

BRIEF ON PERSIAN LANGUAGE

Guru Ji has used very simple Persian while writing the Zafarnama and Fatehnama. It is not possible for any one to give exact pronunciation of the Persian words in English or in Gurmukhi scripts but I have tried to be as close (especially in Gurmukhi script) as possible to the original Persian.

Verbs

The reader will notice that Guru Ji has used many words, which differ only marginally from each other. This is because the Persian verbs can be changed to their present, past, singular, and plural forms by slight modification to their basic form. Just to give a few examples: (A) "aamdan-ਆਮਦਨ" and (B) "khordan-ਖੌਰਦਨ" are the basic verbs meaning, "to come" and "to eat/to drink" respectively (these words have been used quite frequently in Zafarnama). Their present and past stems are "aa-ਆ" and "aamad-ਆਮਦ" respectively for (A) and "khor-ਖੌਰ" and "khord-ਖੌਰਦ" respectively for (B). These undergo changes as per the following (use of personal pronouns can be dispensed with when these forms are used):

For "aamdan - ਆਮਦਨ" to come

(Present tense from present stem "aa-ਆ")

aayam	or	ਆਯਮ	I come
aa-ee	or	ਆਈ	You come (singular)
aayad	or	ਆਯਦ	He comes
aayem	or	ਆਯੀਮ	We come
aayeed	or	ਆਯੀਦ	You come (plural)
aayand	or	ਆਯੰਦ	They come

(Past tense from past stem "aamad- ਆਮਦ")

aamdān	or	ਆਮਦਮ	I came
aamdi	or	ਆਮਦੀ	You came (singular)

aamad or ਆਮਦ He came
aamdeem or ਆਮਦੀਮ We came
aamdeed or ਆਮਦੀਦ You came (plural)
aamdand or ਆਮਦੰਦ They came

For "khordan - ਖੋਰਦਨ " to eat/drink

(Present tense from present stem "khor-ਖੋਰ

khoram or ਖੋਰਮ I eat/drink
khorī or ਖੋਰੀ You eat/drink (singular)
khoradd or ਖੋਰਦ He eats/drinks
khoreem or ਖੋਰੀਮ We eat/drink
khoreed or ਖੋਰੀਦ You eat/drink (plural)
khorand or ਖੋਰੰਦ They eat/drink

(Past tense from past stem "khord-ਖੋਰਦ)

khordam or ਖੋਰਦਮ I ate/drank
khordi or ਖੋਰਦੀ You ate/drank
khord or ਖੋਰਦ He ate/drank
khordeem or ਖੋਰਦੀਮ We ate/drank
khordeed or ਖੋਰਦੀਦ You ate/drank
khordand or ਖੋਰਦੰਦ They ate/drank

Other changes in the verbs are brought about by adding prefix to these roots. For example when "ni-ਨੀ" is added to the root (present or past), it conveys the meaning of "no, not"; "niaayam-ਨੀਆਯਮ" means "I (will) not come" and "nikhordam-ਨੀਖੋਰਦਮ" means " I did not eat".

Pronouns

Personal pronouns occur in two forms; as separate words or as suffixes. The separate and suffixed forms of personal pronouns are illustrated below (for "Dost-ਦੋਸਤ" meaning "friend"):

Doste mann or ਦੋਸਤੇ ਮਨ = dostam or ਦੋਸਤਮ my friend
Doste tu or ਦੋਸਤੇ ਤੂ = dostat or ਦੋਸਤਤ your friend
Doste oo or ਦੋਸਤੇ ਊ = dostash or ਦੋਸਤਸ਼ his friend
Doste maa or ਦੋਸਤੇ ਮਾ = doste-maan or ਦੋਸਤੇਮਾਨ our friend
Doste shumaa or ਦੋਸਤੇ ਸੁਮਾ = Doste-taan or ਦੋਸਤੇ ਤਾਨ your friend
Doste aanha or ਦੋਸਤੇ ਆਨਹਾ = doste-shaan or ਦੋਸਤੇ ਸ਼ਾਨ their friend

Imperitive

If "b-ਬ" is prefixed to the present stem only, it changes the verb to imperative form. For example "bkhor-ਬਖੋਰ" is a command "eat"; and "biaa-ਬੀਆ" is an instruction to a person "come here". For negative commands "m-ਮ" or "n-ਨ" is prefixed to the present root. "ਮਕੁਨ - ਨਕੁਨ" "makun-nakun" conveys "do'nt do".

Use of "b-ਬ"

As stated above "b-ਬ" prefixed to the present stem of a verb changes it to its imperative form. However many times this prefix is added to a verb or a noun only as an addendum without changing the meaning of the original word in any way.

There are many other variations of the verbs and nouns. To understand all these one has to learn Persian language. However, for ease of understanding, Individual meanings of the Persian words have been explained in English immediately after each verse. I have tried to explain grammatically the changes that have occurred in a word in most of the verses of Zafarnama with the hope the readers may develop interest in learning Persian.