

Arabic Phrase Analyser

Juha's Apology to the Thief

فقال جحا: متأسف يا سيدي، فإني أعرف أنك لن يجد ما تسرقه، ولهذا استحييت نجلا منك

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Arabic Phrase

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Without Diacritics

فَقَالَ جُحَا: مُتَأَسِّفٌ يَا سَيِّدِي، فَإِنِّي أَعْرِفُ أَنَّكَ لَنْ تَجِدَ مَا تَسْرِقُهُ، وَلِهَذَا اسْتَحْيَيْتُ نَجْلًا 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	فَعَّلَ (faʿʿala)
Grammar	Past tense verb, 3rd person masculine singular, with conjunction فَ (fa-) prefix
Table of Conjugations	Infinitive: قَوْلٌ [qawl] Present: يَقُولُ [jaqu:lu] Past: قَالَ [qa:la]
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 ʔadan] 3. قُلْ لِي مَاذَا حَدَثَ - Tell me what happened [qul li: ma:ða: ḥadaṡa]
Synonyms	تَكَلَّمَ (spoke), تَحَدَّثَ (talked), نَطَقَ (uttered)
Etymology	From Proto-Semitic *qwl, related to Hebrew קוֹל (qol) “voice”

2.2 جَا – [dzuha:]

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	<p>1. جَا رَجُلٌ حَكِيمٌ - Juha is a wise man [dzuha: radzu-lun ħaki:mun]</p> <p>2. قِصَصُ جَا مَشْهُورَةٌ - Juha's stories are famous [qis'as'u dzuha: maʃhu:ratun]</p> <p>3. ضَحَكَ جَا كَثِيرًا - Juha laughed a lot [d'ahika dzuha: kaθi:ran]</p>
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	مُتَفَعِّلٌ (mutafaʔʔil) - Form V active participle
Grammar	Active participle, masculine singular, nominative (predicate)
Table of Conjugations	<p>Infinitive: تَأْسَفُ [taʔassuf]</p> <p>Present: يَتَأَسَّفُ [jataʔassafu]</p> <p>Past: تَأَسَّفَ [taʔassafa]</p>
Examples	<p>1. أَنَا مُتَأَسِّفٌ جِدًّا - I am very sorry [ʔana: mutaʔas-sifun dʒiddan]</p> <p>2. تَأَسَّفَ عَلَى خَطْئِهِ - He regretted his mistake [taʔas-safa ʔala: xat'aʔihi]</p> <p>3. سَيَتَأَسَّفُ لَاحِقًا - He will regret later [sajataʔassafu la:ħiqan]</p>
Synonyms	أَسَفَ (sorry), نَادِمٌ (remorseful), حَزِينٌ (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: ʔaxi:] 2. يَا اللَّهُ - O God [ja: ʔalla:hu] 3. يَا لَيْتَنِي - Oh, if only I... [ja: lajtani:]
Synonyms	أَيُّهَا (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	فَعْل (faʿʿil) 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 [ʔasja:d]
Examples	1. هُوَ سَيِّدُ الْقَوْمِ - He is the master of the people [huwa sajjidu l-qawmi] 2. أَطَعْتُ سَيِّدِي - I obeyed my master [ʔatʕaʕtu sajjidi:] 3. السَّيِّدُ مُحَمَّدٌ - Mr. Muhammad [as-sajjidu muhammad]
Synonyms	مَوْلَى (master), رَبّ (lord), صَاحِب (owner)
Etymology	From root meaning “to be black, to prevail, to rule”

2.6 فَاِنَّى — [faʔinni:]

Translation	for indeed I / for I am
Root	N/A (compound particle)
Pattern	N/A
Grammar	Conjunction فَ + emphatic particle اِنَّ + 1st person pronoun suffix
Table of Conjugations	<p>اِنَّى / اِنِّى (I)</p> <p>اِنَّكَ (you m.)</p> <p>اِنَّه (he)</p> <p>اِنَّا (we)</p>
Examples	<p>1. اِنَّى اُحِبُّكَ - Indeed I love you [ʔinni: ʔuħibbuka]</p> <p>2. فَاِنَّه صَادِقٌ - For indeed he is truthful [faʔinnahu sʕa:diqun]</p> <p>3. اِنَّا مُسْلِمُونَ - Indeed we are Muslims [ʔinnana: muslimu:na]</p>
Synonyms	لَا اِنَّى (because I), اِنَّا حَقًّا (truly I)
Etymology	Classical Arabic emphatic construction

2.7 أَعْرِفُ — [ʔaʕrifu]

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

2.8 أَنْكَ — [ʔannaka]

Translation	that you
Root	N/A (particle with pronoun)
Pattern	N/A
Grammar	Subordinating particle 2 + أَنْ 2nd person masculine pronoun
Table of Conjugations	<p>أَنْنِي (that I)</p> <p>أَنْكَ (that you m.)</p> <p>أَنْهُ (that he)</p> <p>أَنْنَا (that we)</p>
Examples	<p>1. أَظُنُّ أَنَّكَ مُحَقٌّ - I think that you are right [ʔaðʕunnu ʔannaka muhiqqun]</p> <p>2. عَلِمْتُ أَنَّهُ قَادِمٌ - I knew that he is coming [ʕalimtu ʔannahu qa:dimun]</p> <p>3. قَالَ أَنَّنَا أَصْدِقَاءُ - He said that we are friends [qa:la ʔannana: ʔasʕdiqa:ʔ]</p>
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	<p>1. لَنْ أَنْسَى - I will not forget [lan ʔansa:]</p> <p>2. لَنْ يَحْدُثَ هَذَا - This will not happen [lan jahduθa ha:ða:]</p> <p>3. لَنْ نَتَأَخَّرَ - We will not be late [lan nataʔaxxara]</p>
Synonyms	لَا (not - general), مَا (not - past)
Etymology	Classical Arabic future negation

2.10 تَجَدَّ – [taɖʒida]

Translation	you find / you will find
Root	و-ج-د (w-dʒ-d)
Pattern	فَعَّلَ (faʿala)
Grammar	Present tense verb, 2nd person masculine singular, subjunctive mood (after لَنْ) Infinitive: وَجُودٌ [wuɖʒu:d]
Table of Conjugations	Present: تَجَدُّ [taɖʒidu] Past: وَجَدْتُ [waɖʒadta] 1. وَجَدْتُ الْكِتَابَ - I found the book [waɖʒadtu l-kita:ba] 2. سَتَجِدُ الطَّرِيقَ - You will find the way [sataɖʒidu tʰ-tʰari:qa] 3. يَجِدُونَ صُعُوبَةً - They find difficulty [jaɖʒidu:na sʰuʃu:batan]
Examples	
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 [ʔaʃtʰini: ma: ʃindaka] 3. فَعَلْتُ مَا طَلَبْتَ - I did what you asked [faʃaltu ma: tʰalabta]
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	فَعَّلَ (faʿʿala)
Grammar	Present tense verb, 2nd person masculine singular, with 3rd person masculine object pronoun Infinitive: سَرَقَ [sariqa]
Table of Conjugations	Present: تَسْرِقُ [tasriqu] Past: سَرَقْتَ [saraqta] 1. سَرَقَ الْمَالَ - He stole the money [saraqa l-ma:la] 2. لَا تَسْرِقْ - Don't steal [la: tasriq] 3. سَيَسْرِقُونَ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ - They will steal everything [sajasriquna kulla fajʔin]
Examples	
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 السَّبَبُ - And for this reason [waliha:ða: s-sabābi] 2. لِهَذَا جِئْتُ - For this I came [liha:ða: dʒiʔtu] 3. وَلِذَلِكَ - And for that [waliða:lika]
Synonyms	لِذَلِكَ (therefore), وَبِالتَّالِي (and consequently)
Etymology	Classical Arabic causal construction

2.14 اسْتَحْيَيْتُ — [istahjajtu]

Translation	I felt ashamed / I was embarrassed
Root	ح-ي-ي (h-j-j)
Pattern	استفعل (istafʿala) - Form X
Grammar	Past tense verb, 1st person singular, Form X (seeking/reflexive) Infinitive: اسْتَحْيَاء [istihjaʔ]
Table of Conjugations	Present: اسْتَحْيِي [ʔastahji:] Past: اسْتَحْيَيْتُ [istahjajtu] 1. اسْتَحْيَيْتُ مِنْ فِعْلِي - I was ashamed of my action [istahjajtu min fiʿli:] 2. يَسْتَحْيِي مِنَ الْكَلَامِ - He is shy to speak [jastahji: mina l-kala:mi] 3. لَا تَسْتَحْيِ - Don't be shy [la: tastahji:]
Synonyms	نَجِلَ (was embarrassed), اسْتَحَى (alternative form)
Etymology	From root meaning “life, modesty, shame”

2.15 نَجَلًا - [xadʒalan]

Translation	(out of) shame / embarrassment
Root	خ-ج-ل (x-dʒ-l)
Pattern	فعل (faʿal)
Grammar	Verbal noun (masdar), accusative case (adverbial/reason)
Table of Conjugations	N/A (verbal noun - no conjugation)
Examples	1. اِحْمَرَّ نَجَلًا - He turned red from embarrassment [ihmarra xadʒalan] 2. مَاتَ نَجَلًا - He died of shame [ma:ta xadʒalan] 3. اَلْجَلُّ صِفَةٌ حَمِيدَةٌ - Modesty is a good quality [al-xaʒalu sʿifatun hami:datun]
Synonyms	حَيَاء (modesty), اِرْتِبَاك (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 fix مِنِّي (from me) مِنْكَ (from you m.)
Table of Conjugations	مِنْهُ (from him) مِنْأَ (from us) 1. جِئْتُ مِنْكَ - I came from you [dʒiʔtu minka] 2. أَخَذْتُ مِنْهُ - I took from him [ʔaxaðtu minhu] 3. نَسَمِعُ مِنْكُمْ - We hear from you (pl.) [nasmaʕu minkum]
Examples	
Synonyms	عِنْدَكَ (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 فِ 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
- لَنْ تَجِدَ uses future negation requiring subjunctive mood
- مَا تَسْرِقُهُ is a relative clause with attached object pronoun
- نَجَلًا 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 تَبْتَغِي 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: tabhaʔu 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 دُكْتُورَ، 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: آسِفٌ يَا زَبُونِ، وَلَكِنِّي أَعْرِفُ أَنَّكَ لَنْ تَجِدَ هَذَا 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: ʔaʔrifu ʔannaka lan tadʒida ha:ða l-bidʔa:ʔata ʔindi:]

5 Levantine (Shaami) Arabic Dialect

Levantine Version

فَقَالَ جُحَا: آسِفٌ يَا سَيِّدِي، لِأَنِّي بَعْرِفُ إِنَّكَ مَش رَح تِلَاقِي شَيْ تَسْرِقُهُ، وَلَهِيكَ اسْتَحْيَيْتَ مِنْكَ
Phonetic: [faqa:l dʒuħa: ʔa:sif ja: sajjidi:, laʔanni: baʔrif innak miʃ raħ tila:ʔi: ʃi: tisru:qu, walahe:k istahe: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:

- مُتَأَسِّفٌ → آسِفٌ (ʔa:sif) – simplified form of “sorry”
- فَإِنِّي → لِأَنِّي (laʔanni:) – “because I” instead of “for indeed I”
- أَعْرِفُ → بَعْرِفُ (baʔrif) – present continuous with بـ prefix

- اِنَّكَ → اِنَّكَ (innak) – simplified subordinating particle
- لَنْ → مَشْ رَحْ (miš rah) – future negation with “will not”
- تَجِدْ → تِلَاقِي (tilaʔi:) – dialectal verb “to find”
- مَا → شَيْ (ʃi:) – “something/anything” instead of relative “what”
- وَلِهَذَا → وَلِهَيْكَ (walahe:k) – “and that’s why” in dialect
- اسْتَحْيَتْ → اسْتَحَيْتْ (istaħe:t) – simplified past tense form

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* (نَجَلْ → تَفْسِير → اِعْتِذَار)
2. **Particle Chain:** فَ...فَإِنِّي...وَلِهَذَا creates logical flow (so → for indeed → and therefore)
3. **Form X Pattern:** اسْتَحْيَتْ follows pattern اسْتَفْعَل 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 تَسْرِقْ (you steal) creates the humor

6.2 Related Vocabulary Family

Emotion family:

أَسَفٌ – sorrow [ʔasaf]
خَجَلٌ – shame [xadʒal]
حَيَاءٌ – modesty [ħaja:ʔ]
ارْتِبَاكٌ – 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:

سَرِقَةٌ – 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 [duktu:r]
مَوْلَى – master/lord [mawla:]
صَاحِبٌ – owner/sir [sʕa:hib]