اللغة العربية

الْجُمْلَةُ الاِسْمِيَّةُ وَالْفِعْلِيَّةِ

Question

Dear Shaykh,

What is the difference in constructing a sentence as *ismiyyah* or *fiʿliyyah*?

For example, if I want to say in Arabic: *'Bilāl travelled'*,

 - should I make it *ismiyyah* (and start with بِلاَلٌ) or *fiʿliyyah* (and start with سَافَرَ) ?

Faḍīlat al-Shaykh Dr. V. Abdur Rahim (حفظه الله) replies:

In a *jumlah fiʿliyyah* (verbal sentence) the emphasis is on the فِعْل .

While in a *jumlah ismiyyah* (nominal sentence) the emphasis is on the مُبْتَدَأ.

So in: أَسَافَرَ بِلاَلٌ؟

it is taken for granted that the matter concerns Bilāl. There is no doubt about it.

But the question is: *Did he or did he not* travel ?

On the other hand, in: أَبِلاَلٌ سَافَرَ؟

the question is: *Who is it who travelled?*

Is it Bilāl? Or his brother? Or somebody else?

So the correct translation of:

بِلاَلٌ سَافَرَ

is: *'It is Bilāl who travelled.'*

abdur rahim