

THE ARABIC ALPHABET

A COMPANION VOLUME TO
THE QUR'ĀN READER

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MAYBURY - WOKING - SURREY
ENGLAND

Price 25 ct.

July, 1976

www.aail.org

ARABIC ALPHABET

ك The pronunciation within brackets is popular among the Urdū speaking people.

الف	ا	Alif a a	زای	ز	Za (zay) z	قاف	ق	Qaf q
باء	ب	Ba (bay) b	سین	س	Sin s	کاف	ك	Kaf k
تاء	ن	Ta (tay) t ¹	شین	ش	Shin sh	لام	ل	Lam l
ثاء	ث	Ṣa (ṣay) ṣ ²	صَاد	ص	Ṣad ṣ	میم	م	Mim m
جیم	ج	Jim j	ضاد	ض	Ḍad ḍ	نون	ن	Nūn n
حاء	ح	Ha (ḥay) ḥ	طائ	ط	Ṭa (ṭo'ay) ṭ	هَاء (ه)	ه	Ha (hay) h
خاء	خ	Kha (khay) kh	ظاء	ظ	Za (zo'ay) z	واو	و	Waw w
دال	د	Dal d ¹	عین	ع	'Ain	همزة	ء	Hamza
ذال	ذ	Zal z	غین	غ	Ghain gh	یاء	ی y	یا yā
راء	ر	Ra (ray) r	فاء	ف	Fa (fay) f	ے		

The combination لا called lām-alif is reckoned by some a letter of the alphabet and is inserted before yā (ی).

When the letter ت (tā) is used as a feminine ending it is written as ّ or ّ (hā with two dots over it). This is called the "round tā" or tā marbūṭa. When ی (yā) is joined with other letters it generally takes two dots, e.g. یا عین (yā 'aina). The two dots below the final yā (ی) are optional, e.g. فی or فی.

1. The letter t and ḍ (ت, د) should always be pronounced soft in Arabic, Persian and Urdū as t and ḍ in French, Dutch or Italian.

2. Some Orientalists spell it as th.

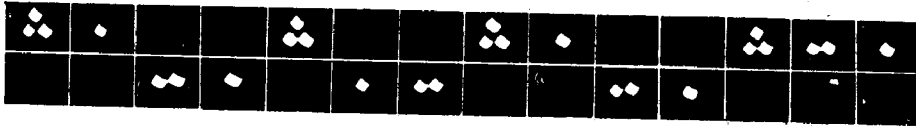
3. Orientalists spell this letter as dj because in some European languages the sound of j is like that of yā. In English, however, the sound of ج (jim) is exactly like j.

4. The letter و (wāw) is sometimes written before the letter ه (hā).

1



2



Please read the Arabic script from right to left.

Line 1. One dot. Two dots. Three dots.

2. One dot over the line. Two dots over the line. Three dots over the line. One dot below the line. Two dots below the line. One dot over the line . . . and so on.

Alif

الله

Allah

ا

Ba'

بِسْمِ الله

Bismillah

(In the name of God)

ب

Ta'

توراة

Taurāt

(Torah)

ت

Sa'

ثواب

sawāb

(reward)

ث

Please read the Arabic script from right to left.



ا ب ت ث ا ب ت ث ا ب ت ث ا ب ت ث ا ب ت ث
 ب ت ث ا ب ت ث ا ب ت ث ا ب ت ث ا ب ت ث

Jim	جِهَاد	jihād (striving hard ; effort; zeal ; war)	ج
Hā'	حَج	Hajj (Pilgrimage)	ح
Khā'	خَلِيفَة	khālifah (successor)	خ
Dāl	دُعَاء	du'a' (prayer)	د
Zāl	ذُبَاب	zubbāb (house fly)	ذ

ج ح خ د ذ خ ح ذ ج د ح د خ ذ ج د ح ذ ب ذ ا
د ت ح ث خ ج ا ا ب ت ت ج ح خ د ذ

Rā'

رَسُول

rasūl
(messenger)

ر

Za

زَكَاة

zakāt
(alms-giving ; obligatory
charity)

ز

Sin

سُنَّة

sunnah
(practice ; practice of the
Holy Prophet)

س

Shīn

شَرِيعَة

sharī'ah
(law ; Islamic law)

ش

ر ز س ش س ر ش ز ر ش س ز ش س ر
 ب ش ا س ت ز ث ر ج ذ ح د خ ا ر ش
 ا ب ت ث ج ح خ د ذ ر س ش

Ṣad صَلَاةُ ṣalāt (worship) ص

Dād ضِيَاءُ ḍiyā' (brightness) ض

Tā' طَلَاقُ ṭalāq (divorce) ط

Zā' ظَالِمٌ zālim (aggressor) ظ

ص ض ط ظ ص ظ ط ض ط ض ظ ض ظ ص
 ظ ط ا ظ ب ص ت ض ث ش ج س ح ز خ ر
 ا ب ت ث ج ح خ د ذ ر ز س ش ص ض ط ظ

'Ain	عِيسَى	'Isā (Jesus)	ع
Ghain	غَيْب	ghaib (unseen)	غ
Fā'	فِرْعَوْن	Fir'aun (Pharaoh)	ف
Qaf	قُرْآن	Qur'an	ق
Kaf	كِتَاب	kitāb (book)	ك (ک)

ع غ ف ق ك ع ك غ ف ع ق غ ك ك
 ا ع ب غ ت ف ث ح ز خ د س ر ش ز ص ع
 ض غ ط ف ظ ق ا ك ا ب ت ت ج ح خ د ذ
 ر ز س ش ص ض ط ظ ع غ ف ق ك ك

Lām

لباس

libās
(garment)

ل

Mīm

مُحَمَّد

Muḥammad

م (م)

Nūn

نبی

nabī
(prophet)

ن

Hā

هارون

Hārūn
(Aaron)

ه (ه)

ل م ن ه ن ل ه م ن م ه ل ن ل ع م غ ن ف
 ه ه ق ع ك ك ل ص م ض ن ط ه ظ ل ر م ز ن س
 ه ش ب ذ ا د ت ح ث خ ج ا ل ا ب ت ث ج ح خ
 د ذ ر ز س ش ص ض ط ظ ع غ ف ق ك ل ن ه ه

LESSON 3 VARIOUS FORMS OF THE LETTERS (B)

الدرس ٣

There are certain letters, viz,

ع and ي ه ل ك غ ع

'ain, ghain, kaf, lam, ha and ya

which take (or may take) a different shape in their final and (or) initial forms. The medial form is also affected (see next lesson). Note the following changes in the final form :

ع becomes ع or ع , غ becomes غ* or غ.

ه becomes ه .

As to the initial form :

ك becomes ك or ك or ك (as in ك , كا , كن).

ل becomes ل or ل (as in لا , لا).

ه becomes ه (remember the two eyed shape).



Tā Marbūta or the Round Tā

When the letter *ta* (ت) is used as a feminine ending, it is written as a *hā* (ه or ا) with, however the two points of the *tā* over it thus : ه or ا . This is called *tā marbūta* or the round *ta*.

It should also be borne in mind that when the dots are over the hook it is a different letter from the one where the dots are below the hook. Note carefully that in the initial form :

ي becomes ي and ن becomes ن ; ت becomes ت and ي becomes ي .

١ جمع هع هغ لغ قغ هخ كه

٢ غب قن ضنظ قج فظ عث

٣ كل كالل لد ضا لذ لا مي

*Mark the flattened head of 'ain and ghain.

3. kāflām. kāf alif. lām alif. lām lām. lām dāl. qād alif. lām zāl. lām alif. mim yā.

COMBINED EXERCISE

Read from right to left.

- 1 بصر بلغ عبث سلخ خلف يهب ١
- 2 عقل قفل لقب كفر فقر شفق ٢
- 3 بهز لبر جلب هعا عجه غحس ٣
- 4 تغد خكغ ستم حفت فنخذ قشل ٤
- 5 شقت ثصح ضثخ طسج يضط ٥
- 6 صظف كطش متق نمص ظيم ٦
- 7 ئكة هئن بهك لبض للو نتي ٧
- 8 ثلت جنات مسلمات مسيطر مستغفرجنة ٨
- 9 مين نيم نيم شفع طهر نسي يظهر ٩
- 10 ينقلب خفيف ينطق ملك قريب ١٠
- 11 بنعمته بعينه مليكته اقيمواالصلوة ١١

1. bā ṣād rā. bā lām ghain. 'ain bā s̄ā. sin lām khā. khā lām fā. yā hā bā.

7. hamza kāf tā. hā hamza nūn. bā hā kāf. lām bā qād. lām lām wāw. nūn tā yā.

9. mīm yā nūn. nūn yā mīm. nūn yā mīm. shīn fā 'ain. ṭā hā rā. nūn sin yā. yā zā hā rā.

11. bā nūn 'ain mīm tā hā. bā 'ain yā nūn hā. mīm lām hamza kāf tā hā. alif qā' yā mīm wāw alif alif lām ṣād lām wāw tā.

EXPRESSIONS OF DAILY USE

1. *Bis-mil-lāh.*

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ

In the name of Allāh. (Every affair is begun with these words. The object is to make a man realize that he should seek the help of God in all affairs). This is an abbreviated form of the fuller formula which runs thus :

2. *Bismil-lā-hir-Rahmā-nir-Rahīm.*

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allāh, the Beneficent, the Merciful. (These are the words with which the Holy Qur'ān opens).

3. *As-salāmu 'alaikum.*

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ

Peace be on you !

4. *Wa 'alai-kumus-salām.*

وَعَلَيْكُمْ السَّلَامُ

And on you be peace !

(The first form is that in which one Muslim greets his brother, and the second is that in which the greeting is returned). An enlarged form is as follows

5. *As-salāmu 'alaikum wa rahmatu-llāhi*

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ وَرَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ

wa barakātuh.

وَبَرَكَاتُهُ

Peace be on you and the mercy of Allāh and His blessings.

6. *Wa 'alai-kumus-salāmu wa rahmatu-*

وَعَلَيْكُمْ السَّلَامُ وَرَحْمَةُ

llāhi wa barakātuh.

اللَّهِ وَبَرَكَاتُهُ

And on you be peace, and the mercy of Allāh and His blessings.

7. *Al-ḥamdu lillāh.*

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ

All praise is due to Allāh. (Expression of thanksgiving to God).

8. *Allāhu Akbar.*

اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ

Allāh is the Greatest. (Expression of one's own insignificance as compared to the Divine grandeur).

9. *Subhā-nallāh.*

سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ

Glory to Allāh or Allāh is free from all imperfections. (Expression of one's own limitations. When a person sees another person making a mistake these words are also uttered).

10. *Astaghfi-rullāh*

أَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ

I seek the protection of Allāh. (Seeking of Divine protection from the commission of sin as well as the punishment of sin when it has been committed).

11. *Jazā-kallāh.*

جَزَاكَ اللَّهُ

May Allāh reward thee.

12. *Jazā-kumullāhu khairā.*

جَزَاكَ اللَّهُ خَيْرًا

May Allāh give you a goodly reward. (Expressions of gratefulness).

13. *Bārā-kallāh.*

بَارَكَ اللَّهُ

May Allāh bless thee. (When a person sees any good in his brother, he addresses him in these words).

14. *Yarhamu-kallāh.*

يَرْحَمُكَ اللَّهُ

May Allāh have mercy on thee. (A short prayer when a Muslim sees another person in distress).

15. *Inshā-'allāh.*

إِنْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ

If it please Allāh. (One's determination to do a thing with the help and guidance of Allāh).

16. *Mā shā-'allāh.*

مَا شَاءَ اللَّهُ

It is as Allāh has pleased. (One's admiration for a person or a thing remembering at the same time that all good comes from Allāh).

17. *Hasbi-yallāh.*

حَسْبِيَ اللَّهُ

May Allāh suffice me.

18. *Hasbu-nallāh.*

حَسْبُنَا اللَّهُ

May Allāh suffice us. (Short prayers to show one's dependence on God Who alone can save one from stumbling and from all kinds of errors and afflictions).

19. *Hasbu-kallāh.*

حَسْبُكَ اللَّهُ

May Allāh suffice thee. (In these words a Muslim addresses his brother when he sees him stumble or fall into error).

20. *Innā lillāhi wa innā ilaihi rāji'un.*

إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ

Surely we are Allāh's and to Him we shall surely return. (At receiving the news of the death of a person or the loss of a thing).

By the same author

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