

Arabic Phrase Analyser

Juha's Apology to the Thief

فَقَالَ جُحَا: مُتَأَسِّفٌ يَا سَيِّدِي، فَإِنِّي أَعْرِفُ أَنَّكَ لَنْ تَجِدَ مَا تَسْرِقُهُ، وَلِهَذَا اسْتَحْيَيْتُ نَجَاجًا مِنْكَ

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Arabic Phrase with Full Diacritics

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1 English Translation

Literal: So-said Juha: apologetic oh master-my, for-indeed-I know that-you never will-find what steal-it, and-for-this felt-ashamed shamefully from-you

[Arabic order retained for direct mapping]

Adapted: So Juha said: "Sorry, sir, for I know that you won't find anything to steal, and that's why I felt ashamed for you."

2 Detailed Word Analysis

2.1 فَقَالَ — [faqa:la]

Translation	so he said / then he said
Root	ق-و-ل (q-w-l)
Pattern	فَعَّلَ (faʿʿala)
Grammar	Past tense verb, 3rd person masculine singular, with conjunction فَ (fa-) prefix

Examples	1. قَالَ الرَّجُلُ الْحَقَّ - The man said the truth [qa:la r-radʒulu l-ḥaqqā]
	2. سَيَقُولُ لَكَ غَدًا - He will tell you tomorrow [sa-jaqu:lu laka ḡadan]
	3. قُلْ لِي مَاذَا حَدَثَ - Tell me what happened [qul li: ma:ða: ḥadaṡa]

تَكَلَّمَ (spoke),

تَحَدَّثَ (talked),

نَطَقَ (uttered)

Etymology From Proto-Semitic *qwl, related to Hebrew קוֹל (qol) “voice”

2.2 Conjugation

Verbal Noun: قَوْل /qawl/

Person	Perfect (Past)	Imperfect (Present)
3rd person masculine singular	قَالَ /qa:la/	يَقُولُ /jaqu:lu/
3rd person feminine singular	قَالَتْ /qa:lat/	تَقُولُ /taqu:lu/
3rd person masculine dual	قَالَا /qa:la:/	يَقُولَانِ /jaqu:la:ni/
3rd person feminine dual	قَالَتَا /qa:lata:/	تَقُولَانِ /taqu:la:ni/
3rd person masculine plural	قَالُوا /qa:lu:/	يَقُولُونَ /jaqu:lu:na/

3rd person feminine plural	قُلْنَ /qulna/	يَقُلْنَ /jaqulna/
2nd person masculine singular	قُلْتَ /qulta/	تَقُولُ /taqu:lu/
2nd person feminine singular	قُلْتِ /qulti/	تَقُولِينَ /taqu:li:na/
2nd person dual (m./f.)	قُلْتُمَا /qultuma:/	تَقُولَانِ /taqu:la:ni/
2nd person masculine plural	قُلْتُمْ /qultum/	تَقُولُونَ /taqu:lu:na/
2nd person feminine plural	قُلْتُنَّ /qultunna/	تَقُلْنَ /taqulna/
1st person singular	قُلْتُ /qultu/	أَقُولُ /ʔaqu:lu/
1st person plural	قُلْنَا /qulna:/	نَقُولُ /naqu:lu/

Conjugation Notes

- The **future** is formed with the prefix سَ [sa-] or سَوْفَ [sawfa] before the imperfect (e.g., سَيَقُولُ "he will say").
- The **moods of the imperfect**:
 - Indicative: يَقُولُ [yaqūlu]
 - Subjunctive: لَنْ يَقُولَ [lan yaqūla]
 - Jussive: لَمْ يَقُلْ [lam yaqul]
 - Imperative: قُلْ [qul!]
- **Passive voice**:
 - Perfect: قِيلَ [qīla] — it was said
 - Imperfect: يُقَالُ [yuqālu] — it is said

2.3 جُحَا — [dʒuħa:]

Translation	Juha (proper name of folk character)
Root	Proper noun, no triliteral root
Pattern	فُعَل (fuʿal) pattern for names
Grammar	Proper noun, masculine, nominative case (subject), indeclinable
Examples	<p>1. جُحَا رَجُلٌ حَكِيمٌ - Juha is a wise man [dʒuħa: radʒu-lun ħaki:mun]</p> <p>2. قِصَصُ جُحَا مُسَلِّيَةٌ - Juha's stories are entertaining [qiʃaʃu dʒuħa: musallija]</p> <p>3. يُحِبُّ النَّاسُ جُحَا - People love Juha [juħibbu n-na:su dʒuħa:]</p>
Synonyms	نَصْرُ الدِّينِ (Nasreddin), أَبُو نُوَّاسٍ (Abu Nuwas - different character)
Etymology	Possibly from Aramaic, meaning "the one who makes people laugh"

2.4 مُتَأَسِّفٌ — [mutaʔassifun]

Translation	sorry / apologetic / regretful
Root	أ-س-ف (ʔ-s-f)
Pattern	مُتَفَعِّل (mutafaʕfil) - Form V active participle
Grammar	Active participle, masculine singular, nominative, functioning as predicate
Examples	<p>1. أَنَا مُتَأَسِّفٌ لِلتَّأْخِيرِ - I am sorry for the delay [ʔana: mutaʔassifun lit-taʔxi:r]</p> <p>2. هِيَ مُتَأَسِّفَةٌ جِدًّا - She is very sorry [hija mutaʔas-sifatun dʒiddan]</p> <p>3. كُنَّا مُتَأَسِّفِينَ - We were sorry [kunna: mutaʔassi-fi:n]</p>
Synonyms	آسِفٌ (sorry), نَادِمٌ (regretful), مُعْتَذِرٌ (apologetic)
Etymology	From root meaning "to grieve, to feel sorrow"

2.5 يَا سَيِّدِي — [jaː sajjidiː]

Translation	oh my master / sir
Root	س-و-د (s-w-d)
Pattern	فعل (faʿʿil) with 1st person possessive suffix
Grammar	Vocative particle + noun, masculine, genitive case, with possessive pronoun <i>ي</i>
Examples	<p>1. هُوَ سَيِّدُ الْقَوْمِ - He is the master of the people [huwa sajjidu l-qawmi]</p> <p>2. أَطَعْتُ سَيِّدِي - I obeyed my master [ʔatʔaʕtu sajjidiː]</p> <p>3. السَّيِّدُ مُحَمَّدٌ - Mr. Muhammad [as-sajjidu muhammad]</p>
Synonyms	مَوْلَى (master), رَبِّ (lord), صَاحِب (owner)
Etymology	From root meaning "to be black, to prevail, to rule"

2.6 فَإِنِّي — [faʔinniː]

Translation	for indeed I / because I
Root	Particle compound: فَ + إِنَّ + pronoun
Pattern	Causal conjunction + emphatic particle + 1st person pronoun
Grammar	فَ (causal) + إِنَّ (emphatic "indeed") + ي (1st person suffix)
Examples	<p>1. فَإِنِّي أُحِبُّكَ - For indeed I love you [faʔinniː ʔuhib-buka]</p> <p>2. فَإِنَّكَ مُحَقٌّ - For indeed you are right [faʔinnaka muhiqqun]</p> <p>3. فَإِنَّهُمْ غَائِبُونَ - For indeed they are absent [faʔin-nahum ɣaʔibuːn]</p>
Synonyms	لَآئِنِّي (because I), إِذْ إِنِّي (since I)
Etymology	فَ from Proto-Semitic conjunction, إِنَّ emphatic particle

2.7 أَعْرِفُ — [ʔaʕrifu]

Translation	I know
Root	ع-ر-ف (ʕ-r-f)
Pattern	أَفْعِلُ (ʔaffilu) - 1st person singular imperfect
Grammar	Present tense verb, 1st person singular, active voice
Examples	1. عَرَفْتُ الْحَقِيقَةَ - I knew the truth [ʕaraftu l-ḥaqi:qa] 2. سَأَعْرِفُ غَدًا - I will know tomorrow [saʔaʕrifu yadan] 3. لَا أَعْرِفُ شَيْئًا - I don't know anything [la: ʔaʕrifu ʃajʔan]
Synonyms	أَعْلَمُ (I know), أَدْرِي (I am aware), أَدْرِكُ (I realize)
Etymology	From Proto-Semitic root meaning "to know, recognize"

2.8 أَنَّكَ — [ʔannaka]

Translation	that you
Root	أَنْ + pronoun suffix
Pattern	Subordinating particle + 2nd person masculine singular pronoun
Grammar	أَنَّ (that/indeed) + كَ (you, masc. sing.)
Examples	1. أَعْلَمُ أَنَّكَ مُحَقٌّ - I know that you are right [ʔaʕlamu ʔannaka muhiqqun] 2. ظَنَنْتُ أَنَّكَ هُنَا - I thought that you (fem.) were here [ʔanantu ʔannaki huna:] 3. قَالَ أَنَّهُمْ سَيَأْتُونَ - He said that they will come [qa:la ʔannahum sajaʔtu:n]
Synonyms	بِأَنَّكَ (that you), كَوْنَكَ (your being)
Etymology	أَنَّ from Proto-Semitic emphatic particle

2.9 لَنْ تَجِدَ — [lan tadʒida]

Translation	you will not find
Root	و-ج-د (w-dʒ-d)
Pattern	تَفْعَلْ + لَنْ (subjunctive)
Grammar	Future negation particle + 2nd person masculine singular subjunctive
Examples	1. وَجَدْتُ الْكِتَابَ - I found the book [wadʒadtu l-kita:b] 2. سَأَجِدُ الْحُلَّ - I will find the solution [saʔadʒidu l-hall] 3. لَمْ نَجِدْ شَيْئًا - We didn't find anything [lam nadʒid ʃajʔan]
Synonyms	يَلَاقِي (encounters), يُصَادِفُ (comes across), يَحْصُلُ عَلَى (obtains)
Etymology	From Proto-Semitic root meaning "to find, encounter"

2.10 مَا تَسْرِقُهُ — [ma: tasriquhu]

Translation	what you steal (it)
Root	س-ر-ق (s-r-q) for the verb
Pattern	مَا (relative) + تَفْعَلُهُ (present + object pronoun)
Grammar	Relative pronoun + 2nd person present verb + 3rd person object pronoun
Examples	1. سَرَقَ اللَّصُّ الْمَالَ - The thief stole the money [saraqa l-l'is's'u l-ma:l] 2. لَا تَسْرِقْ - Don't steal [la: tasriq] 3. السَّرِقَةُ حَرَامٌ - Theft is forbidden [as-sariqa hara:-mun]
Synonyms	يَنْهَبُ (plunders), يَخْتَلِسُ (embezzles), يَسْلُبُ (robs)
Etymology	From Proto-Semitic root meaning "to steal, take secretly"

2.11 وَلِهَذَا — [waliha:ða:]

Translation	and for this reason / therefore
Root	هَذَا + ل + وَ
Pattern	Conjunction + preposition + demonstrative pronoun
Grammar	وَ (and) + ل (for/because of) + هَذَا (this)
Examples	1. وَلِهَذَا نَجَحَ - And for this reason he succeeded [waliha:ða: nadʒaħa] 2. وَلِذَلِكَ رَفَضَ - And therefore he refused [waliða:lika rafadʿa] 3. وَلِهَذَا السَّبَبُ - And for this reason [waliha:ða: s-sababi]
Synonyms	وَعَلَى هَذَا, وَلِهَذَا السَّبَبُ (for this reason), وَلِذَلِكَ (therefore), وَلِذَا (accordingly)
Etymology	Compound of basic grammatical particles

2.12 اسْتَحْيَيْتُ — [istahjajtu]

Translation	I felt ashamed / I became shy
Root	ح-ي-ي (ħ-j-j)
Pattern	اسْتَفْعَلْتُ (istaffaltu) - Form X, 1st person past
Grammar	Past tense verb, 1st person singular, Form X (reflexive/seeking state)
Examples	1. اسْتَحْيَيْتُ مِنَ النَّاسِ - She felt ashamed before people [istahjat min an-na:si] 2. لَا تَسْتَحْيِ مِنَ الْحَقِّ - Don't be ashamed of the truth [la: tastahji: min al-ħaqqi] 3. يَسْتَحْيِ مِنْ أَهْلِهِ - He feels shy around his family [jastahji: min ʔahlihi]
Synonyms	تَحَجَّرَ (felt shame), احْمَرَّ وَجْهُهُ (his face reddened), تَحَجَّرَ (felt embarrassed)
Etymology	From root related to "life, modesty, shame"

2.13 نَجَلًا — [xadʒalan]

Translation	shamefully / out of shame
Root	خ-ج-ل (x-dʒ-l)
Pattern	فَعَلًا (faʿalan) - adverbial accusative
Grammar	Verbal noun in accusative case, functioning as adverb of manner/cause
Examples	1. نَجَلَ مِنْ فَعَلَتِهِ - He was ashamed of his deed [xadʒila min fiʿlatihi] 2. اِنْجَلُ يَمْنَعُهُ - Shame prevents him [al-xadʒalu jamnaʿuhu] 3. تَصَرَّفَ بِنَجَلٍ - He acted shamefully [tasʿarrafa bixadʒalin]
Synonyms	عَارًا (shamefully), خِزْيًا (disgracefully), حَيَاءً (modestly)
Etymology	From Proto-Semitic root meaning "to be ashamed, embarrassed"

2.14 مِنْكَ — [minka]

Translation	from you / for you
Root	Preposition + pronoun
Pattern	مِنْ + 2nd person masculine singular pronoun
Grammar	Preposition مِنْ (from/of) + attached pronoun كَ (you, masc.)
Examples	1. أَخَذْتُ مِنْكَ كِتَابًا - I took a book from you [ʔaxaðtu minka kita:ban] 2. تَعَلَّمْتُ مِنْكَ الْكَثِيرَ - I learned much from you (fem.) [taʕallamtu minki l-kaθi:r] 3. هَذَا مِنَّا إِلَيْكُمْ - This is from us to you (plural) [ha:ða: minna: ʔilajkum]
Synonyms	عَنْكَ (about you), لَكَ (for you), بِكَ (with/by you)
Etymology	مِنْ from Proto-Semitic preposition meaning "from, of"

3 Phrase Analysis

Grammatical Structure:

Sequential connector + past verb + proper noun subject + colon + active participle predicate + vocative particle + possessed noun + conjunction + emphatic particle with pronoun + present verb + subordinating particle with pronoun + negation particle + present subjunctive verb + relative pronoun + present verb with object pronoun + conjunction + prepositional phrase + past verb + adverbial accusative + prepositional phrase

Key Grammar Points:

- The prefix **فَ** connects this statement to the previous narrative sequence
- **مُتَأَسِّفٌ** is a Form V active participle functioning as a predicate nominative
- **فَإِنِّي** combines causal conjunction with emphatic particle for strong assertion
- **لَنْ تَجِدَ** uses future negation requiring subjunctive mood
- **مَا تَسْرِقُهُ** is a relative clause with attached object pronoun
- **نَحَلًا** functions as an adverbial accusative expressing reason/manner
- The phrase shows empathetic irony - apologizing to the thief for having nothing to steal
- Form X verb **اسْتَحْيَيْتُ** indicates reflexive emotional state

4 Similar Phrases for Practice

1. فَقَالَ الرَّجُلُ: مُتَأَسِّفٌ يَا صَدِيقِي، فَإِنِّي أَعْرِفُ أَنَّكَ لَنْ تَجِدَ مَا تَبْتَثُ عَنْهُ.
So the man said: "Sorry my friend, for I know that you won't find what you are looking for"
[faqa:la r-radʒulu: mutaʔassifun ja: sʔadi:qi:, faʔinni: ʔaʔrifu ʔannaka lan tadʒida ma: tabħaθu ʔanhu]
2. وَقَالَتِ الْبِنْتُ: مُتَأَسِّفَةٌ يَا أَسْتَاذِي، فَإِنِّي أَعْلَمُ أَنَّكَ لَنْ تَجِدَ الْجَوَابَ هُنَا.
And the girl said: "Sorry professor, for I know that you won't find the answer here" [waqa:lat al-bintu: mutaʔassifatun ja: ʔusta:ði:, faʔinni: ʔaʔlamu ʔannaka lan tadʒida l-dʒawa:ba huna:]
3. فَأَجَابَ الطَّالِبُ: مُعْتَذِرٌ يَا دُكْتُورُ، لَكِنِّي أَظُنُّ أَنَّكَ لَنْ تَجِدَ الْكِتَابَ الْآنَ.
So the student answered: "Apologetic, doctor, but I think that you won't find the book now"
[faʔadʒa:ba tʔ-tʔa:libu: muʔtaðirun ja: duktu:r, la:kinni: ʔaðʔunnu ʔannaka lan tadʒida l-kita:ba l-ʔa:n]

4. وَقَالَ التَّاجِرُ: آسِفُ يَا زَبُونُ، وَلَكِنِّي أَعْرِفُ أَنَّكَ لَنْ تَجِدَ هَذِهِ الْبَضَاعَةَ عِنْدِي

And the merchant said: “Sorry customer, but I know that you won’t find this merchandise with me” [waqa:la t-ta:dʒiru: ʔa:sifun ja: zabu:n, wala:kinni: ʔaʕrifu ʔannaka lan tadʒida ha:ðihi l-bidʕa:ʕata ʕindi:]

5 Levantine (Shaami) Arabic Dialect

Levantine Version

فَقَالَ جُحَا: آسِفُ يَا سَيِّدِي، لِأَنِّي بَعْرِفُ إِنَّكَ مِش رَح تِلَاقِي شَيْ تَسْرُقُهُ، وَلِهَيْكَ اسْتَحَيْتُ مِنْكَ

Phonetic: [faqa:l dʒuħa: ʔa:sif ja: si:di:, laʔanni: baʕrif innak miʃ raħ tila:ʔi: ʃi: tisru:qu, wala-he:k istaħe:t minnak]

Translation: So Juha said: “Sorry sir, because I know that you won’t find anything to steal, and that’s why I felt ashamed for you.”

Key Dialectal Changes:

- مُتَآسِفٌ → آسِفُ (ʔa:sif) — simplified form of “sorry”
- فَإِنِّي → لِأَنِّي (laʔanni:) — “because I” instead of “for indeed I”
- أَعْرِفُ → بَعْرِفُ (baʕrif) — present continuous with ب prefix
- إِنَّكَ → إِنَّكَ (innak) — simplified subordinating particle
- لَنْ → مِش رَح (miʃ raħ) — future negation with “will not”
- تَجِدُ → تِلَاقِي (tila:ʔi:) — dialectal verb “to find”
- مَا → شَيْ (ʃi:) — “something/anything” instead of relative “what”
- وَلِهَذَا → وَلِهَيْكَ (walahe:k) — “and that’s why” in dialect
- اسْتَحَيْتُ → اسْتَحَيْتُ (istaħe:t) — simplified past tense form
- مِنْكَ → مَنَّكَ (minnak) — emphatic form with gemination

6 Additional Learning Notes

Cultural and Literary Context

Juha's Character: This phrase exemplifies Juha's paradoxical wisdom - he apologizes to a thief not for being robbed, but for disappointing the thief by having nothing worth stealing. This reversal of expectations is classic Juha humor.

Social Politeness: Even in this absurd situation, Juha maintains formal politeness markers (يَا سَيِّدِي), showing how deeply embedded courtesy is in Arabic culture.

Empathetic Irony: The phrase demonstrates sophisticated Arabic literary technique - expressing genuine concern for someone whose intentions are harmful, creating both humor and moral commentary.

Narrative Function: This statement serves as the climax of the Juha story, where his unexpected response transforms a potentially threatening situation into a moment of absurd comedy.

6.1 Memory Tips

1. **Emotional Progression:** Remember *Apology* → *Explanation* → *Shame* (نَجَلٌ → تَفْسِيرٌ → اِعْتَذَارٌ)
2. **Particle Chain:** فَ...فَإِنِّي...وَلِهَذَا creates logical flow (so → for indeed → and therefore)
3. **Form X Pattern:** اسْتَحْيَيْتُ follows pattern اسْتَفْعَلَ for self-directed emotions
4. **Negation Structure:** subjunctive + لَنْ is standard future negation pattern
5. **Ironic Politeness:** The contrast between يَا سَيِّدِي (respectful address) and تَسْرِقُ (you steal) creates the humor

6.2 Related Vocabulary Family

Emotion family:

أَسَفٌ — sorrow [ʔasaf]

نَجَلٌ — shame [xadʒal]

حَيَاءٌ — modesty [haja:ʔ]

اِرْتِبَاكٌ — embarrassment [irtaba:k]

نَدَمٌ — regret [nadam]

Knowledge family:

مَعْرِفَةٌ — knowledge [maʕrifa]

عِلْمٌ — science/knowledge [ʕilm]

دِرَايَةٌ — awareness [dira:ja]

فَهْمٌ — understanding [fahm]

إِدْرَاكٌ — perception [ʔidra:k]

Theft family:

سَرِيقَةٌ — theft [sariqa]

سَارِقٌ — thief [sa:riq]

مَسْرُوقٌ — stolen (item) [masru:q]

نَهْبٌ — plundering [nahb]

اِخْتِلَاسٌ — embezzlement [ixtila:s]

Politeness family:

سَيِّدٌ — master/sir [sajjid]

أُسْتَاذٌ — professor/teacher [ʔusta:ð]

دُكْتُورٌ — doctor [duktur]

مَوْلَى — master/lord [mawla:]

صَاحِبٌ — owner/sir [sʻa:hib]