

# القرآن الكريم

## كَمَثَلِ الْحِمَارِ

(الجمعة: ٥)

### Question

بَيْتُ الْإِمَامِ جَمِيلٌ.

This means: *The house of **the imām** is beautiful.*

How do we say: *The house of **an imām** is beautiful. ?*

Answer from Admin (Admin's answers are checked by our Shaykh)

*The house of **an imām** is beautiful :*

بَيْتُ الْإِمَامِ جَمِيلٌ.

The **مُضَافٍ إِلَيْهِ** here is considered **نَكْرَةٌ** though it has «أَلْ». But this type of **أَلْ** does not make a word **مَعْرِفَةٌ**. There are different types of **أَلْ** in Arabic.

This ال is «أَلٌ»: الْجِنْسِيَّةُ.

It is used in Arabic when we wish to speak about a general fact.  
(*Selections*, lesson 1).

«أَلٌ» الْجِنْسِيَّةُ is also used on a مضاف إليه to signify indefiniteness.

Here are four āyāt with «ال» الْجِنْسِيَّةُ on a مضاف إليه:

﴿... كَمَثَلِ الْحِمَارِ﴾ (الجمعة: ٥)

﴿... كَمَثَلِ الْكَلْبِ﴾ (الأعراف: ١٧٦)

﴿فَإِنَّ مَعَ الْعُسْرِ يُسْرًا﴾ (الشرح: ٥)

﴿إِنَّ أَنْكَرَ الْأَصْوَاتِ لَصَوْتُ الْحَمِيرِ﴾ (لقمان: ١٩)

... the likeness of a donkey... the likeness of a dog... with difficulty...

Here are two *hadiths*:

«حَقُّ الْمُسْلِمِ عَلَى الْمُسْلِمِ خَمْسٌ...» (رواه البخاري، مأخوذ من كتاب «أحاديث سهلة»).

*The rights of a Muslim ....*

«الْمُؤْمِنُ مِنْ مَرْأَةِ الْمُؤْمِنِ» (الحديث، مأخوذ من: «دروس اللغة»: ٣)

*A believer is ...*

How do we know the intended meaning is indefinite or definite - since in both cases the مضاف إليه will have أَلٌ?

Answer: The context will determine the meaning.