

## Romanization and Pronunciation:

- The simplest romanization system I could conceive makes use of diacritic marks, but they are minimal. I'm going to describe the full system in detail below:
  - ◉ *A, a*: Pronounced like the "a" in "father".
  - ◉ *Aa, aa*: Pronounced like the "a" in "father", but held slightly longer.
  - ◉ *B, b*: Pronounced like the "b" in "bad".
  - ◉ *Ch, ch*: Pronounced like the "ch" in "each".
  - ◉ *D, d*: Pronounced like the "d" in "diet".
  - ◉ *Dh, dh*: Pronounced like the "th" in "this" (*never* like the "th" in "thin").
  - ◉ *E, e*: Pronounced like the "a" in "gate".
  - ◉ *Ee, ee*: Pronounced like the "a" in "gate", but held slightly longer.
  - ◉ *F, f*: Pronounced like the "f" in "fight".
  - ◉ *G, g*: Pronounced like the "g" in "goat" (*never* like the "g" in "genius").
  - ◉ *Gh, gh*: Pronounced like the "r" in French "rouge" (*never* like the "gh" in "ghost").
  - ◉ *H, h*: Pronounced like the "h" in "hop". This sound is *always* pronounced, even if it comes at the end of a word. The only cases in which it is *not* pronounced is when it occurs in the digraphs *dh, kh, gh, sh, ch, zh* and *th*.
  - ◉ *I, i*: Pronounced like the "i" in "machine".
  - ◉ *Ii, ii*: Pronounced like the "i" in "machine", but held slightly longer.
  - ◉ *J, j*: Pronounced like the "j" in "jam".
  - ◉ *K, k*: Pronounced like the "k" in "kite".
  - ◉ *Kh, kh*: Pronounced like the "ch" in the German pronunciation of "Buch". In English, this sound is commonly used with onomatopoeic words associated with

disgust, like "blech!" or "ich!" To pronounce it correctly, put your tongue in position to pronounce a *k*, but release it slowly; allow the air to pass through the constricted space. The result should be a sound like white noise.

- *L, l*: Pronounced like the "l" in "love" (*never* like the so-called "swallowed l" in "filth").
- *M, m*: Pronounced like the "m" in "matter".
- *N, n*: Pronounced like the "n" in "never".
- *Ny, ny*: Pronounced like the "ni" in "onion" or the initial "N" in a London pronunciation of "New York".
- *O, o*: Pronounced like the "o" in "tote".
- *Oo, oo*: Pronounced like the "o" in "tote", but held slightly longer.
- *P, p*: Pronounced like the "p" in "pike".
- *R, r*: Pronounced like the "r" in Spanish "pero". Nearly identical to the "r" or "d" sound in English "matador" (pronounced quickly).
- *Rr, rr*: Pronounced like the "rr" in Spanish "perro". It's a nice trilled "r", so be sure to get the trill in there. In the later period the trill started to tame a bit in environments where Spanish single "r" became a flap. Pronunciation varies depending on the original language of the speaker. In the oldest form of Valyrian it was a true trill.
- *S, s*: Pronounced like the "s" in "sad".
- *T, t*: Pronounced like the "t" in "take".
- *Th, th*: Pronounced like the "th" in "thin" (*never* like the "th" in "that").
- *U, u*: Pronounced like the "u" in "ruminate".
- *Uu, uu*: Pronounced like the "u" in "ruminate", but held slightly longer.
- *Ü, ü*: Pronounced like the "u" in French "rue", or the "ü" in German "für".

- **Üü, üü:** Pronounced like the "u" in French "rue", or the "ü" in German "für", but held slightly longer.
- **V, v:** Pronounced like the "v" in "van".
- **W, w:** Pronounced like the "w" in "war".
- **Y, y:** Pronounced like the "y" in "yeti".
- **Z, z:** Pronounced like the "z" in "zebra".
- **’:** This letter has two pronunciations. In between vowels, this sound is pronounced like the catch in one's throat in the middle of the word "uh-oh". It's basically like stopping the pronunciation of the vowel and starting again. When ' occurs at the beginning of the word, it's a much throatier, much deeper sound. It will almost sound like you're gagging. To produce it, imagine sticking out your tongue like the doctor has a tongue depressor on your tongue and saying "Aaaaaaaaaah". Now move the back of your tongue back a little more. That's this sound. Practice it in front of vowels other than "ah". It's not too bad once you get the hang of it.
- **Long Vowels:** Long vowels are held for twice as long as ordinary vowels. Consider the "a" vowel in English "bat" and in English "bad". Notice how the "a" vowel in "bad" is considerably longer than the "a" vowel in "bat"? The same can be true of *any* vowel in this language. Such vowels are written double (e.g. *a* is a short vowel and *aa* is a long vowel). It shouldn't require too much effort.
- **Double Consonants:** Doubled consonants, or geminates, occur not infrequently. To pronounce a doubled consonant, simply pronounce it twice. You might think of it as lingering over the consonant. Think of the "s" sound you pronounce in "Miss Sally". It's a longer "s" than if you pronounce the similar phrase "Miss Ally". The same goes for the doubled consonants in our language. One important note about the romanization: If a digraph (e.g. *kh*, *gh*, etc.) is *doubled*, only the first letter will be doubled (hence, *kkh* not *khkh*). The consonant is pronounced like a doubled consonant, though, as actual combinations such as *k* followed by *kh* are impossible.

Stress:

- Main stress and intonation is entirely unpredictable. It will not be marked in the Romanization since it would need to be marked on every word, and since Final Draft can't do anything with the characters *ý* or *ǔ*. Stress is accompanied by a rise in intonation, as it is in English. In scripts, stressed syllables will appear in all caps. An example is shown below:

Romanization: biankhita

In Final Draft: bi-AN-khi-ta