

اللغة العربية

«مَوْلَانَا»



Question

In South Asia, we frequently hear titles and salutations like

Ḥaḍrat, Mawlānā, دَامَتْ بَرَكَاتُهُمْ, etc.

But we do not hear any Arabs using these.

1. Would the Shaykh kindly explain the origin, meaning and usage of these (and similar) South Asian words?
2. Should we avoid these words?

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



وعليكم السلام

Origin, Meaning, Usage:

1. In the Indian subcontinent, both the words *ḥaḍrat* and *mawlānā* are used with names, e.g.:

Ḥazrat Umar, Mawlānā ‘Abdullāh saheb.

But in some Arab countries like Egypt, *Ḥaḍratuk* حَضْرَتُكَ (your excellency) is used instead of أَنْتَ to show respect.

The third person حَضْرَتُهُ is used sarcastically.

In addressing a respectable person, especially a religious personality, *yā mawlānā* is used, but never used as a prefix to a name in Arab countries.

dāmat barakātuhū (دَامَتْ بَرَكَاتُهُ) means

'May his blessings continue to remain'.

Note in the subcontinent بَرَكَاتُهُمْ (plural pronoun in the third person هُمْ) is used for a single person. This is not Arabic. This is Indo-Pak Arabic.

Arabs use أَنْتُمْ to show respect. This is for the second person. But they never use هُمْ (in the third person) for a single person to show respect.

Arabs do not use the expression دَامَتْ بَرَكَاتُهُ.

But Egyptians tell a visitor visiting your home,

زَارَتْنَا الْبَرَكَاتُ (*Blessings are visiting us*).

Ruling:

2. With regard to the ruling on using these words, I shall deal with it in another session *إن شاء الله*.

والسلام,

abdur rahim