

**Excerpts from
the unpublished
diaries of
Ahmad Sohrab**

1914

1915

VERSION 0 – 11 OCTOBER 2021

THIS DOCUMENT HAS NOT YET BEEN TRANSCRIBED

ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

This document was prepared and formatted by Violetta Zein, who also wrote the introductory sections.

THE UNPUBLISHED DIARIES OF AHMAD SOHRAB

The unpublished diaries of Ahmad Sohrab, as far as I can tell, are diaries Ahmad Sohrab kept in parallel to his “public” diaries which were published: they were sent as letters, copied and distributed among the friends.

These unpublished diaries span one year during the First World War, but there may be others which we do not yet have. They are undated, though sometimes a fragment of a date appears at the top of a page “October 1914” “March” etc. They seem to be small vignettes from his personal diaries that Ahmad Sohrab felt contained information interesting enough to be published, and these typed manuscripts look like the beginnings of a book Ahmad gave the pithy title of *“From the Unpublished Diary of Mirza Ahmad Sohrab During his Sojourn in Palestine With the Centre of the Covenant, ‘Abdu’l-Bahá ‘Abbás, While the Great War was raging All Over The World.”*

Ahmad Sohrab frequently gives titles to these vignettes, for example the first one is “The Story of Esmael, the Persian Jew.” Which is not something Ahmad Sohrab ever does in his published Diary, and another distinguishing feature of this manuscript.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP WITH TRANSCRIBING THE REMAINING PAGES

The transcription of the remainder of the Unpublished diaries of Ahmad Sohrab has not begun, and will rest in the hands of volunteers. The typed manuscripts are available. And October 8, 1915 contains a lengthy letter to Juliet Thompson which has not been transcribed.

The guidelines are simple if you are interested in participating to this worthwhile endeavor:

- If there is any date indication, even partial, start your transcription with this information in the following format: DD Month YYYY, for example 20 June 1915 or simply March 1915 or just 1914 if there is only a year, then skip a line

- If there is a title for the Vignette, include it and increase its font size so it's clear for when we include it into the document.
- Corrections: Please abide strictly by all of Ahmad Sohrab's corrections. If he crosses something off, ignore it completely, even if it is a name. We know from their diaries that both Ahmad Sohrab and Mirza Mahmud were asked to redact information from their manuscripts by 'Abdu'l-Bahá so we do not take the risk of keep something there is even a minute chance they were asked to redact by the Master.
- Even if the text is very legible, if Ahmad Sohrab crosses off entire paragraphs and even entire pages, skip them.
- Please correct the spelling of Central figures and eminent Baha'ís. Transliterating correctly with diacriticals is ideal but not mandatory, as long as it can be searched and the spelling is corrected.
- Please correct misspellings, especially of place names. If Ahmad Sohrab writes Tiberius, correct as Tiberias for example.
- Once you're transcribed a day, please re-read the manuscript with your transcription next to it and make any last changes. Attention to detail is paramount, because this may very well be the last time someone ever checks the transcription against the original, so it is an important step.
- You may contact Jonah Winters if you wish to send him your complete transcriptions, you can find his information [here](#).

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