Arabic Phrase Analyser
The Thief Searches but Finds Juha

وَبَحَثَ اللَّصُّ عَنْ شَيْءٍ يَسْرِقُهُ فَلَمْ يَجِدْ، فَرَأَى الْخِزَانَةَ فَفَتَحَهَا وَإِذَا بِجُحَا فِيهَا

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Arabic Phrase

وبحث اللص عن شيء يسرقه فلم يجد، فرأى الخزانة ففتحها وإذا بجحا فيها

Without Diacritics

وَبَحَثَ اللَّصُّ عَنْ شَيْءٍ يَسْرِقُهُ فَلَمْ يَجِدْ، فَرَأَى الْخِزَانَةَ فَفَتَحَهَا وَإِذَا بِجُحَا فِيهَا

With Full Diacritics

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1 English Translation

Literal: And searched the thief for something he-steals-it so-not he-found, so-he-saw the-wardrobe so-he-opened-it and behold with-Juha in-it
[Arabic order retained for direct mapping]

Adapted: The thief searched for something to steal but found nothing, then he saw the wardrobe, opened it, and behold, Juha was inside.

2 Detailed Word Analysis

2.1 وَبَحَثَ — [wabaħaθa]

Translation	and he searched
Root	ب-ح-ث (b-ħ-θ)
Pattern	فَعَلَ (faʕala)
Grammar	Past tense verb, 3rd person masculine singular, with conjunction وَ (wa-) prefix
Examples	1. بَحَثَ الطَّالِبُ عَنِ الْكِتَابِ - The student searched for the book [baħaθa ṭ-ṭālibu ʕan al-kitābi] 2. يَبْحَثُونَ عَنِ الْحَقِيقَة - They search for the truth [yabħaθūna ʕan al-ħaqīqati] 3. ابْحَثْ عَنْ عَمَلٍ جَدِيدٍ - Search for new work [ibħaθ ʕan ʕamalin jadīdin]
Synonyms	فَتَّشَ (searched), نَقَّبَ (investigated), تَقَصَّى (explored)
Etymology	From Proto-Semitic *baħaθ-, related to Hebrew בחש (baħash) "to search"

2.2 Conjugation

Person	Perfect (Past)	Imperfect (Present)
3rd person masculine singular	بَحَثَ [baħaθa]	يَبْحَثُ [yabħaθu]
3rd person feminine singular	بَحَثَتْ [baħaθat]	تَبْحَثُ [tabħaθu]
3rd person masculine dual	بَحَثَا [baħaθā]	يَبْحَثَانِ [yabħaθāni]
3rd person feminine dual	بَحَثَتَا [baħaθatā]	تَبْحَثَانِ [tabħaθāni]
3rd person masculine plural	بَحَثُوا [baħaθū]	يَبْحَثُونَ [yabħaθūna]
3rd person feminine plural	بَحَثْنَ [baħaθna]	يَبْحَثْنَ [yabħaθna]

2nd person masculine singular	بَحَثْتَ [baħaθta]	تَبْحَثُ [tabħaθu]
2nd person feminine singular	بَحَثْتِ [baħaθti]	تَبْحَثِينَ [tabħaθīna]
2nd person dual (m./f.)	بَحَثْتُمَا [baħaθtumā]	تَبْحَثَانِ [tabħaθāni]
2nd person masculine plural	بَحَثْتُم [baħaθtum]	تَبْحَثُونَ [tabħaθūna]
2nd person feminine plural	بَحَثْتُنَّ [baħaθtunna]	تَبْحَثْنَ [tabħaθna]
1st person singular	بَحَثْتُ [baħaθtu]	أَبْحَثُ [abħaθu]
1st person plural	بَحَثْنَا [baħaθnā]	نَبْحَثُ [nabħaθu]

Conjugation Notes

- The **future** is formed with the prefix سَ [sa-] or سَوْفَ [sawfa] before the imperfect (e.g., سَيَبْحَثُ ”he will search”).

- The **moods of the imperfect**:

    – Indicative: يَبْحَثُ [yabħaθu]

    – Subjunctive: لَنْ يَبْحَثَ [lan yabħaθa]

    – Jussive: لَمْ يَبْحَثْ [lam yabħaθ]

    – Imperative: اِبْحَثْ [ibħaθ!]

- **Passive voice**:

    – Perfect: بُحِثَ [buħiθa] — it was searched

    – Imperfect: يُبْحَثُ [yubħaθu] — it is searched

2.3   اللَّصُّ — [alliṣṣu]

Translation	the thief
Root	ل-ص-ص (l-ṣ-ṣ)
Pattern	فَعْل (faʕl) with definite article
Grammar	Noun, masculine, definite, nominative case (subject of verb)
Table of Conjugations	Singular: لصّ [liṣṣ] Plural: لُصوص [luṣūṣ]
Examples	1. اللَّصُّ سَرَقَ السَّيَّارَةَ - The thief stole the car [alliṣṣu saraqa s-sayyārata] 2. رَأَيْتُ اللَّصَّ يَجْرِي - I saw the thief running [raʔaytu l-liṣṣa yajrī] 3. اللُّصوصُ خَطَرُونَ - The thieves are dangerous [al-luṣūṣu xaṭarūna]
Synonyms	سَارِق (thief), حَرَامِي (burglar), خَاطِف (snatcher)
Etymology	From root meaning "to stick, adhere" - one who "sticks" to others' property

Full Declension Matrix

Number	Case	Indefinite	Definite	With Suffix (1st sg.)
Singular (مُفْرَد)	Nominative	لصٌّ (liṣṣun)	اللّصُّ (alliṣṣu)	لصِّي (liṣṣī)
	Accusative	لصّاً (liṣṣan)	اللّصَّ (alliṣṣa)	لصِّيَّ (liṣṣiyya)
	Genitive	لصٍّ (liṣṣin)	اللّصِّ (alliṣṣi)	لصِّي (liṣṣī)
Dual (مُثَنّى)	Nominative	لصّان (liṣṣāni)	اللّصّان (alliṣṣāni)	لصّايَ (liṣṣāya)
	Acc/Gen	لصّيْن (liṣṣayni)	اللّصّيْن (alliṣṣayni)	لصّيَّ (liṣṣayya)
Plural (جَمْع)	Nominative	لُصوصٌ (luṣūṣun)	اللُّصوصُ (alluṣūṣu)	لُصوصِي (luṣūṣī)
	Accusative	لُصوصاً (luṣūṣan)	اللُّصوصَ (alluṣūṣa)	لُصوصِيَّ (luṣūṣiyya)
	Genitive	لُصوصٍ (luṣūṣin)	اللُّصوصِ (alluṣūṣi)	لُصوصِي (luṣūṣī)

2.4   عَنْ — [ʕan]

Translation	about, for, from
Root	Particle (not derived from root)
Pattern	Preposition
Grammar	Preposition governing genitive case

Examples	1. سَأَلَ عَنِ الطَّرِيقِ - He asked about the road [saʔala ʕan iṭ-ṭarīqi] 2. ابْتَعَدَ عَنِ الْخَطَرِ - He moved away from danger [ibtaʕada ʕan al-xaṭari] 3. بَحَثَ عَنِ الْحَلِّ - He searched for the solution [baḥaθa ʕan al-ḥalli]

Synonyms	مِن (from), بِشَأْنِ (regarding), حَوْلَ (around/about)
Etymology	From Proto-Semitic *ʕan-, related to Hebrew על (ʕal) "on, about"

2.5   شَيْءٍ — [šayʔin]

Translation	something, thing
Root	(š-y-ʔ) ش-ي-ء
Pattern	(faʕl) فَعْل
Grammar	Indefinite noun, masculine, genitive case (due to preposition عَنْ)

Table of Conjugations	Singular: شَيْء [šayʔ] Plural: أَشْيَاء [ašyāʔ]
Examples	1. أُرِيدُ شَيْئاً - I want something [urīdu šayʔan] 2. لَا شَيْءَ هُنَا - Nothing here [lā šayʔa hunā] 3. كُلُّ شَيْءٍ جَمِيلٌ - Everything is beautiful [kullu šayʔin jamīlun]

Synonyms	أَمْر (matter), كَائِن (entity), مَوْضُوع (object)
Etymology	From Proto-Semitic *šayʔ-, meaning "thing, entity"

2.6 يَسْرِقُهُ — [yasriquhu]

Translation	he steals it
Root	س-ر-ق (s-r-q)
Pattern	Form I, يَفْعِلُ (yafʕilu)
Grammar	Present tense verb, 3rd person masculine singular + attached object pronoun هُ
Table of Conjugations	Perfect: سَرَقَ [saraqa] Imperfect: يَسْرِقُ [yasriqu] Active Participle: سَارِق [sāriq]
Examples	1. سَرَقَ الْمِحْفَظَةَ - He stole the wallet [saraqa l-miħfaẓata] 2. اللُّصُوص يَسْرِقُونَ - The thieves steal [al-luṣūṣu yasriqūna] 3. لَا تَسْرِقْ مَالَ النَّاس - Don't steal people's money [lā tasriq māla n-nāsi]
Synonyms	نَهَبَ (plundered), اخْتَلَس (embezzled), غَصَبَ (usurped)
Etymology	From Proto-Semitic *saraq-, related to Hebrew שדד (šādad) "to rob"

2.7 Conjugation

Person	Perfect (Past)	Imperfect (Present)
3rd person masculine singular	سَرَقَ [saraqa]	يَسْرِقُ [yasriqu]
3rd person feminine singular	سَرَقَتْ [saraqat]	تَسْرِقُ [tasriqu]
3rd person masculine dual	سَرَقَا [saraqā]	يَسْرِقَانِ [yasriqāni]
3rd person feminine dual	سَرَقَتَا [saraqatā]	تَسْرِقَانِ [tasriqāni]
3rd person masculine plural	سَرَقُوا [saraqū]	يَسْرِقُونَ [yasriqūna]
3rd person feminine plural	سَرَقْنَ [saraqna]	يَسْرِقْنَ [yasriqna]

2nd person masculine singular	سَرَقْتَ [saraqta]	تَسْرِقُ [tasriqu]
2nd person feminine singular	سَرَقْتِ [saraqti]	تَسْرِقِينَ [tasriqīna]
2nd person dual (m./f.)	سَرَقْتُمَا [saraqtumā]	تَسْرِقَانِ [tasriqāni]
2nd person masculine plural	سَرَقْتُم [saraqtum]	تَسْرِقُونَ [tasriqūna]
2nd person feminine plural	سَرَقْتُنَّ [saraqtunna]	تَسْرِقْنَ [tasriqna]
1st person singular	سَرَقْتُ [saraqtu]	أَسْرِقُ [asriqu]
1st person plural	سَرَقْنَا [saraqnā]	نَسْرِقُ [nasriqu]

Conjugation Notes

- The **future** is formed with the prefix سَ [sa-] or سَوْفَ [sawfa] before the imperfect (e.g., سَيَسْرِقُ ”he will steal”).

- The **moods of the imperfect**:

    - Indicative: يَسْرِقُ [yasriqu]

    - Subjunctive: لَنْ يَسْرِقَ [lan yasriqa]

    - Jussive: لَمْ يَسْرِقْ [lam yasriq]

    - Imperative: اسْرِقْ [isriq!] (not commonly used!)

- **Passive voice**:

    - Perfect: سُرِقَ [suriqa] — it was stolen

    - Imperfect: يُسْرَقُ [yusraqu] — it is being stolen

2.8   فَلَمْ يَجِدْ — [fa-lam yajid]

Translation	so he did not find
Root	و-ج-د (w-j-d)
Pattern	فَ + لَمْ + jussive mood
Grammar	Conjunction + negation particle + past verb in jussive mood
Table of Conjugations	Perfect: وَجَدَ [wajada] Imperfect: يَجِدُ [yajidu] Jussive: يَجِدْ [yajid]
Examples	1. لَمْ يَجِدِ الْمِفْتَاحَ - He did not find the key [lam yajid al-miftāħa] 2. وَجَدْتُ الْكِتَابَ - I found the book [wajadtu l-kitāba] 3. سَيَجِدُ الْحَلَّ - He will find the solution [sayajidu l-ħalla]
Synonyms	عَثَرَ عَلَى (came across), اكْتَشَفَ (discovered), لَقِيَ (met/-found)
Etymology	From Proto-Semitic *wajad-, meaning "to find, encounter"

2.9   Conjugation

Person	Perfect (Past)	Imperfect (Present)
3rd person masculine singular	وَجَدَ [wajada]	يَجِدُ [yajidu]
3rd person feminine singular	وَجَدَتْ [wajadat]	تَجِدُ [tajidu]
3rd person masculine dual	وَجَدَا [wajadā]	يَجِدَانِ [yajidāni]
3rd person feminine dual	وَجَدَتَا [wajadatā]	تَجِدَانِ [tajidāni]
3rd person masculine plural	وَجَدُوا [wajadū]	يَجِدُونَ [yajidūna]
3rd person feminine plural	وَجَدْنَ [wajadna]	يَجِدْنَ [yajidna]

2nd person masculine singular	وَجَدْتَ [wajadta]	تَجِدُ [tajidu]
2nd person feminine singular	وَجَدْتِ [wajadti]	تَجِدِينَ [tajidīna]
2nd person dual (m./f.)	وَجَدْتُمَا [wajadtumā]	تَجِدَانِ [tajidāni]
2nd person masculine plural	وَجَدْتُمْ [wajadtum]	تَجِدُونَ [tajidūna]
2nd person feminine plural	وَجَدْتُنَّ [wajadtunna]	تَجِدْنَ [tajidna]
1st person singular	وَجَدْتُ [wajadtu]	أَجِدُ [ajidu]
1st person plural	وَجَدْنَا [wajadnā]	نَجِدُ [najidu]

Conjugation Notes

- The **future** is formed with the prefix سَ [sa-] or سَوْفَ [sawfa] before the imperfect (e.g., سَيَجِدُ "he will find").

- The **moods of the imperfect**:

    - Indicative: يَجِدُ [yajidu]

    - Subjunctive: لَنْ يَجِدَ [lan yajida]

    - Jussive: لَمْ يَجِدْ [lam yajid]

    - Imperative: جِدْ [jid!]

- **Passive voice:**

    - Perfect: وُجِدَ [wujida] — it was found

    - Imperfect: يُوجَدُ [yūjadu] — it is found

2.10 فَرَأَى — [fa-raʔā]

Translation	then he saw
Root	ر-أَ-ي (r-ʔ-y)
Pattern	فعل (faʕala) with conjunction
Grammar	Past tense verb, 3rd person masculine singular, with conjunction فَ (fa-) prefix
Table of Conjugations	Perfect: رَأَى [raʔā] Imperfect: يرى [yarā] Active Participle: راءٍ [rāʔin]
Examples	1. رَأَى الطَّائِرَ - He saw the bird [raʔā ṭ-ṭāʔira] 2. تَرَى النُّجُومَ - She sees the stars [tarā n-nujūma] 3. رَأَيْتُ حُلْماً جَميلاً - I saw a beautiful dream [raʔaytu ħulman jamīlan]
Synonyms	شَاهَدَ (witnessed), أَبْصَرَ (perceived), نَظَرَ (looked)
Etymology	From Proto-Semitic *raʔay-, related to Hebrew ראה (rāʔāh) "to see"

Full Declension Matrix

Number	Case	Indefinite	Definite	With Suffix (1st sg.)
Singular (مُفْرَد)	Nominative	رُؤْيَةٌ (ruʔyatun)	الرُّؤْيَةُ (ar-ruʔyatu)	رُؤْيَتِي (ruʔyatī)
	Accusative	رُؤْيَةً (ruʔyatan)	الرُّؤْيَةَ (ar-ruʔyata)	رُؤْيَتِيَّ (ruʔyatiyya)
	Genitive	رُؤْيَةٍ (ruʔyatin)	الرُّؤْيَةِ (ar-ruʔyati)	رُؤْيَتِي (ruʔyatī)
Dual (مُثَنَّى)	Nominative	رُؤْيَتَان (ruʔyatāni)	الرُّؤْيَتَان (ar-ruʔyatāni)	رُؤْيَتَايَ (ruʔyatāya)
	Acc/Gen	رُؤْيَتين (ruʔyatayni)	الرُّؤْيَتين (ar-ruʔyatayni)	رُؤْيَتَيَّ (ruʔyatayya)
Plural (جَمْع)	Nominative	رُؤَىً (ruʔan)	الرُّؤَى (ar-ruʔā)	رُؤَايَ (ruʔāya)
	Accusative	رُؤَىً (ruʔan)	الرُّؤَى (ar-ruʔā)	رُؤَايَ (ruʔāya)
	Genitive	رُؤَىً (ruʔan)	الرُّؤَى (ar-ruʔā)	رُؤَايَ (ruʔāya)

2.11   الْخِزَانَةَ — [al-xizānata]

Translation	the wardrobe
Root	خ-ز-ن (x-z-n)
Pattern	فِعَالَة (fiʕāla)
Grammar	Noun, feminine, definite, accusative case (direct object)
Table of Conjugations	Singular: خِزَانة [xizāna] Plural: خِزَانات [xizānāt]
Examples	1. فَتَحَ خِزَانةَ الْمَلَابِسِ - He opened the clothes wardrobe [fataḥa xizānata l-malābisi] 2. الْخِزَانةُ مَلِيئَةٌ - The wardrobe is full [al-xizānatu malīʔatun] 3. اشْتَرَى خِزَانةً جَدِيدَةً - He bought a new wardrobe [ištarā xizānatan jadīdatan]

Synonyms	دُولَاب (closet), مَخْزَن (storage), صُنْدُوق (chest)
Etymology	From root meaning "to store, keep safe"

Full Declension Matrix

Number	Case	Indefinite	Definite	With Suffix (1st sg.)
Singular (مُفْرَد)	Nominative	خِزَانةٌ (xizānatun)	الْخِزَانةُ (al-xizānatu)	خِزَانَتِي (xizānatī)
	Accusative	خِزَانةً (xizānatan)	الْخِزَانةَ (al-xizānata)	خِزَانَتِيَّ (xizānatiyya)
	Genitive	خِزَانةٍ (xizānatin)	الْخِزَانةِ (al-xizānati)	خِزَانَتِي (xizānatī)
Dual (مُثَنَّى)	Nominative	خِزَانتَان (xizānatāni)	الْخِزَانتَان (al-xizānatāni)	خِزَانتَايَ (xizānatāya)
	Acc/Gen	خِزَانتَيْن (xizānatayni)	الْخِزَانتَيْن (al-xizānatayni)	خِزَانتَيَّ (xizānatayya)
Plural (جَمْع)	Nominative	خِزَانَاتٌ (xizānātun)	الْخِزَانَاتُ (al-xizānātu)	خِزَانَاتِي (xizānātī)
	Accusative	خِزَانَاتٍ (xizānātin)	الْخِزَانَاتِ (al-xizānāti)	خِزَانَاتِيَّ (xizānātiyya)
	Genitive	خِزَانَاتٍ (xizānātin)	الْخِزَانَاتِ (al-xizānāti)	خِزَانَاتِي (xizānātī)

2.12   فَفَتَحَهَا — [fa-fataħahā]

Translation	so he opened it
Root	ف-ت-ح (f-t-ħ)
Pattern	فَعَل (faʕala) with conjunction and pronoun
Grammar	Past tense verb with conjunction فَ + attached feminine pronoun هَا
Table of Conjugations	Perfect: فَتَحَ [fataħa] Imperfect: يَفْتَحُ [yaftaħu] Active Participle: فَاتِح [fātiħ]
Examples	1. فَتَحَ الْبَابَ - He opened the door [fataħa l-bāba] 2. تَفْتَحُ النَّافِذَةَ - She opens the window [taftaħu n-nāfiḏata] 3. افْتَحْ عَيْنَيْكَ - Open your eyes [iftaħ ʕaynyka]
Synonyms	شَقَّ (split open), كَشَفَ (uncovered), حَلَّ (unlocked)
Etymology	From Proto-Semitic *fataħ-, meaning "to open, breach"

2.13   Conjugation

Person	Perfect (Past)	Imperfect (Present)
3rd person masculine singular	فَتَحَ [fataħa]	يَفْتَحُ [yaftaħu]
3rd person feminine singular	فَتَحَتْ [fataħat]	تَفْتَحُ [taftaħu]
3rd person masculine dual	فَتَحَا [fataħā]	يَفْتَحَانِ [yaftaħāni]
3rd person feminine dual	فَتَحَتَا [fataħatā]	تَفْتَحَانِ [taftaħāni]
3rd person masculine plural	فَتَحُوا [fataħū]	يَفْتَحُونَ [yaftaħūna]
3rd person feminine plural	فَتَحْنَ [fataħna]	يَفْتَحْنَ [yaftaħna]

2nd person masculine singular	فَتَحْتَ [fataħta]	تَفْتَحُ [taftaħu]
2nd person feminine singular	فَتَحْتِ [fataħti]	تَفْتَحِينَ [taftaħīna]
2nd person dual (m./f.)	فَتَحْتُمَا [fataħtumā]	تَفْتَحَانِ [taftaħāni]
2nd person masculine plural	فَتَحْتُمْ [fataħtum]	تَفْتَحُونَ [taftaħūna]
2nd person feminine plural	فَتَحْتُنَّ [fataħtunna]	تَفْتَحْنَ [taftaħna]
1st person singular	فَتَحْتُ [fataħtu]	أَفْتَحُ [aftaħu]
1st person plural	فَتَحْنَا [fataħnā]	نَفْتَحُ [naftaħu]

Conjugation Notes

- The **future** is formed with the prefix سَ [sa-] or سَوْفَ [sawfa] before the imperfect (e.g., سَيَفْتَحُ ”he will open”).

- The **moods of the imperfect**:

    - Indicative: يَفْتَحُ [yaftaħu]

    - Subjunctive: لَنْ يَفْتَحَ [lan yaftaħa]

    - Jussive: لَمْ يَفْتَحْ [lam yaftaħ]

    - Imperative: اِفْتَحْ [iftaħ!]

- **Passive voice**:

    - Perfect: فُتِحَ [futiħa] — it was opened

    - Imperfect: يُفْتَحُ [yuftaħu] — it is opened

2.14   وَإِذَا — [wa-ʔiḏā]

Translation	and behold, and suddenly
Root	Particle (not derived from root)
Pattern	Conjunction + surprise particle
Grammar	Conjunction وَ + surprise particle إِذَا
Table of Conjugations	Fixed expression - no conjugation Used to introduce surprise or sudden discovery
Examples	1. وَإِذَا بِالْمَطَرِ يَهْطِلُ - And behold, rain is falling [wa-ʔiḏā bil-maṭari yahṭilu] 2. فَتَحَ الصُّنْدُوقَ وَإِذَا بِكَنْزٍ - He opened the box and behold, treasure [fataḥa ṣ-ṣundūqa wa-ʔiḏā bi-kanzin] 3. وَإِذَا بِهِ قَادِمٌ - And behold, he is coming [wa-ʔiḏā bihi qādimun]
Synonyms	فَجْأَةً (suddenly), بَغْتَةً (unexpectedly)
Etymology	إِذَا from Proto-Semitic *ʔiḏ- meaning "when, if"

2.15   بِجُحَا — [bi-juḥā]

Translation	with Juha, there was Juha
Root	Proper noun (not derived from root)
Pattern	Preposition + proper noun
Grammar	Preposition بِ + proper noun جُحَا
Table of Conjugations	Proper noun - no conjugation جُحَا is indeclinable
Examples	1. جُحَا رَجُلٌ حَكِيمٌ - Juha is a wise man [juḥā rajulun ḥakīmun] 2. قِصَّةُ جُحَا مُضْحِكَةٌ - Juha's story is funny [qiṣṣatu juḥā muḍḥikatun] 3. يُحِبُّ النَّاسُ جُحَا - People love Juha [yuḥibbu n-nāsu juḥā]
Synonyms	نَصْرُ الدِّينِ خُوجَة (Nasruddin Khoja) - Turkish equivalent
Etymology	Folkloric character name, possibly from Arabic جَحَا meaning "having prominent eyes"

2.16   فِيهَا — [fīhā]

Translation	in it
Root	Preposition + pronoun
Pattern	فِي + attached pronoun
Grammar	Preposition فِي + attached feminine pronoun هَا
Table of Conjugations	فِيهِ - in it (masc.)
	فِيهَا - in it (fem.)
	فِيهِمَا - in them (dual)
	فِيهِمْ - in them (masc. pl.)
	فِيهِنَّ - in them (fem. pl.)
Examples	1. الْكِتَابُ فِي الْحَقِيبَةِ - The book is in the bag [al-kitābu fī l-ḥaqībati]
	2. يَعِيشُ فِيهَا - He lives in it [yaʕīšu fīhā]
	3. مَا فِيهَا مِن شَكَّ - There is no doubt in it [mā fīhā min šakkin]

Synonyms	بِدَاخِلِهَا (inside it), بِهَا (in it)
Etymology	فِي from Proto-Semitic *fī- meaning "in, at"

3   Phrase Analysis

> **Grammatical Structure:**
> Conjunction + past verb + definite subject + prepositional phrase + relative clause + conjunction + negation + past verb + conjunction + past verb + direct object + conjunction + past verb + object pronoun + conjunction + surprise particle + prepositional phrase + prepositional phrase
>
> **Key Grammar Points:**
>
> - Sequential conjunctions وَ and فَ create narrative flow
>
> - عَنْ governs genitive case in شَيْءٍ
>
> - Relative clause يَسْرِقُهُ modifies شَيْءٍ
>
> - Negation لَمْ requires jussive mood in يَجِدْ

- وَإِذَا introduces sudden discovery

- Attached pronouns هُ and هَا show gender agreement

- ب in بِجُحَا indicates existence/presence

- This is a compound sentence with multiple clauses connected by conjunctions

4   Similar Phrases for Practice

1. وَبَحَثَ الطِّفْلُ عَنْ لُعْبَتِه فَلَمْ يَجِدْهَا، فَرَأَى الصُّنْدُوقَ فَفَتَحَهُ وَإِذَا بِهَا فِيهِ

And the child searched for his toy but did not find it, then he saw the box, opened it, and behold, it was inside [wa-baħaθa ṭ-ṭiflu ʕan luʕbatihi fa-lam yajidahā, fa-raʔā ṣ-ṣundūqa fa-fataħahu wa-ʔiḏā bihā fīhi]

2. وَنَقَّبَ الْعَامِلُ عَنْ مَاءٍ فَلَمْ يَعْثُرْ، فَشَاهَدَ الْبِئْرَ فَحَفَرَهَا وَإِذَا بِالْمَاءِ يَتَدَفَّقُ

And the worker searched for water but did not find any, then he saw the well, dug it, and behold, water was gushing [wa-naqqaba l-ʕāmilu ʕan māʔin fa-lam yaʕθur, fa-šāhada l-biʔra fa-ħafarahā wa-ʔiḏā bil-māʔi yatadaffaqu]

3. وَفَتَّشَ الطَّبِيبُ عَنْ دَوَاءٍ لِلْمَرَضِ فَلَمْ يَكْتَشِفْ، فَلَاحَظَ النَّبَاتَ فَدَرَسَهُ وَإِذَا بِهِ الْعِلَاجُ

And the doctor searched for medicine for the disease but did not discover any, then he noticed the plant, studied it, and behold, it was the cure [wa-fattaša ṭ-ṭabību ʕan dawāʔin lil-maraḍi fa-lam yaktašif, fa-lāħaẓa n-nabāta fa-darasahu wa-ʔiḏā bihi l-ʕilāju]

4. وَدَوَّرَ الطَّالِبُ عَنْ كِتَابِهِ فَلَمْ يَلْقَ، فَبَصُرَ الْمَكْتَبَةَ فَدَخَلَهَا وَإِذَا بِالْكِتَابِ عَلَى الطَّاوِلَةِ

And the student searched around for his book but did not find it, then he saw the library, entered it, and behold, the book was on the table [wa-dawwara ṭ-ṭālibu ʕan kitābihi fa-lam yalqa, fa-baṣura l-maktabata fa-daxalahā wa-ʔiḏā bil-kitābi ʕalā ṭ-ṭāwilati]

5   Levantine (Shaami) Arabic Dialect

> **Levantine Version**
>
> وَدَوَّر الْحَرَامِي عَ شِي يِسْرُقُو بَسْ مَا لَاقِي، فَشَافَ الخِزَانَة فَفَتَحَا وَإِذَا بِجُحَا جُوَّاتَا
>
> **Phonetic:** [wa-dawwar il-ħarāmi ʕa ši yisruqu bass mā lāqi, fa-šāf il-xizāne fa-fataħa wa-ʔiḏā juħā juwwāta]
>
> **Translation:** And the thief searched for something to steal but didn't find anything, then he saw the wardrobe, opened it, and behold, Juha was inside it.

Key Dialectal Changes:

- دَوَّر ← بَحَثَ (dawwar) — dialectal "searched around"

- الْحَرَامِي ← اللَّصُّ (il-ħarāmi) — colloquial "thief"

- عَ ← عَنْ (ʕa) — shortened preposition "for"

- شِي ← شَيْءٍ (ši) — simplified "something"

- بِسْرُقُو ← يَسْرِقُهُ (yisruqu) — dialectal present tense

- بَسْ مَا لَاقِي ← فَلَمْ يَجِدْ (bass mā lāqi) — "but didn't find"

- شَافَ ← رَأَى (šāf) — dialectal past "saw"

- فَتَحَا ← فَتَحَهَا (fa-fataħa) — simplified pronoun

- جُوَّاتَا ← فِيهَا (juwwāta) — dialectal "inside it"

6 Additional Learning Notes

Cultural and Literary Context

Narrative Function: This sentence serves as the climactic moment in a Juha story where the thief's expectations are completely subverted. Instead of finding valuables, he discovers Juha hiding in the wardrobe.

Juha's Character: Juha (Nasreddin Hodja in Turkish tradition) represents the wise fool archetype in Middle Eastern folklore. His presence in the wardrobe suggests either poverty (nothing worth stealing) or cleverness (hiding from the thief).

Literary Technique: The phrase uses dramatic irony and surprise revelation through وَإِذَا to create humor and engage the reader. The sequential structure builds suspense before the punchline.

Cultural Values: The story reflects themes of poverty, resourcefulness, and the ability to find humor in difficult situations - common motifs in Arabic folk literature. It also demonstrates the Arabic narrative tradition of using conjunctions to create flow.

Grammar Teaching Value: This sentence is excellent for teaching sequential conjunctions, negation with لَمْ, attached pronouns, and the dramatic وَإِذَا construction.

6.1 Memory Tips

1. **Conjunction Chain:** *Search → Find (negated) → See → Open → Surprise* (وَ...فَ...فَ...وَ)

2. **Pronoun Gender:** Remember هُ (masculine) refers to شَيْءٍ, هَا (feminine) to الْحِزَانَةَ

3. **Negation Rule:** لَمْ + jussive = past negative (لَمْ يَجِدْ not لَمْ يَجِدُ)

4. **Surprise Structure:** ...وَإِذَا بِ is a fixed expression meaning "and behold..."

5. **Relative Clause:** يَسْرِقُهُ modifies شَيْءٍ — "something that he steals"

6.2   Related Vocabulary Family

Search/Investigation family:

بَحْث — research [baħθ]

تَفْتِيش — searching [taftīš]

تَنْقِيب — excavation [tanqīb]

اسْتِكْشَاف — exploration [istikšāf]

فَحْص — examination [faħṣ]

Theft family:

سَرِقَة — theft [sariqa]

سَارِق — thief [sāriq]

مَسْرُوق — stolen [masrūq]

نَهْب — plunder [nahb]

لُصُوصِيَّة — thievery [luṣūṣiyya]

Vision family:

رُؤْيَة — vision [ruʔya]

نَظَر — looking [naẓar]

إِبْصَار — sight [ibṣār]

مُشَاهَدَة — watching [mušāhada]

مُلَاحَظَة — observation [mulāħaẓa]

Opening family:

فَتْح — opening [fatħ]

مِفْتَاح — key [miftāħ]

انْفِتَاح — being open [infitāħ]

فَتَّاح — opener [fattāħ]

مَفْتُوح — opened [maftūħ]

Storage family:

خَزْن — storage [xazn]

مَخْزَن — warehouse [maxzan]

خِزَانة — cupboard [xizāna]

خَازِن — treasurer [xāzin]

مُدَّخَر — stored [muddaxar]

Surprise family:

مُفَاجَأَة — surprise [mufājaʔa]

بَغْتَة — suddenly [baġta]

فَجْأَة — suddenly [fajʔa]

صِدْمة — shock [ṣadma]

ذُهُول — amazement [ḏuhūl]

6.3   Grammatical Patterns to Remember

Sequential Narrative Pattern:

- وَ + فعل — "and [verb]" (connects to previous action)

- فَ + فعل — "so/then [verb]" (shows result or sequence)

- وَإِذَا بِ + اسم — "and behold [noun]" (introduces surprise)

Negation Patterns:

- لَمْ + مجزوم — past negation with jussive mood

- مَا + فعل — simple negation

- لَا + مضارع — present/future negation

Attached Pronoun Patterns:

- Verb + هُ/هَا — "he/she [verbs] it"

- Preposition + هُ/هَا — "in/with/for it"

- Noun + هُ/هَا — "his/her [noun]"

Form Patterns in the Text:

- Form I verbs: بَحَثَ، سَرَقَ، وَجَدَ، رَأَى، فَتَحَ — basic action verbs

- Sound plurals: لُصُوص (broken plural from لِصّ)

- Feminine nouns with فِعَالة pattern خِزَانَة :ـة

- Defective verbs: رَأَى (hollow verb with weak middle radical)