Arabic Phrase Analyser
Juha's Apology to the Thief

فقال جحا: متأسف يا سيدي، فإني أعرف أنك لن يجد ما تسرقه، و لهذا استحيت نجلا منك

Igor Deruga

Arabic Phrase

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Without Diacritics

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

With Full Diacritics

1 English Translation

Literal: So said Juha: Sorry oh my master, for indeed I know that you will not find what to steal it, and for this I felt ashamed shame from you
[Arabic order retained for direct mapping]

Adapted: So Juha said: "I'm 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	فَعَلَ (faʕala)
Grammar	Past tense verb, 3rd person masculine singular, with conjunction فَ (fa-) prefix
Table of Conjugations	Infinitive: قَوْل [qawl] Present: يَقُولُ [jaqu:lu] Past: قَالَ [qa:la]
Examples	1. قَالَ الرَّجُلُ الحَقَّ - The man said the truth [qa:la r-radʒulu l-ħaqqa] 2. سَيَقُولُ لَكَ غَداً - He will tell you tomorrow [sajaqu:lu laka ɣadan] 3. قُلْ لِي مَاذَا حَدَثَ - Tell me what happened [qul li: ma:ða: ħadaθa]
Synonyms	تَكَلَّمَ (spoke), تَحَدَّثَ (talked), نَطَقَ (uttered)
Etymology	From Proto-Semitic *qwl, related to Hebrew קול (qol) "voice"

2.2 بُحَا – [dʒuħaː]

Translation	Juha (proper name)
Root	N/A (proper noun)
Pattern	N/A
Grammar	Proper noun, masculine, nominative case (subject of قال)
Table of Conjugations	N/A (proper noun - no conjugation)
Examples	1. بُحَا رَجُلٌ حَكِيمٌ - Juha is a wise man [dʒuħaː radʒu-lun ħakiːmun] 2. قِصَصُ بُحَا مَشْهُورَةٌ - Juha's stories are famous [qisˤasˤu dʒuħaː maʃhuːratun] 3. ضَحِكَ بُحَا كَثِيراً - Juha laughed a lot [dˤaħika dʒuħaː kaθiːran]
Synonyms	N/A (proper name)
Etymology	Famous character in Arabic folklore, possibly from Turkish Nasreddin Hoca

2.3 مُتَأَسِّفٌ — [mutaʔassifun]

Translation	sorry / regretful
Root	أ-س-ف (ʔ-s-f)
Pattern	مُتَفَعِّل (mutafaʕʕil) - Form V active participle
Grammar	Active participle, masculine singular, nominative (predicate)
Table of Conjugations	Infinitive: تَأَسُّف [taʔassuf] Present: يَتَأَسَّفُ [jataʔassafu] Past: تَأَسَّفَ [taʔassafa]
Examples	1. أَنَا مُتَأَسِّفٌ جِدّاً - I am very sorry [ʔanaː mutaʔas-sifun dʒiddan] 2. تَأَسَّفَ عَلَى خَطَئِه - He regretted his mistake [taʔas-safa ʕalaː xatˤaʔihi] 3. سَيَتَأَسَّفُ لاحِقاً - He will regret later [sajataʔassafu laːħiqan]
Synonyms	آسِف (sorry), نَادِم (remorseful), حَزِين (sad)
Etymology	From root meaning "grief, sorrow"

2.4 يَا — [ja:]

Translation	O / oh (vocative particle)
Root	N/A (particle)
Pattern	N/A
Grammar	Vocative particle used for calling/addressing
Table of Conjugations	N/A (invariable particle)
Examples	1. يَا أَخِي - O my brother [ja: ?axi:]
	2. يَا اللهُ - O God [ja: ?alla:hu]
	3. يَا لَيْتَنِي - Oh, if only I... [ja: lajtani:]
Synonyms	أَيُّهَ (O - formal), هَيَّا (come on)
Etymology	Ancient Semitic vocative particle

2.5 سَيِّدِي — [sajjidi:]

Translation	my master / my sir
Root	س-و-د (s-w-d)
Pattern	فَعِّل (faʕʕil) with 1st person possessive suffix
Grammar	Noun, masculine, genitive case (after vocative), with possessive pronoun ي
Table of Conjugations	Singular: سَيِّد [sajjid]
	Plural: سَادَة [sa:da] or أَسْيَاد [?asja:d]
	1. هُوَ سَيِّدُ القَوْمِ - He is the master of the people [huwa sajjidu l-qawmi]
Examples	2. أَطَعْتُ سَيِّدِي - I obeyed my master [?atˤaʕtu sajjidi:]
	3. السَّيِّدُ مُحَمَّد - Mr. Muhammad [as-sajjidu muħammad]
Synonyms	صَاحِب (owner), رَبّ (lord), مَوْلَى (master)
Etymology	From root meaning "to be black, to prevail, to rule"

2.6 فَإِنِّي — [faʔinni:]

Translation	for indeed I / for I am
Root	N/A (compound particle)
Pattern	N/A
Grammar	Conjunction فَ + emphatic particle إِنَّ + 1st person pronoun suffix
Table of Conjugations	إِنَّنِي / إِنِّي (I) إِنَّكَ (you m.) إِنَّهُ (he) إِنَّا (we)
Examples	1. إِنِّي أُحِبُّكَ - Indeed I love you [ʔinni: ʔuħibbuka] 2. فَإِنَّهُ صَادِقٌ - For indeed he is truthful [faʔinnahu sˤa:diqun] 3. إِنَّا مُسْلِمُونَ - Indeed we are Muslims [ʔinnana: muslimu:na]
Synonyms	لَأَنَّنِي (because I), حَقًّا أَنَا (truly I)
Etymology	Classical Arabic emphatic construction

2.7 أَعْرِفُ — [ʔaʕrifu]

Translation	I know
Root	(ʕ-r-f) ع-ر-ف
Pattern	فَعَلَ (faʕala)
Grammar	Present tense verb, 1st person singular, Form I
	Infinitive: مَعْرِفَة [maʕrifa]
Table of Conjugations	Present: أَعْرِفُ [ʔaʕrifu]
	Past: عَرَفْتُ [ʕaraftu]
Examples	1. عَرَفْتُ الحَقِيقَةَ - I knew the truth [ʕaraftu l-ħaqi:qata]
	2. يَعْرِفُ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ - He knows everything [jaʕrifu kulla ʃajʔin]
	3. سَأَعْرِفُ غَداً - I will know tomorrow [saʔaʕrifu ɣadan]
Synonyms	عَلِمَ (knew), دَرَى (was aware), فَهِمَ (understood)
Etymology	From root meaning "to recognize, to know"

2.8 أَنَّكَ — [?annaka]

Translation	that you
Root	N/A (particle with pronoun)
Pattern	N/A
Grammar	Subordinating particle 2 + أَنَّ 2nd person masculine pronoun
Table of Conjugations	أَنَّنِي (that I) أَنَّكَ (that you m.) أَنَّهُ (that he) أَنَّنَا (that we)
Examples	1. أَظُنُّ أَنَّكَ مُحِقٌّ - I think that you are right [?aðˤunnu ?annaka muħiqqun] 2. عَلِمْتُ أَنَّهُ قَادِمٌ - I knew that he is coming [ʕalimtu ?annahu qa:dimun] 3. قَالَ أَنَّنَا أَصْدِقَاء - He said that we are friends [qa:la ?annana: ?asˤdiqa:?]
Synonyms	بِأَنَّكَ (that you - with preposition)
Etymology	Classical Arabic subordinating construction

2.9 لَنْ — [lan]

Translation	will not (negation particle for future)
Root	N/A (particle)
Pattern	N/A
Grammar	Negation particle that requires subjunctive mood
Table of Conjugations	N/A (invariable particle)
Examples	1. لَنْ أَنْسَى - I will not forget [lan ?ansa:] 2. لَنْ يَحْدُثَ هَذَا - This will not happen [lan jaħduθa ha:ða:] 3. لَنْ تَتَأَخَّرَ - We will not be late [lan nata?axxara]
Synonyms	لا (not - general), مَا (not - past)
Etymology	Classical Arabic future negation

2.10   تَجِدَ – [tadʒida]

Translation	you find / you will find
Root	و-جـ-د (w-dʒ-d)
Pattern	فَعَلَ (faʕala)
Grammar	Present tense verb, 2nd person masculine singular, subjunctive mood (after لَن)
Table of Conjugations	Infinitive: وُجُود [wudʒu:d] Present: تَجِدُ [tadʒidu] Past: وَجَدْتَ [wadʒadta]
Examples	1. وَجَدْتُ الكِتَابَ - I found the book [wadʒadtu l-kita:ba] 2. سَتَجِدُ الطَّرِيقَ - You will find the way [satadʒidu tˤ-tˤari:qa] 3. يَجِدُونَ صُعُوبَةً - They find difficulty [jadʒidu:na sˤuʕu:batan]
Synonyms	لَقِيَ (encountered), عَثَرَ عَلَى (came across)
Etymology	From root meaning "to find, to exist"

2.11   مَا — [ma:]

Translation	what / that which
Root	N/A (relative pronoun)
Pattern	N/A
Grammar	Relative pronoun, indeclinable
Table of Conjugations	N/A (invariable)
Examples	1. مَا تُرِيدُ - What you want [ma: turi:du] 2. أَعْطِنِي مَا عِنْدَكَ - Give me what you have [ʔaʕtˤini: ma: ʕindaka] 3. فَعَلْتُ مَا طَلَبْتَ - I did what you asked [faʕaltu ma: tˤalabta]
Synonyms	الَّذِي (that which - definite), مَاذَا (what - interrogative)
Etymology	Ancient Semitic interrogative/relative pronoun

2.12 تَسْرِقُهُ — [tasriquhu]

Translation	you steal it
Root	س-ر-ق (s-r-q)
Pattern	فعل (faʕala)
Grammar	Present tense verb, 2nd person masculine singular, with 3rd person masculine object pronoun
Table of Conjugations	Infinitive: سرِقة [sariqa] Present: تَسْرِقُ [tasriqu] Past: سرَقْتَ [saraqta]
Examples	1. سرَق المَالَ - He stole the money [saraqa l-ma:la] 2. لا تَسْرِق - Don't steal [la: tasriq] 3. سَيَسْرِقُونَ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ - They will steal everything [sajasriqu:na kulla ʃajʔin]
Synonyms	نَهَبَ (plundered), اخْتَلَسَ (embezzled), غَصَبَ (usurped)
Etymology	From root meaning "to steal, to rob"

2.13 وَلِهَذَا — [waliha:ða:]

Translation	and for this / and therefore
Root	N/A (compound)
Pattern	N/A
Grammar	Conjunction وَ + preposition لِ + demonstrative pronoun هَذَا
Table of Conjugations	N/A
Examples	1. وَلِهَذَا السَّبَبِ - And for this reason [waliha:ða: s-sababi] 2. لِهَذَا جِئْتُ - For this I came [liha:ða: dʒiʔtu] 3. وَلِذَلكَ - And for that [waliða:lika]
Synonyms	لِذَلكَ (therefore), وَبِالتَّالِي (and consequently)
Etymology	Classical Arabic causal construction

2.14   اِسْتَحْيَيْتُ — [istaħjajtu]

Translation	I felt ashamed / I was embarrassed
Root	ح-ي-ي (ħ-j-j)
Pattern	اسْتَفْعَلَ (istafʕala) - Form X
Grammar	Past tense verb, 1st person singular, Form X (seeking/reflexive)
	Infinitive: اسْتِحْياء [istiħja:ʔ]
Table of Conjugations	Present: أَسْتَحْيِ [ʔastaħji:]
	Past: اسْتَحْيَيْتُ [istaħjajtu]
Examples	1. اسْتَحْيَيْتُ مِنْ فِعْلِي - I was ashamed of my action [istaħjajtu min fiʕli:]
	2. يَسْتَحْيِ مِنَ الكَلامِ - He is shy to speak [jastaħji: mina l-kala:mi]
	3. لا تَسْتَحْيِ - Don't be shy [la: tastaħji:]
Synonyms	خَجِلَ (was embarrassed), اسْتَحَى (alternative form)
Etymology	From root meaning "life, modesty, shame"

2.15   خَجَلاً – [xadʒalan]

Translation	(out of) shame / embarrassment
Root	خ-ج-ل (x-dʒ-l)
Pattern	فَعَل (faʕal)
Grammar	Verbal noun (masdar), accusative case (adverbial/reason)
Table of Conjugations	N/A (verbal noun - no conjugation)
Examples	1. اِحْمَرَّ خَجَلاً - He turned red from embarrassment [iħmarra xadʒalan]
	2. مَاتَ خَجَلاً - He died of shame [ma:ta xadʒalan]
	3. الخَجَل صِفَةٌ حَمِيدَةٌ - Modesty is a good quality [al-xaʒalu sˤifatun ħami:datun]
Synonyms	حَياء (modesty), إِرْتِباك (confusion), حَرَج (embarrassment)
Etymology	From root meaning "to be ashamed, confused"

2.16   مِنْكَ — [minka]

Translation	from you / for you (on your behalf)
Root	N/A (preposition with pronoun)
Pattern	N/A
Grammar	Preposition مِنْ + 2nd person masculine pronoun suffix
Table of Conjugations	مِنِّي (from me)
	مِنكَ (from you m.)
	مِنهُ (from him)
	مِنَّا (from us)
Examples	1. جِئْتُ مِنكَ - I came from you [dʒiʔtu minka]
	2. أَخَذتُ مِنهُ - I took from him [ʔaxaðtu minhu]
	3. نَسمَعُ مِنكُم - We hear from you (pl.) [nasmaʕu minkum]
Synonyms	عَنكَ (from you - different context), لَكَ (for you)
Etymology	Classical Arabic preposition with pronominal suffixes

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 + verbal noun (reason) + preposition with pronoun
>
> **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
>
> - فَإِنِّي combines causal conjunction with emphatic particle for strong assertion
>
> - لَن تَجِدَ uses future negation requiring subjunctive mood
>
> - ما تَسرِقُهُ is a relative clause with attached object pronoun
>
> - نَجَلاً 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 استَحيَيتُ indicates reflexive emotional state

4   Similar Phrases for Practice

1. فَقالَ الرَّجُلُ: مُتَأَسِّفٌ يا صَديقي، فَإِنِّي أَعرِفُ أَنَّكَ لَن تَجِدَ ما تَبحَثُ عَنهُ
So the man said: "Sorry my friend, for I know that you won't find what you are looking for"
[faqa:la r-radʒulu: muta?assifun ja: sˤadi:qi:, fa?inni: ?aʕrifu ?annaka lan tadʒida ma: tabħaθu ʕanhu]

2. وَقالَت البِنتُ: مُتَأَسِّفَةٌ يا أُستاذي، فَإِنِّي أَعلَمُ أَنَّكَ لَن تَجِدَ الجَوابَ هُنا
And the girl said: "Sorry professor, for I know that you won't find the answer here" [waqa:lat al-bintu: muta?assifatun ja: ?usta:ði:, fa?inni: ?aʕlamu ?annaka lan tadʒida l-dʒawa:ba huna:]

3. فَأَجابَ الطّالبُ: مُعتَذِرًا يا دُكتور، لكِنّي أَظُنُّ أَنَّكَ لَن تَجِدَ الكِّتابَ الآن
So the student answered: "Apologetic, doctor, but I think that you won't find the book now"
[fa?adʒa:ba tˤ-tˤa:libu: muʕtaðirun ja: duktu:r, la:kinni: ?aðˤunnu ?annaka lan tadʒida l-kita:ba l-?a:n]

4. وَقالَ التّاجِرُ: آسِفٌ يا زَبون، وَلكِنّي أَعرِفُ أَنَّكَ لَن تَجِدَ هَذا البِضاعَةَ عِندي
And the merchant said: "Sorry customer, but I know that you won't find this merchandise with me" [waqa:la t-ta:dʒiru: ?a:sifun ja: zabu:n, wala:kinni: ?aʕrifu ?annaka lan tadʒida ha:ða l-bidˤa:ʕata ʕindi:]

5   Levantine (Shaami) Arabic Dialect

> **Levantine Version**
>
> فَقال جُحا: آسِف يا سيّدي، لأنّي بَعرِف إنّك مِش رَح تلاقي شي تِسرُقُه، وَلَهيك استَحيَت مِنّك
> **Phonetic:** [faqa:l dʒuħa:: ?a:sif ja: sajji:di:, la?anni: baʕrif innak miʃ raħ tila:?i: ʃi: tisru:qu, walahe: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:

• آسِف ← مُتَأَسِّف (?a:sif) – simplified form of "sorry"

• لأنّي ← فَإِنِّي (la?anni:) – "because I" instead of "for indeed I"

• بَعرِف ← أَعرِف (baʕrif) – present continuous with بـ prefix

- إِنَّك ← أَنَّك (innak) – simplified subordinating particle

- مش رَح ← لَن (miʃ raħ) – future negation with "will not"

- تلاقي ← تَجِد (tila:ʔi:) – dialectal verb "to find"

- شي ← ما (ʃi:) – "something/anything" instead of relative "what"

- وَلَهيك ← وَلِهَذا (walahe:k) – "and that's why" in dialect

- اسْتَحَيَت ← اسْتَحيَيْت (istaħe:t) – simplified past tense form

6 Additional Learning Notes

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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 (يا سَيِّدي), 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.

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6.1 Memory Tips

1. **Emotional Progression:** Remember *Apology → Explanation → Shame* (خَجَل ← تَفْسير ← اعتِذار)

2. **Particle Chain:** فَ...فَإِنِّي...وَلِهَذا creates logical flow (so → for indeed → and therefore)

3. **Form X Pattern:** اسْتَحَيَت follows pattern اسْتَفْعَل for self-directed emotions

4. **Negation Structure:** subjunctive + لَن is standard future negation pattern

5. **Ironic Politeness:** The contrast between يا سَيِّدي (respectful address) and تَسرِق (you steal) creates the humor

6.2 Related Vocabulary Family

Emotion family:

أَسَف – sorrow [ʔasaf]

خَجَل – shame [xadʒal]

حَياء – modesty [ħaja:ʔ]

ارتِباك – embarrassment [irtaba:k]

نَدَم – regret [nadam]

Knowledge family:

مَعرِفَة – knowledge [maʕrifa]

عِلم – science/knowledge [ʕilm]

دِراية – awareness [dira:ja]

فَهم – understanding [fahm]

إدراك – perception [ʔidra:k]

Theft family:

سَرِقَة – theft [sariqa]

سارِق – thief [sa:riq]

مَسروق – stolen (item) [masru:q]

نَهب – plundering [nahb]

اختِلاس – embezzlement [ixtila:s]

Politeness family:

سَيِّد – master/sir [sajjid]

أُستاذ – professor/teacher [ʔusta:ð]

دُكتور – doctor [duktu:r]

مَولى – master/lord [mawla:]

صاحِب – owner/sir [sˤa:ħib]