

اللغة العربية

«عَاشَ * سَكَنَ»



Question

1) Please describe the different shades of meaning between:

سَكَنَ and عَاشَ.

2) Do you recommend any books in English which delve into Arabic etymology along with detailed definitions of their roots?

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



Dear Br Yusuf,

وعليكم السلام

1) These two words may be translated into English as *'to live'*, but they represent two different concepts.

عَاشَ means *to live* in the sense of *being alive*, e.g.:

عَاشَ إِقْبَالٌ فِي الْقَرْنِ الْعِشْرِينَ.

Iqbāl lived in the 20th century.

We say:

هُوَ عَائِشٌ. meaning that he is still alive (not dead).

But سَكَنَ means *to live* in the sense of *to reside*, e.g.:

﴿ يَا آدَمُ اسْكُنْ أَنْتَ وَزَوْجُكَ الْجَنَّةَ ﴾ (البقرة: ٣٥)

... O Ādam! Dwell you and your wife in the Garden.

The word عَاشَ is also used metaphorically in the sense of سَكَنَ, e.g.:

هُوَ الْآنَ يَعِيشُ فِي أَمْرِيكََا.

He is currently residing in America.

2) I do not know of any book in English dealing with semantic studies in Arabic, but there should be some books on this subject.

The best book in Arabic is مَقَائِيسُ اللُّغَةِ by Ibn Fāris.

Basically, it is a dictionary, but it is based on semantic studies.

I hope this partially answers your question.

والسلام

abdur rahim