

Q & A

Uthmaanic Orthography

& Caution on Incorrect Terms

Question

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ

السلام عليكم

Dear Respected Shaykh (may Allah swt preserve you),

Why is it:

بَسَطَتْ

in the Indo-Pak script and:

بَسَطَتْ

in the Uthmaaniyy script of the Glorious Qur'aan?

Are they both correct?

Answer

Our Shaykh Dr. Abdur Rahim, حفظه الله replied (quote):

Dear Br Abdullah Abdur-Raheem

وعليكم السلام

At the outset, I would like to correct some of your ideas expressed in your question.

1. There is no such thing as Uthmaanic script.

It is **Uthmaanic Orthography**, i.e., spelling system.

The Committee which recorded and wrote the *muSHaf* (copy of the Qur'aan) under the direction of "Uthmaan رضي الله عنه omitted weak letters in some words like العلمين (for العالمين) which a man knowing the language can easily recognize.

This is one of the points in which the Uthmaanic Orthography differs from Modern Arabic Orthography.

2. The addition of short vowel marks like *fatHah*, *Dammah*, *kasrah*, etc. (known as ضَبْط) took place later on.

So these vowel marks are not part of the Uthmaanic Orthography.

3. The Indo-Pak *MuSHaf* is also written according to Uthmaanic Orthography, but the system of *DabT* is different.

4. The word:

بَسَطَتْ (Qur'aan 5:28)

has two different *DabTs*.

a) In the Indo-Pak *MuSHafs*, it is written with *sukuun* on the ط, and *shaddah* on the ت:

بَسَطَتْ:

﴿لَئِنْ بَسَطْتَ إِلَيَّ يَدَكَ لِتَقْتُلَنِي مَا...﴾

b) But, according to the other system, the ط has no *sukuun*, nor has the ت *shaddah*:

بَسَطَتْ:

﴿لَئِنْ بَسَطْتَ إِلَيَّ يَدَكَ لِتَقْتُلَنِي مَا...﴾

According to both the systems, its pronunciation is the same.

The letter ط is assimilated to ت to the extent that it loses its *qalqalah*, but it retains its quality of being a *muTbaq* letter.

Hope this is clear.

Wassalaam,
abdur rahim

Admin.'s Note: The Shaykh discusses the other system of *DabT* in [Q 53: Diacritical Signs and Qur'aanic DabT](#).

For lectures on Qur'aanic Orthography, please see DVD 1 of the Shaykh's advanced course: [Selections From the Glorious Qur'aan:](#)

'4 Elements of Qur'aanic Orthography':

الرَّسْمُ الْعُثْمَانِيُّ، (the Qur'aanic Orthography as prepared under "Uthmaan's supervision)

الإعجام، (adding the dots)

الضَّبَطُ، (adding the diacritical signs)

علاماتُ الوقفِ (punctuation marks).