

اللغة العربية

«اللهُ أَكْبَرُ»



Question

Is the *tabbīr*: اللهُ أَكْبَرُ a comparative or superlative degree of *ism tafḍīl*?

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



Dear Sister Umm Aaishah

وعليكم السلام

It is possible to use the comparative in the sense of the superlative as in the following example:

This is the *oldest* book in English. (*Superlative*)

This book is *older* than any other book in English. (*Comparative*)

As you can see, the meaning of both the constructions is the same.

In اللهُ أَكْبَرُ, the *meaning* is superlative.

In both comparative and superlative constructions, we have a

مُفَضَّلٌ عَلَيْهِ, e.g.:

(Comparative) رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ أَحَبُّ إِلَيْنَا مِنْ آبَائِنَا وَأُمَّهَاتِنَا وَالنَّاسِ أَجْمَعِينَ.

(Superlative) رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ أَحَبُّ النَّاسِ إِلَيْنَا.

In a construction like اللهُ أَكْبَرُ no مُفَضَّلٌ عَلَيْهِ can be used. So it is left without a مُفَضَّلٌ عَلَيْهِ thus suggesting greatness which is absolute and uncomparable.

Hope this has helped you.

والسلام,

abdur rahim