled in order to provide the beginner in Persian with a varied selection of passages for reading, and also for translation from English into Persian. Each passage has its own vocabulary attached to it, and in the selection from the *Gulistān* with which the Persian extracts begin, as also in the extracts from the *Shāh's Diary*, all vowel-points have been inserted, as the author knows by experience how much time is wasted by beginners in endeavouring to read unpointed Persian. Extracts from Persian newspapers have been introduced in order to familiarize the student with the journalistic style, as also a few copies of letters which will be useful as examples of correspondence as carried on among friends.

The ordinary course of instruction in Persian has been hitherto confined to so-called 'classical' Persian, whereas for practical purposes a knowledge of the language of to-day, modified as it is by foreign elements, is essential for a serviceable acquaintance with Persian. The few pages on Syntax will, it is hoped, supply sufficient material for the beginner in his early attempts at composition.

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*October, 1907.*

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## I. PHONOLOGY

THE Persians employ the Arabic alphabet, which has been in use among them since the Arab conquest (A. D. 641-651). This alphabet consists of thirty-two letters, which are connected from right to left in forming words. Each letter is subject to slight modification of form according to its position in the word. If the subjoined examples are carefully studied there will be little difficulty in recognizing the various forms of the letters.

The student is requested to read the remarks which follow the alphabetical tables during his study of the alphabet.

With regard to pronunciation it should be borne in mind that in the transliteration adopted in this work the equivalents of the vowels employed are as follow:—

*a* has a sound between a short *u* and a short *e*: for example, the word *باس* *bas* will be something between the English *bus* and *bess*.

*u* has the sound of the *u* in the English words *bull*, *full*.

*i* has the sound of the *i* in *pistol*.

The corresponding long vowels are—

*ā*, which has the sound of *a* in *father*.

*ū*, which is to be sounded like the *u* in *June*.

*ī*, like the Italian *i*, or the *ee* in *beech*.

The diphthongs which occur are formed when either of the semi-vowels *و* *vāo* or *ی* *yā* is combined with the short *a* sound represented by the mark *fatḥa*. Thus,

*و* is to be pronounced between the sounds of *ou* in *mouse* and *o* in *hose*. Ex. *حوض* *hawz*, a reservoir.

*ی* has a sound between *ay* in *day* and *ie* in *die*. Ex. *می* *mai*, wine.

## ALPHABET

NAME OF LETTER	ISOLATED FORM	MEDIAL FORM	FINAL FORM	TRANSLITERATION	EXAMPLES		
					INITIAL	MEDIAL	FINAL
alif	* ا   آ	ا	ا	ʾ	آب <i>āb</i>	مال <i>māl</i>	خدا <i>khudā</i>
be	ب	ب	ب	b	بَس <i>bās</i>	آبَر <i>abr</i>	آب <i>āb</i>
pe	پ	پ	پ	p	پُل <i>pul</i>	سپَر <i>separ</i>	چاپ <i>chap</i>
te	ت	ت	ت	t	تَو <i>ta</i>	سِتَم <i>sitam</i>	دَسْت <i>dast</i>
se	ث	ث	ث	s	ثَبَات <i>tabāt</i>	مِثْل <i>mišl</i>	بَکْتِیَس <i>baktiys</i>
jūn	ج	ج	ج	j	جَفَّت <i>jaft</i>	عِجْم <i>'ajam</i>	کَج <i>kaj</i>
che	چ	چ	چ	ch	چَرَب <i>charab</i>	بَکْه <i>bakha</i>	خَرَج <i>kharej</i>
hā	ح	ح	ح	h	حُکْم <i>hukm</i>	مَکَل <i>maḥal</i>	صُلَح <i>ṣulḥ</i>
khe	خ	خ	خ	kh	خُدا <i>khudā</i>	لَکْه <i>lahē</i>	یَکْه <i>yakh</i>
dāl	* د	د	د	d	دَام <i>dām</i>	آدَم <i>ādām</i>	دَاد <i>dād</i>
zāl	* ذ	ذ	ذ	z	ذَوَق <i>zaug</i>	رَکِیل <i>ragīl</i>	کَاغَز <i>kāghaz</i>
re	* ر	ر	ر	r	رَأْس <i>ra's</i>	مَرَد <i>mard</i>	مَادَر <i>mādar</i>
ze	* ز	ز	ز	z	زَمَان <i>zamān</i>	غَزَال <i>ghazāl</i>	قَز <i>qaz</i>
zhe	* ز	ز	ز	zh	زَال <i>zhāla</i>	مَزْهَدَا <i>mazhda</i>	پَز <i>pazh</i>

sln	س	-	س	s	سلام	دشمن	کس
shin	ش	ش	ش	sh	شک	dushman	دشمن
sād	س	س	س	s	صلح	maṣ	قرض
zād	ض	ض	ض	z	تبیط	mazmūn	قرض
toē	ط	ط	ط	t	یلا	maṣṭab	بساط
zoē	ظ	ظ	ظ	z	ظفر	'aṣim	حظ
'ain	ع	ع	ع	'	علم	fi	ربیع
ghain	غ	غ	غ	gh	شتم	maghs	دریغ
fe	ف	ف	ف	f	فال	ḡar	لاف
qāf	ق	ق	ق	q	قبر	baḡar	دلق
kāf	ک	ک	ک	k	کس	maḡar	شک
gāf	گ	گ	گ	g	گیل	maḡas	رنگ
lām	ل	ل	ل	l	لون	baḡud	منزل
mīm	م	م	م	m	میم	sumūn	شتم
nūn	ن	ن	ن	n	نون	kanis	شمان
vāo	و	و	و	v, w or ū	وایر	maḡādd	عدو
ha	ه	ه	ه	h	هراس	miḡan	بنده
ya	ی	ی	ی	y or ī	یقین	mīl	داری