



Hidden Words, also known as
Book of Fatimih (Kalimát-i-Maknúnih)¹
Notes by Julio Savi

Question: What's the Arabic word for "Justice" used in the Second Hidden Word from the Arabic ("The best beloved of all things in My sight is Justice...")

Answer:

The Arabic word is "*inṣáf*." Steingass, *Arabic-English Dictionary*, translates "*inṣáf*" as: "equity, justice" (p. 85) Wehr, *Dictionary of Modern Written Arabic* translates "*inṣáf*" as: "justice, equity, fairness; just treatment" (p. 1139) The word comes from the root *naṣafa*, translated by Wehr as: "to... become noon,... to divide in the middle... to share.... to be just; to treat with justice... to serve" (p. 1139). Steingass, *Persian-English Dictionary* translates "*inṣáf*" as: "Dividing, taking half; acting justly; justice, equity; impartiality, fairness, equitable adjustment..." (p. 111). The Italian Campisi, *A Dictionary of Islamic Theology* translates *naṣafa* as "to reach the middle point" and its derivative "*munṣif*" as "just, equitable, impartial" and the verb "*anṣáfa*" as to be just with someone, to serve."

I like very much the idea that the Arabic *naṣafa* conveys also the connotation of service. As if we could not be just with our fellow-beings, if we do not serve them.

¹ https://bahai-library.com/wilmette_kalimat_maknunih_notes.