

اللغة العربية

«ي، ى»



Question

Dear Shaykh,

We have **ي** and **ى**. What is the difference in usage?

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



Dear Br Abdullah

وعليكم السلام

Dotless *yā'* is used when it is pronounced '*alif*' as in:

المُستَشْفَى

al-mustashfā

المُنْتَدَى

al-muntadā

الْفَتَى

al-fatā

Note that with the *tanwīn* these words lose the '*alif*':

مُسْتَشْفَىً

mustashfan

Egyptian System of Orthography: 

In the Egyptian system of orthography, the dotted *yā'* is not used.

In this system only the dotless *yā'* is used whether it is pronounced *yā'* or '*alif*'.

There both *fī* and *al-fātā* are written with the dotless *yā'* :

الْفَتَى ، فِى

Syrian System of Orthography: 

In the Syrian system of orthography, the dotted *yā'* is used.

If a Syrian sees a word like *فِى* written with a dotless *yā'*: *فِى* he will immediately take out his pen, and dot the *yā'*.

والسلام،

abdur rahim