

## The Basic Difference Between the Nominal and Verbal Sentences

The respected Shaykh Dr. V. Abdur Rahim - **حَفَظَهُ اللهُ** - 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: '**Bilal travelled**', should I start with the verb or the *mubtada'*?

**May Allaah benefit us with your knowledge and company.**

## Answer

The Shaykh replied (quote):

In a *jumlah fi"liyyah* (verbal sentence) the emphasis is on the

فِعْلٍ.

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

on the مُبْتَدَأٌ .

So in:

أَسَافَرَ 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:

أَبْلَالٌ سَافِرٌ؟

the question is:

*Who* is it who travelled?

- Is it Bilaal?
- Or his brother?
- Or somebody else?

So the correct translation of:

بِلَالٌ سَافِرٌ

is:

'It is Bilaal who travelled.'

End quote

جزى الله شيخنا خيراً