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Facilitating the Learning of Arabic for Devotional Studies

Taysir Ta'allum al-Lughah al-'Arabiyyah li al-Dirāsah al-Ta'abbudiyyah

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Lesson 3

Intro to Grammar: Verbs

Without a doubt, verbs are one of the most critical, and admittedly challenging, aspects of learning Arabic especially for beginners. We'll take our time as we delve into this broad subject.

For our starting purposes, there are **three main types of verbs**:

1. Past tense - ماضي;
2. Present tense (which as you'll see includes future tense) - مرفوع;
3. Imperative/command - أمر;

An example of this from the Qur'an would be,

أَرَأَيْتَ الَّذِي يُكَذِّبُ بِالدِّينِ
لَا أَعْبُدُ مَا تَعْبُدُونَ
كَلَّا لَا تَطِيعُ وَاسْجُدْ وَاقْتَرِبْ ۝

Intro to Grammar: Verbal Nouns

Verbs are also important because **they are what nouns are derived from**. Some examples would be, from our three verses above, are:

رُؤْيَا - the faculty of seeing/an opinion

عِبَادَة - to worship/worshipping

سُجُود - prostration

In our example above, this kind of **verbal noun** is known as a **maṣḍar** (مصدر). There are several definitions and rules that apply to the **maṣḍar** but for now let's focus on this: it is a noun, derived from a verb **that shares the same root letters**, and conveys the meaning of the verb **devoid of tense**. Let's look at some examples,

رُؤْيَا

أَنَّ أَبَا هُرَيْرَةَ أَخْبَرَهُ أَنَّ نَاسًا قَالُوا لِرَسُولِ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ هَلْ نَرَى رَبَّنَا يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ فَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ هَلْ تُضَارُّونَ فِي رُؤْيَا الْقَمَرِ لَيْلَةَ الْبَدْرِ قَالُوا لَا يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ قَالَ هَلْ تُضَارُّونَ فِي الشَّمْسِ لَيْسَ دُونَهَا

سَحَابٌ قَالُوا لَا يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ قَالَ فَإِنَّكُمْ تَرَوْنَهُ كَذَلِكَ يَجْمَعُ اللَّهُ
النَّاسَ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ فَيَقُولُ مَنْ كَانَ يَعْبُدُ شَيْئًا فَلْيَتَّبِعْهُ

عِبَادَةٌ

الْعِبَادَةُ فِي الْهَرَجِ كَهَجْرَةِ إِلَيَّ

سُجُود

قَالَ مَالِكٌ كُلُّ سَهْوٍ كَانَ نُقْصَانًا مِنَ الصَّلَاةِ فَإِنَّ **سُجُودَهُ** قَبْلَ
السَّلَامِ وَكُلُّ سَهْوٍ كَانَ زِيَادَةً فِي الصَّلَاةِ فَإِنَّ سُجُودَهُ بَعْدَ
السَّلَامِ

Vocab

أَخْبَرَ - to give a report, to inform

ناس - _____

رَأَى / رَأَيْتَ / نَرَى - _____

تُضَارُّونَ / ضَرَّ - to have difficulty with

بَدْر - full moon

هل - functions as a question make, denoting a question being asked

دُونَ - without

سحاب - clouds

فَإِنَّكُمْ - a combination of three words meaning "therefore without a
"...doubt, you all

يَجْمَعُ / جَمَعَ - to bring or gather together

شَيْئًا / شَيْءٌ - a thing, something

فَلْيَتَّبِعْهُ - let him or her follow it

هَرَج - commotion, chaos, difficulty

سهو - forgetfulness, act of forgetfulness

نُقْصَانٌ - a decrease or loss

قَبْلَ - before, in front of

كُلِّ - each, every

كان - was, (that) was, something that occurs in the past

Assignment: Translation

With the vocab list above, translate the three texts for رؤية, عبادة, and سجود. You'll notice that a couple of the vocab words are blank. Fill them in!