

الشعرُ

Poetry

أَعَزُّ مَكَانٍ فِي الدُّنْيَا سَرْجُ سَابِحٍ
وَأَخَيْرُ جَلِيسٍ فِي الزَّمَانِ كِتَابُ

(الْمُتَنَّبِيُّ)

The most honoured place in the world
Is the saddle of a galloping steed,
And the best companion to sit with
Is a book.



شَرْحُ الْمَفْرَدَاتِ

عَزِيزٌ, respected, honourable.

أَعَزُّ is the اسْمُ التَّفْضِيلِ.

دُنَا (with تَنْوِينٌ) is the plural of دُنِيَا .

السَّرَجُ, saddle, *pl* سُرُوجٌ .

أَسْرَجَ الْفَرَسَ إِسْرَاجًا (iv), to saddle a horse.

سَبَحَ سَبَاحَةً (a-a), to swim.

سَبَحَ الْفَرَسُ, to gallop.

سَابِحٌ, a galloping steed.

إيضاحات نحوية

أَعَزُّ مَكَانٍ فِي الدُّنْيَا

The plural of فُعَلَى (feminine of أَفْعَلُ) is فُعَلٌ as :

كُبُرٌ pl. of كُبْرَى as in the following *aayah*

﴿إِنَّهَا لِأَحَدَى الْكُبُرِ﴾

[المُدَّثَرُ 35]

It is indeed one of the greatest (signs).

عُلَى pl. of عُلْيَا as in the following *aayah* :

﴿فَأُولَئِكَ لَهُمُ الدَّرَجَاتُ الْعُلَى﴾

[طه 75]

For those are the most exalted degrees.

دُنْيَا pl. of دُنْيَا.

وَأَخَيْرُ جَلِيسٍ

جَلِيسٍ

'a companion who sits with you',
pl جُلَسَاءُ .

Some nouns on the pattern of فَعِيلٌ signify companionship, e.g.:

أَكِيلٌ, a companion in eating.

شَرِيبٌ, a companion in drinking.

ضَجِيعٌ, a bedfellow.

Note this expression:

بِئْسَ الضَّجِيعُ الْجُوعُ

What an evil bedfellow hunger is!

About the Couplet



Abu l-Tayyib al-Mutanabbii (915–965 CE) was one of the greatest poets of Arabic.

In this couplet he extols the qualities of a horseman as a chivalrous warrior.

Admin.'s note : For a related lesson, please see Questions & Answers:

Q 37: 'The Word *ad-dunaa* with Rules of *Sarf*'