

Q & A

'Mawlaanaa', 'HaDrat'
and Other Phrases

Question

السلام عليكم

In South Asia, we frequently hear titles and salutations like

Hazrat,

Mawlaanaa,

Daamat barakaatuhum etc.

But we do not hear any Arabs using these.

1. Would the Sheikh kindly explain the origin, meaning and usage of these (and similar) South Asian words / phrases?
2. Should we avoid these words?

Answer

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

وعليكم السلام

1. In the Indian subcontinent, both the words *HaDrat* and *mawlaanaa* are used with names, e.g.:

Hazrat Umar, Mawlaanaa Abdullaah saheb.

But in some Arab countries like Egypt, *HaDratuk* **حَضْرَتُكَ**

(your excellency) is used instead of **أَنْتَ** to show respect.

The third person **حَضْرَتُهُ** is used sarcastically.

In addressing a respectable person, especially a religious personality, *yaa mawlaanaa* is used, but never used as a prefix to a name in Arab countries.

daamat barakaatuhu (دَامَتْ بَرَكَاتُهُ) means

'May his blessings continue to remain'.

Note in the subcontinent *barakaatuhum* (plural pronoun in the third person) is used for a single person. This is not Arabic. This is Indo-Pak Arabic.

Arabs use **أَنْتُمْ** to show respect. This is for the second person. But they never use **هُمْ** (in the third person) for a single person to show respect.

Arabs do not use the expression دَامَتْ بَرَكَاتُهُ.

But Egyptians tell a visitor visiting your home,

زَارَتْنَا الْبَرَكَاتُ (Blessings are visiting us).

2. With regard to the ruling on using these words, I shall deal with it in another session **إِنْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ**.

Wassalaam,
abdur rahim