

# الشعرُ

## Poetry

وَمَا أَكْثَرَ الْإِخْوَانَ حِينَ تَعُدُّهُمْ  
وَلَكِنَّهُمْ فِي النَّائِبَاتِ قَلِيلٌ

(الإمام الشافعي - رَحِمَهُ اللهُ)

How numerous friends are  
When you count them,  
But in times of adversity  
And calamity  
They are few.



## شَرْحُ الْمَفْرَدَاتِ

---

The plural **إِخْوَانٍ** is mostly used to mean friends whereas **إِخْوَةٌ** is used to mean brothers.

**النَّائِبَةُ**, misfortune, calamity, adversity,

*pl.* **نَوَائِبُ** and **نَائِبَاتٌ**.

\* \* \*

## إيضاحاتٌ نحويَّةٌ

مَا أَكْثَرَ الْإِخْوَانَ

مَا أَكْثَرَ is فِعْلُ التَّعَجُّبِ .

الْإِخْوَانَ is its مَفْعُولٌ بِهِ .

مَا أَكْثَرَ The *hamzah* in the فِعْلُ التَّعَجُّبِ is هَمْزَةُ التَّعْدِيَةِ .

So أَكْثَرَ means, 'to make something numerous'.

أَجْمَلَ means, 'to make something beautiful'.

مَا As for مَا, grammarians differ as to what type of مَا it is, and it is best to adopt the opinion of those who hold that it is interrogative.

So the original meaning of :

مَا أَجْمَلَ النُّجُومَ! is:

'What has made the stars so beautiful?'

And this مَا is the مُبْتَدَأُ.

And the verbal sentence following it  
(أَجْمَلَ النُّجُومَ), is its خَبَرٌ.

أَكْثَرَ الْإِخْوَانَ

So the verbal sentence is خَبَرٌ.

حِينَ تَعُدُّهُمْ

حِينَ is مَفْعُولٌ فِيهِ.

تَعُدُّهُمْ

And the sentence تَعُدُّهُمْ is *muDaaf ilayhi*,  
and so it is فِي مَحَلِّ جَرٍّ.

وَلَكِنَّهُمْ فِي النَّائِبَاتِ قَلِيلٌ

قَلِيلٌ

It is قَلِيلٌ with *tanwiin*, but in poetry the *tanwiin* of the final noun may be omitted.

On the contrary, a diptote may receive *tanwiin*. And this is done for reasons of prosody.

