اللغة العربية

«لَوْلاَ»

Question

Shaykh, in «الْمسعِف في لغةِ وإعرابِ سورةِ يوسفَ»

you explained لولا, and its three types of *khabar* (notes for *āyah* 24).

I didn't understand the third type of *khabar* :

كَوْنٌ مُقَيَّدٌ لا يُدْرَكُ معناه عندَ حَذْفِ خبرِه

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

Dear Br Elyas

وعليكم السلام

The example given in the Book is:

«لَوْلَا هَذَا الطَّبِيبُ لَمْ يُعَالِجْني لَتَأَخَّرَ بُرْئي».

'Had it not been for the fact that this doctor did not treat me, my recovery would have been delayed.'

The meaning is that this doctor is no good. He did not treat me, and so my recovery was not delayed. Had he treated me, my recovery would have been delayed.

Now, if we drop the khabar لَمْ يُعَالِجْني, the meaning will be reversed, because the meaning will be:

لَوْلَا هَذَا الطَّبِيبُ لَتَأَخَّرَ بُرْئي.

'Had it not been for this doctor, my recovery would have been delayed.'

The omitted *khabar* will be assumed to be عَالَجَني meaning:

لَوْلَا هَذَا الطَّبِيبُ عَالَجَني لَتَأَخَّرَ بُرْئي.

'Had it not been for this doctor treating me, my recovery would have been delayed.'

So, where such ambiguity exists, the *khabar* should not be omitted.

I hope this has helped you to understand the problem.

والسلام,

abdur rahim