

اللغة العربية

كَافُ الْخَطَابِ * حَرْفُ التَّنْبِيهِ



Question

يا شيخنا

Please tell me what is كَافُ الْخَطَابِ ?

I also do not understand the *harf tanbīh* used in هَذِهِ.

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



وعليكم السلام

○ كَافُ الْخِطَابِ

كَافُ الْخِطَابِ means the *kāf* denoting the second person.

As you know, the pronouns of the second person:

أَنْتَ، أَنْتُمَا، أَنْتُمْ؛

أَنْتِ، أَنْتُمَا، أَنْتِنَّ

are called ضَمِيرُ الْمُخَاطَبِ.

The word مُخَاطَبٌ literally means *addressee*, i.e., the one addressed.

The letter *kāf* in ذَلِكَ، تِلْكَ، أَوْلَئِكَ represents the *kāf* meaning *you*.

That is why it may be changed to كُ، كُمْ، كَمَا and كُنْ.

This change is known as تَصَرُّفُ كَافِ الْخِطَابِ.

Here are some examples:

يَا بِلَالُ، لِمَنْ ذَلِكَ الْبَيْتُ؟

يَا إِخْوَانُ، لِمَنْ ذَلِكَ الْبَيْتُ؟

يَا زَيْنَبُ، لِمَنْ ذَلِكَ الْبَيْتُ؟

يَا أَخَوَاتُ، لِمَنْ ذَلِكَ الْبَيْتُ؟

This change is optional.

So the *ismu l-ishārah* which ends in **كَافُ الْخِطَابِ** has two functions.

1. It not only points to the person or the thing you want to show your interlocutor, but also
2. takes into consideration the status of the interlocutor with regard to their number and gender.

○ حَرَفُ التَّنْبِيهِ

The **هَـ** in **هَذَا** is called **حَرَفُ التَّنْبِيهِ** (the particle of warning).

It is as if it tells you, '**Attention!**'

and prepares you to receive the important piece of news.

والسلام,

abdur rahim