

Q & A

﴿تلك الرُّسُلُ...﴾

[البقرة : 253]

Question

Can anyone please guide me why *ism 'ishaarah mu'annath* has been used in:

﴿تلك الرُّسُلُ فَضَّلْنَا بَعْضَهُمْ عَلَى بَعْضٍ﴾ . [البقرة : 253]

Answer

Our Shaykh Dr. Abdur Rahim explains in the following extracts:

Extract 1

Quote:

Any plural can be feminine singular.

But usage dictates that we only use this with regard to

غَيْرُ عَاقِلٍ in ordinary language.

But in the Qur'aan, poetry and literary writing, you can use feminine singular.

For example:

﴿تِلْكَ الرُّسُلُ...﴾

But In India and Pakistan some of the students say:

هَذِهِ طُلَّابٌ.

You should not use this kind of construction.

It is not the day-to-day usage.

Grammatically it is correct, but it is not the usage. We say:

هَؤُلَاءِ طُلَّابٌ.

End quote

Source:

“Selections from the Glorious Qur'aan
- With Lexical & Grammatical Notes”
DVD 4, Part B2 # 0:50.

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Extract 2

Quote:

We must differentiate between grammatical propriety and usage.

Some grammatically correct forms are used only in literary language like poetry and oratory.

One of the plurals of لُغَةٌ is

لُغُونَ like مُسَلِّمُونَ .

When I used it in an essay, many of my friends advised me not to use it as most of the readers may either not understand it, or think that I do not know Arabic correctly.

So both:

تِلْكَ الرُّسُلُ

هَذِهِ الطُّلَّابُ

are correct, but they should be used only in high literary writings.

If they are used in day to day language, they may be regarded as wrong.

End quote

Source:

An earlier reply of the Shaykh
to a question on broken plurals
(2010 CE)

Extract 3

Quote:

إيضاحات نحويّة

أسماء الإشارة

- ذَكَرْنَا فِي هَذَا الدَّرْسِ أَنَّ جَمْعَ غَيْرِ الْعَاقِلِ يُشَارُ إِلَيْهِ بِـ«هَذِهِ» أَوْ «تِلْكَ». هَذَا هُوَ الْأَكْثَرُ، وَيَجُوزُ أَنْ يُشَارَ إِلَيْهِ بِـ«هَؤُلَاءِ» أَوْ «أُولَئِكَ»، فِي التَّنْزِيلِ: ﴿إِنَّ السَّمْعَ وَالْبَصَرَ وَالْفُؤَادَ كُلُّ أُولَئِكَ كَانَ عَنْهُ مَسْئُولًا﴾ (الإسراء: 36) وَفِي الْحَدِيثِ: «ثُمَّ أَمْرَهُ أَنْ يَدْعُوا بِهِؤُلَاءِ الْكَلِمَاتِ...». (مسلم: الذكر والدعاء 35)، وَهَذَا قَلِيلٌ.
- وَيَجُوزُ أَنْ يُشَارَ إِلَى جَمْعِ التَّكْسِيرِ لِلْعَاقِلِ بِـ«هَذِهِ» أَوْ «تِلْكَ» فِي التَّنْزِيلِ: ﴿تِلْكَ الرُّسُلُ...﴾. وَهَذَا أَيْضًا قَلِيلٌ.

End quote

Source:

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كتابُ الْمُعَلِّمِ
لـ«دروس اللّغة العربيّة لغير الناطقين بها».
(الدرسُ السّابعُ عَشْرَ).