

THE RULE OF RAA

The letter *raa* (ر) alternates between *tarqeeq* and *tafkheem* according to the short vowel accompanying it, or in case of *sukoon* the vowel preceding it. Therefore:

1. *Raa* is light (i.e. with *tarqeeq*) when it is accompanied by *kasrah* or by *sukoon* and preceded by *kasrah*, as in:

فَرَحَ الرَّقَابِ الصَّابِرِينَ وَاصْبِرْ فِرْعَوْنُ

It is also light when one stops on it (at the end of a word thereby omitting the final short vowel) but is preceded by *yaa saakinah*, as in:

قَدِيرٌ خَيْرٌ خَيْرٌ

2. *Raa* is heavy (i.e. with *tafkheem*) when it is accompanied by *fathah* or *dhammah*, or by *sukoon* but preceded by *fathah* or *dhammah*, as in:

رَبَّنَا رَأَوْا رُزِقْنَا حَاضِرًا عِشْرُونَ
خَزَدَلِ غُرْفَةَ الْقُرْآنِ

It is also heavy when one stops on it while it is preceded by *alif saakinah* or *waaw saakinah*, as in:

النَّارِ الْقَهَّارِ الْغَفُورِ الصُّدُورِ¹³

¹³Sometimes a stop will cause two successive *sukoons*, as in الْقَدْرِ and الْفَجْرِ. Here we look to the short vowel preceding them both and apply the rule.

And it is heavy when preceded by a *connecting hamzah*
(همزة الوصل) in any circumstance, as in:

إِنْ أَرْتَبْتُمْ أَمْ أَمْتَابُوا لِمَنْ أَرْتَضَىٰ فَأَرْتَقِبْ
أَرْكَعُوا أَرْجَعُوا

And finally, it is heavy when *raa* itself is *saakinah* and although preceded by *kasrah*, it is followed by a heavy letter carrying *fatḥah* or *dhammah*, as in:

قِرطَاسٌ , مِرصَادٌ

Read for practice: *Sūrah Hūd*, aayaat 96-99 and
Sūrah al-Qamar