The following are the letters of the Arabic alphabet with their corresponding letters and signs used in this book:

It is the glottal stop which is like the Cockney pronunciation of

\[ tt \] in

butter,
bottle,
rotten, etc.

In this book, the sign of hamzah is not indicated at the beginning of a word.

A word commencing with a vowel in fact commences with a hamzah, e.g.

\[ \text{amīr} \ (\quad \text{?amīr}) \].
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Arabic Letter</th>
<th>English Pronunciation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ب</td>
<td>' as in book.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ث</td>
<td>t as t in cat but softer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ث</td>
<td>th as th in think.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ج</td>
<td>j as j in just.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ح</td>
<td>a voiceless guttural fricative.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>خ</td>
<td>kh similar to kh in the Scottish loch, or the German Buch, but unlike the European sound, it is guttural not velar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ِ</td>
<td>d as d in do, but softer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ذ</td>
<td>dh as th in that.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Its voiced counterpart is خ .

It is as ِ in hand, but stronger.
The Arabic Alphabet

Pronunciation & Phonetic Notation

- **R** as *r* in *run*.
- **Z** as *z* in *zoo*.
- **S** as *s* in *sun*, ✔
  never *s* as in *rose*, ❌
- **Š** as *š* in *she*.
- **Š** a velarized form of *s*.
- **D** a velarized interdental fricative.
  It is somewhat like *th* in *this*.
- **T** a velarized form of *t*.
- **Z** a velarized form of *ḏ* (*dh*).
- **G** a voiced guttural fricative. See َج.
  It has no approximate equivalent in English.
  It may be ignored at the beginning of a word as in ُعَاَرَ, and when it occurs after a vowel as in ُتَرَيْفَ, the vowel may be lengthened.
gh  a voiced form of  \( \mathfrak{C} \).
    \( G \) as in good may be substituted for it.

f  as  \( f \) in food.

q  a voiceless uvular stop.
    It is a strongly articulated \( k \).

k  as  \( k \) in book.

l  as  \( l \) in love.
    But in the word Allāh, it is velarized.

m  as  \( m \) in moon.

n  as  \( n \) in noon.

w  as  \( w \) in wall.
The Arabic Alphabet

Pronunciation & Phonetic Notation

**h**
as *h* in *hand.*

**y**
as *y* in *you.*

**ḥ**
called *the round tā,* it occurs only at the end of a word. It is pronounced *t* but changes to *ḥ* in the pausal form. *

* The pausal form of a word is the one it assumes when it happens to be the last word in a sentence, e.g.

**ḥadhiḥi makkatu, wa ana uthibbu makkah**
(This is Makkah and I love Makkah).

Note that in the non-pausal form, it is *makkat-u* and in the pausal form it is *makkah.*

The letter **ḥ** is basically **h** to which the two dots of **t** have been added to point to its dual pronunciation.

The roman character I use to represent this letter (*ḥ*) also combines *h* and *t.*
(b) The Vowels

The three short vowels of Arabic are:

- **fatḥah**: as *a* in *bat*.
- **kasrah**: as *i* in *bit*.
- **dammah**: as *u* in *put*.

The three long vowels of Arabic are:

- following a letter carrying a **fatḥah**: *ā* as *a* in *father*.
- following a letter carrying a **kasrah**: *ī* as *i* in *machine*.
- following a letter carrying a **dammah**: *ū* as *u* in *rule*.

(c) The Diphthongs

The two diphthongs of Arabic are:

- following a letter carrying a **fatḥah**: *aw* as *ow* in *town*,
  - not as *aw* in *claw*.
- following a letter carrying a **fatḥah**: *ay* as *i* in *bite*,
  - not as *ay* in *bay*. 