

Q & A

1. *Qur'aanic* Orthography

2. الفُصْحَى and dialect

Question

1. In words like

إِسْحَاقَ، هَارُونَ، الرَّحْمَنُ، السَّمَوَاتِ

there is an *alif* that is pronounced even though it isn't written. In the Qur'aan the *alif* is represented by *alif al khanjariyyah*.

Is it wrong to write these words (outside of the Qur'aan) with the *alif*? Or should we always leave it out?

2. In Egypt they use the word جَوَاعَانَةٌ in stead of جَوَاعَى as the feminine form of جَوَاعَانٌ .

Is it also possible to use this form in classical Arabic or would that be wrong?

Answer

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

Dear Sister fulaanah
Assalamu "alaykum

Answer to Q1:

The *Qur'aanic* orthography is to be followed in the *Qur'aan*.

Outside the *Qur'aan* one may write these words in the normal orthography if there is one, e.g., in Syria, the word

مائة (hundred) is written without the unpronounced *alif*
مِئَة.

But words like:

هَذَا، ذَلِكَ، الرَّحْمَنُ، إِلَهٌ

are written outside the *Qur'aan* as they are written in the *Qur'aan*.

Some people write هَارُونُ، إِسْحَاقُ with *alif*, and there is nothing wrong about this.

Answer to Q2:

You say Egyptians say جَوْعَانَةٌ.

Yes, they use this in their dialect, but not in الفُصْحَى.

This word is not correct, and should not be used in the *FuSHaa*.

But Egyptians use رَأْسٌ as feminine in the *FuSHaa* which is wrong. In Arabic this word is masculine.

I hope this has helped you.

Wassalam,
abdur rahim