

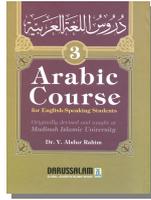
اللغة العربية

«لا» النَّاهِيَةُ



Question

In **دروس اللغة** Book 3,



we learnt the use of «لا» النَّاهِيَةُ with

the third person.

Can «لا» النَّاهِيَةُ be used with the first person?

E.g.: 'Let us not go out now' / 'We should not go out now'.

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



«لَا» النَّاهِيَّة can be used with a verb *isnāḍed* to the pronouns of the first person if the verb is passive voice, e.g.:

لَا نُسْأَلُ عَمَّا فَعَلَهُ غَيْرُنَا,

We should not be asked regarding what others have done.

لَا أُسْتَفْتُ وَشَيْخِي حَاضِرٌ,

I should not be asked to issue a fatwā in the presence of my shaykh.

لَا نُؤْمَرُ بِمَعْصِيَةِ اللَّهِ,

We should not be commanded to disobey Allāh.

But, if the verb is in the active voice, grammarians discourage the use of «لَا» النَّاهِيَّة with the pronouns of the first person.

They argue that the examples of its use in the early Arabic literature are so few as not to sanction its adoption as a rule.

The following couplet by al-Farazdaq uses «لَا» النَّاهِيَّة with the pronoun of the first person plural in spite of the verb being in the active voice:

إِذَا مَا خَرَجْنَا مِنْ دِمَشْقَ فَلَا نَعُدُّ

لَهَا أَبَدًا مَا دَامَ فِيهَا الْجُرَاضِمُ

If we come out of Damascus,

Let us not return to it



As long as the pot-bellied glutton is there.

(It is said that the reference is to Mu'āwiyah رضي الله عنه who was the caliph).

The great grammarian ibn Hishām regards this usage as rare.

I think that when a poet of the stature of al-Farazdaq has used it, there is nothing wrong in our using it.

So we may say:

✓ لَا نَقُلُ هَذَا لِأَحَدٍ. *Let us not say this to any one.*

✓ لَا نَسْمَعُ كَلَامَهُ. *Let us not listen to his talk.*

✓ لَا أَبْقَى هُنَا. *Let me not remain here.*

I hope this has helped you to understand the problem.

والسلام,

abdur rahim