

اللغة العربية

«مَاذَا»



Question

Respected Shaykh,

Is مَاذَا one or two words?

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



وعليكم السلام

«مَاذَا»:

1). It is one word, and ذَا is part of مَا.

So in:

«مَاذَا هُنَا?»:

the first word («مَاذَا») is *mubtada'*, and the second is its *khbar*.

In:

«مَاذَا رَأَيْتَ?»

مَاذَا is the *maf'ūl bihī* of the verb رَأَيْتَ.

«مَاذَا»:

2). The word ذَا is a separate word, and it is اسم مَوْصُول like «الَّذِي».

So in a sentence like:

«مَاذَا رَأَيْتَ؟»

مَا is *mubtada'*,

and ذَا is its *khavar*,

and رَأَيْتَ is *ṣilat al-mawṣūl* where the عَائِد has been omitted:

«مَاذَا رَأَيْتَهُ؟»

i.e., مَا الَّذِي رَأَيْتَهُ؟

Hope this is clear.

والسلام,

abdur rahim