Couplets

فَبِينَا نَحْنُ نَرْقُبُهُ



Question

Could you please clarify the meaning of this couplet:

فبينا نحن نرقبه أتانا * معلقَ وفضة وزناد راع

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



Dear Br Farhan

وعليكم السلام

مُعَلِّقَ وَفْضَةِ وَزِنَادَ رَاعِ فَبَيْنَا نَحْنُ نَرْقُبُهُ أَتَانَا

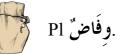
This couplet has no companions preceding or following it. Grammarians quote it to explain that the *zarf* «i.i.w) occurs as a *mudāf*, and its *mudāf ilayhi* can be a nominal or a verbal sentence. (In this couplet it a nominal sentence).

Let us now examine some of the new words used in the couplet.

- . (a-u), to watch, to await) رَقَبَ رُقُوباً، ورِقْبَةً، ورِقْبَاناً .
- ii, to suspend. عَلَّقَ تَعْلِيقاً

In modern Arabic it is used in the sense of to comment.

الوَفْضَةُ , a leather bag carried by shepherds.



ethe stick of a fire drill, الزَّنْدُ

This stick is rotated in the depression of a wooden base known as الزَّنْدَةُ to kindle fire. Both the parts are known as الزَّنْدَانِ.

The meaning of the couplet is:

While we were awaiting him, He came with a leather bag suspended (from his shoulder) And a shepherd's fire drill apparatus.



The original construction of وَفْضَةً is : مُعَلِّقَ وَفْضَةً is : مُعَلِّقًا وَفْضَةً wherein مُعَلِّقًا is the *maf^rūl bihī* of مُعَلِّقًا .

That is why زَنَادَ is *manṣūb* as it is *ma'ṭūf* of وَفْضَةً in its original *i'rāb*ic status.

Hope this has helped you understand the couplet.

والسلام, abdur rahim