

«بِالْمَدِينَةِ» or «فِي الْمَدِينَةِ»

Question

Assalaamu 'alaykum,

In Madinah Book 2 Lesson 1, one of the last lines in the [conversation] text says:

إِنَّهُمْ هُنَا بِالْمَدِينَةِ الْمُنَوَّرَةِ

and then the answer to exercise 1, question no. 7 reads:

هُنَّ فِي الْمَدِينَةِ الْمُنَوَّرَةِ

Why the difference in use of preposition?

Answer

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

Dear Sister Haleemah

وعليكم السلام

Both these prepositions can be used in the sense of "in".

Usually we say:

فِي الْمَدْرَسَةِ

and

بِالْجَامِعَةِ

There are no hard and fast rules governing their use.

It is more a matter of feeling.

So do not worry about this matter.

(end reply)