

Q & A

نُونُ النِّسْوَةِ وَتَاءُ التَّائِيثِ

Question

First off my profound respect and warmest greetings to Dr. Vaniya. Allah grant him a long and healthy life.

I am confused by something that is apparently very simple.

It is said that in أَكَلَتْ 3rd person singular feminine, the *taa'* is the mark of the feminine only and the subject is *mustatir* that is: silent.

But in أَكَلْنَ, third person plural feminine, the *nuun* is the mark of the subject: the *faa'il*. It is also the mark of the feminine.

I am confused, what is the *nuun* exactly?

Answer

The Shaykh Dr. Abdur Rahim, حفظه الله replied (quote):

1. You explain مُسْتَتِرٌ as *silent*. This is not correct.

مُسْتَتِرٌ means *hidden*, i.e., it has no form in writing, and so it does not physically exist, but it exists in our minds.

Now, in أَكَلْتُ the *taa'* is not the *faa"il* because the verb takes a *faa"il* as in

أَكَلْتُ زَيْنَبُ.

But in:

أَأَكَلْتُ زَيْنَبُ؟ نَعَمْ، أَكَلْتُ.

the *faa"il* is the hidden pronoun.

The *taa* cannot be the *Damiir*, for in that case in

أَكَلْتُ زَيْنَبُ ,

the verb has two *faa"ils* which is not possible.

2. You say:

But in akalna, third person plural feminine, the nuun is the mark of the subject.

Your expression is not correct.

The *nuun* is the subject. It is not the mark of the subject.

It is the subject because no subject can come after it.

So you cannot say,

✘ أَكَلْنَ الْبَنَاتُ.

I hope this is clear.

Wassalaam,
abdur rahim