The Basic Difference Between the Nominal and Verbal Sentences

The respected Shaykh Dr. V. Abdur Rahim - ﷺ - was asked:

Question

Dear Shaykh, what is the difference between starting a sentence as an ismiyyah or fi’liyyah?

For example, if I want to say: ‘Bilaal travelled’, should I start with the verb or the mubtada’?

May Allaah benefit us with your knowledge and company.
In a *jumlah fi’liyyah* (verbal sentence) the emphasis is on the فعل.

While in a *jumlah ismiyyah* (nominal sentence) the emphasis is on the مُبْتَدَأٌ.

So in:

آَسَافِرُ بِلَالٌ؟

it is taken for granted that the matter concerns Bilaal.

There is no doubt about it.

But the question is:

Did he or did he not *travel*?
On the other hand, in:

أَبِيَّةَ سَافَرَ؟

the question is:

Who is it who travelled?

• Is it Bilaal?

• Or his brother?

• Or somebody else?

So the correct translation of:

بِلَالَ سَافَرَ

is:

'It is Bilaal who travelled.'