

اللغة العربية

«قَامُوسٌ * مُعْجَمٌ»



Question

Is there any difference between قَامُوسٌ and مُعْجَمٌ or are they absolute synonyms?

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



وعليكم السلام

The word قَامُوسٌ literally means *a sea*.

The famous lexicographer, Majdu l-Dīn al-Firūzabādi (b 729 AH) named his famous dictionary: القَامُوسُ الْمُحِيطُ (*the ocean*).

This work became so famous that people called any dictionary قَامُوسٌ .

The correct word for a dictionary is الْمُعْجَمُ