

القرآن الكريم

﴿أَنِّي أَخْلُقُ لَكُمْ مِنَ الطِّينِ كَهَيْئَةِ الطَّيْرِ فَأَنْفُخُ فِيهِ﴾



(آل عمران: ٤٩)

Question

In *Sūrah Āl-ʿImrān*, the *ḍamīr* is ﴿فيه﴾ in:

﴿أَنِّي أَخْلُقُ لَكُمْ مِنَ الطِّينِ كَهَيْئَةِ الطَّيْرِ فَأَنْفُخُ فِيهِ﴾

whereas in *Sūrah Al-Māʿidah* it is ﴿فيها﴾:

﴿وَإِذْ تَخْلُقُ مِنَ الطِّينِ كَهَيْئَةِ الطَّيْرِ بِأَظْفَارِي فَتَنْفُخُ فِيهَا﴾

The English translations of both are: *breathes into it*.

Why is one *ḍamīr* masculine and the other feminine?

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



Dear Br Mohsin Ayub,

وعليكم السلام

In both these *āyāt* (Q3:49, 5:110), there isn't a noun which can be regarded as the *marji'* (مَرْجِع) of the pronoun هُ or هَا. That is why the grammarians have suggested a number of options.

I shall mention to you the best of these options:

1. In Q3:49, the masculine pronoun هُ refers to the word الْمَخْلُوق which is understood from the context:

﴿أَنِّي أَخْلُقُ لَكُمْ مِنَ الطِّينِ كَهَيْئَةِ الطَّيْرِ فَأَنْفُخُ فِيهِ﴾

I design for you from clay the likeness of birds, and breathe into it ...

So the pronoun هُ here refers to 'the creature'.

As if the Prophet 'Īsā عليه السلام is saying:

'I design for you from clay the likeness of birds, and breathe into the creature that I have designed for you...'

2. In Q5:110, Allāh سبحانه و تعالیٰ says to ʿĪsā عليه السلام :

﴿وَإِذْ تَخْلُقُ مِنَ الطِّينِ كَهَيْئَةِ الطَّيْرِ بِأَظْفَارِنَا فَتَنفُخُ فِيهَا﴾

And (recall) when you were designing from clay the likeness of birds with My leave and breathing in them ...

Here Allāh سبحانه و تعالیٰ uses the feminine pronoun **ها** . This refers to the word ﴿هَيْئَةً﴾.

I hope this has helped you to understand the *āyāt*.

والسلام,
abdur rahim