

Lesson 2

Lexical & Grammatical Explanation of

أَهْلًا وَسَهْلًا وَمَرْحَبًا

شَرْحُ الْمَفْرَدَاتِ

أَهْلٌ، family, one's kith and kin.

سَهْلٌ، firm and level ground which is not stony or sandy.

مَرْحَبٌ is the *maSdar* of رَحِبَ رَحْبًا وَمَرْحَبًا (u-u), to be wide, spacious and roomy.

The Qur'aan says:

﴿ وَضَاقَتْ عَلَيْكُمْ الْأَرْضُ بِمَا رَحِبَتْ ﴾ (التوبة 25)

And the earth, vast as it is, was straitened for you.

إيضاحات نحوية

أَهْلًا وَسَهْلًا وَمَرْحَبًا:

These three words are مَفْعُولٌ بِهِ of verbs which have been omitted.

Here are the reconstructed sentences:

أَتَيْتَ أَهْلًا، وَنَزَلْتَ سَهْلًا، وَصَادَفْتَ مَرْحَبًا.

Here is the meaning of each of the three sentences:

أَتَيْتَ أَهْلًا :

You have come to your own kith and kin. We are not strangers; consider us as members of your own family.

نَزَلْتَ سَهْلًا :

You need not worry about your return journey. You are on firm ground which is neither sandy nor stony, so your ride will be comfortable.

In modern parlance, it is like telling your guest, 'Don't worry. Our house is very close to the superhighway/interstate.'

صَادَفْتَ مَرَحِبًا :

You have come to a spacious place. My tent/house has enough room for you to stay here.

We may use all the three words: أَهْلًا وَسَهْلًا وَمَرَحِبًا,

or the first and the second: أَهْلًا وَسَهْلًا,

or the first one alone: أَهْلًا,

or the last one alone: مَرَحِبًا

We do not use the second one alone.

We say, مَرَحِبًا بِكُمْ.

See the Glorious Qur'aan, 38:60.

From رَحْبَ is derived رَحَّبَ بِهِ تَرْحِيبًا (ii), to welcome.

