

اللغة العربية

«حَتَّى» الْعَاطِفَةُ * «حَتَّى» الْإِبْتِدَائِيَّةُ



Question

Dear Shaykh,

I have come to know that the word حَتَّى can also mean *even*. E.g.

All the students passed, even the lazy one.

Is this correct usage of the word, and if so, is the word following it *majrūr*?

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



Dear Br Abdullah,
وعليكم السلام

Yes, the word **حَتَّى** has the meaning of *even*.

It has this meaning in two constructions:

1. When it is used as **حَرْفُ عَطْفٍ**.

E.g.:

نَجَحَ الطُّلَّابُ كُلُّهُمْ **حَتَّى** الْمُتَأَخِّرُونَ.

All the students passed, even those who joined late.

أَكْرَمَ الْمُدِيرُ الطُّلَّابَ كُلَّهُمْ **حَتَّى** الرَّاسِيِينَ.

The headmaster honoured all the students, even those who had failed.

أَتَصَلْتُ بِزُمَلَائِي كُلِّهِمْ **حَتَّى** بِالْأَجَانِبِ.

I contacted all my classmates, even the foreigners.

As you can see, the second noun has the same case-ending as the first because it is *maʿtūf*.

نَجَحَ الطُّلَّابُ كُلُّهُمْ **حَتَّى** الْمُتَأَخِّرُونَ.

أَكْرَمَ الْمُدِيرُ الطُّلَّابَ كُلَّهُمْ **حَتَّى** الرَّاسِيِينَ.

أَتَصَلْتُ بِزُمَلَائِي كُلِّهِمْ **حَتَّى** بِالْأَجَانِبِ.

Therefore, this **حَتَّى** is called **حَتَّى العاطفة** .

2. When it is used before a sentence.

E.g.:

حَتَّى الأَطْفَالُ يَعْرِفُونَ هَذَا.

Even children know this.

حَتَّى أَنْتَ تَشْكُ فِيَّ؟

Even you suspect me?

The poet, al-Rundi describing the fall of Andalusia says:

حَتَّى الْمَحَارِبُ تَبْكِي وَهِيَ جَامِدَةٌ
حَتَّى الْمَنَابِرُ تَرْتِي وَهِيَ عِيدَانُ

Even the mihraabs cry

Though they are lifeless.

And even the mimbars lament

Though they are pieces of wood.

This **حَتَّى** does not change the noun following it.

As you can see, the noun following it is *mubtada'* of the sentence.

حَتَّى الْأَطْفَالُ يَعْرِفُونَ هَذَا.

حَتَّى أَنْتَ تَشْكُ فِيَّ؟

حَتَّى الْمَحَارِبُ تَبْكِي...

حَتَّى الْمَنَابِرُ تَرْنِي...

Therefore, this **حَتَّى** is called **حَتَّى الْإِبْتِدَائِيَّةُ**.

Hope this has helped you understand this subject.

والسلام,
abdur rahim