

Difference Between

قَامُوسٌ and مُعْجَمٌ

Question

Assalaamu 'alaykum,

Is there any difference between قَامُوسٌ and مُعْجَمٌ
or are they absolute synonyms?

Answer

Our Shaykh Dr. V. Abdur Rahim حَفِظَهُ اللهُ replied (quote):

وعليكم السلام

The word قَامُوسٌ literally means a sea.

The famous lexicographer, Majdu l-Diin al-Fiiruzabaadi (b 729 AH) named his famous dictionary القَامُوسُ الْمُحِيطُ (the ocean).

This work became so famous that people called any dictionary *qaamuus*.

The correct word for a dictionary is الْمُعْجَمُ

(end reply)