

1001 NIGHTS - FANTASY ARABIC

Compiled by Meguey Baker

NOTES

These names are taken from the 1001 Nights collected by Andrew Lang, with a few additions. If you feel the need for a character with a full name, an easy way is to choose 'Name ibn Father's Name' for a male and 'Name bint Father's Name' for a female. Being known only as 'Ibn Father's Name' would be common and fine. 'Name al-Adjective' (as 'the Lionhearted', the Bald' etc.) is very common for men, far less so for women. Adding 'Baba' before a name is a handy familiar honorific, as 'Uncle' would be. Women are often honored as 'Umm (mother of) Child's Name, Name'. For nobility, Amir and Amira for Prince and Princess is easy.

MALE

1. Ahmed
2. Hasad
3. Behman
4. Schraiaz
5. Cassim
6. Mahmoud
7. Danash
8. Abdalla
9. Mustapha
10. Douban
11. Gifar
12. Haroun
13. Marzaman
14. Mihrage
15. Damriat
16. Perviz
17. Firouz
18. Rashid
19. Sidi
20. Zouman

FEMALE

1. Amira
2. Ismalia
3. Balsora
4. Nisam
5. Serendib
6. Dinarzade
7. Nour
8. Imma
9. Maimoune
10. Melia
11. Badoura
12. Malika
13. Zara
14. Nourigan
15. Aziza
16. Morgiana
17. Parizade
18. Maryam
19. Serit
20. Zoulika

ADJECTIVES (For 'AI-X' last names)

1. Najjar - carpenter
2. Husayn - beautiful
3. Rabi - spring
4. Abbas - frowner
5. Khalil - friend
6. Azhar - shining
7. Basir - wise
8. Fayyad - generous
9. Katib - scribe/author
10. Hakam - judge
11. Walid - newcomer
12. Sagher - young
13. Awar - one-eyed
14. Darir - blind
15. Kabib - elder
16. Hasib - respected
17. Abrash - leper
18. Mubarak - lucky
19. Quatan - cloth worker
20. Hadad - blacksmith

CITIES AND PLACES

1. Mecca
2. Samarkand
3. Dimashqui / Damascus
4. Rome
5. Constantinople
6. Mawsil - Mosul
7. Madinah - Medina
8. Baghdad
9. Marrakesh
10. Morocco
11. Hebron
12. Sanaa
13. Buraydah
14. Tabuk
15. Kairouan
16. Jerusalem
17. Nazara / Nazareth
18. Bakkah
19. Aden
20. Alexandria

PLACES, FAITHS AND TRIBES (For 'al-X' last names. Drop the final 'i' to use it for the place, faith, or tribe, except as noted)

1. Rashidi - line of Rashid
2. Jahmi - line of Jahm
3. Tahiri - line of Tahir
4. Ghassani - line of Ghassan
5. Suli - line of Sul
6. Iskafi - Iskafiyah sect
7. Sufi - Sufi mystic (keep the 'i')
8. Uqlidsi - studier of Euclid
9. Nasrani - Christian (keep the 'i')
10. Hindi - Hindu/Indian (keep the 'i')
11. Rawandi - Persian
12. Ikmimi - Egyptian
13. Ifriqi - North African
14. Badawi - Bedouin
15. Rumi - Roman
16. Sakhawi - Egyptian
17. Abartai - near Baghdad
18. Samari - from Sammarkand
19. Jurashi - Yemen
20. Maghribi - West African

FOOD AND DRINK

1. coffee, raisin wine, shaved ice with fruit syrups
2. anise seed drink, mint tea, fruit juices
3. dates, figs, cashews, walnuts
4. garlic and sesame paste with vegetables and pita to dip
5. saffron rice with cashews and raisins
6. almond coil cake
7. hummus and pita
8. taboule - bulgar wheat, onions, parsley, lemon, cucumber, mint
9. grape leaves stuffed with lamb and rice
10. baklaba - pistachios and honey pastry
11. roast goat or lamb with coriander, cumin and pepper
12. babaganoush
13. zalata - yogurt, cucumbers, herbs
14. lentil and vegetable stew
15. fried pudding with syrup
16. rabbit or fowl, marinated and roasted, with herbs and couscous
17. oranges, pomegranetes, peaches, grapes, apricots
18. sugared cubes of jellied fruit
19. tagine - meat or vegetable stew on couscous
20. grape leaves stuffed with raisins, rice and almonds

Story-Games Names Project

FASHION

Cotton, silk, linen, and wool are common. Velvet and gauze and all weights between are used. Rich red, blue, purple and orange dyes are common, with pastels being a sign of very old, worn-out cloth. Embroidery is extremely common, especially over the chest and upper back, along seams, at cuffs, and hems - geometrics are favored, but abstract organic shapes are found. Every one who can afford jewelry wears it.

MEN

1. Izar - length of cloth tied at the hips, reaching below the knees
2. Dishdasha - short sleeved loose rectangle shaped v-neck gown
3. Sirwal - slim fitting cotton pants, worn as an undergarment
4. Thobe - slim gown with a simple sleeve and short collar, usually a light color
5. Vest - often matching in material to the kaftan
6. Kaftan - long sleeved loose gown with a simple slit neck, highly embroidered
7. Mashala - sleeved robe of heavier fabric, worn as coat over a kaftan
8. Aba - wide dark colored rectangular wrap, slit to form a back and two equal front sides
9. Taksirah - short sleeved jacket in rich dark color with embroidery, open in the front
10. Taquiyah - small white pill-box type cap
11. Ghutra - triangular scarf worn over the cap and secured by a band
12. Turban - long length of fabric folded, twisted or wrapped around the cap
13. Hayim - length of fabric folded and tucked as a belt with pockets, including the dagger
14. Khanjar - a broad curved dagger
15. Boots - thick soled leather boots with small heels (for stirrups)
16. Slippers - thin soled, decorated shoes with slighting up-turned and pointed toes
17. Sandals - leather, with moderate soles and wide straps over the foot, bare toes.
18. Jewelry: Rings
19. Jewelry: Necklaces and bracelets
20. Jewelry: Earrings

WOMEN

1. Sirwal - slim fitting cotton pants, narrow at the ankles, worn as an undergarment
2. Libas - very full pants of fine fabric, gathered at the waist and ankle
3. Karsh - very full skirt, usually in several gathered tiers, with ribbon trim at the hem
4. Thobe - slim gown with a simple sleeve and short collar, usually a light color
5. Thob'ob - gown of extreme length bloused over a narrow belt to make a second skirt
6. Abaya - gently flaring long gown with flared long sleeves, all with embroidery
7. Sirish - gown with tight elbow-length sleeves and a low neckline, worn over pants
8. Suriya Mabdu - rectangular knee length gown with sheer sleeves, worn over pants
9. Vest - tight fitting stiffed vest, highly decorated, worn over suriya mabdu
10. Beladi - long gown with long sleeves, slit on the sides, worn over pants
11. Kaftan - long sleeved gown with a square neckline, often embroidered
12. Jillayh - gown slightly fitted through the bodice and flaring from the hips to ankles
13. Mashala - sleeved robe of heavier fabric, decorated through the chest, coat over a kaftan
14. Aba - wide dark colored rectangular wrap, slit to form a back and two equal front sides
15. Henna - black, red, or brown paste used to decorate hands and feet with patterns
16. Veil - various lengths of cloth used to cover the hair and/or face, can be sheer or not
17. Asab Hrir - Rectangular cloth with tasseled ends, one edge centered over the head so the tassels hang down the sides, secured by a heavily embroidered cap
18. Chador - full-body veiling, with a lace, net, or embroidered screen for the eyes
19. Slippers - thin soled, embroidered shoes with slighting up-turned and pointed toes
20. Sandals - leather, with moderate soles and wide straps over the foot, bare toes.