

# Couplets

فَبِينَا نَحْنُ نَرْقُبُهُ



## Question

Could you please clarify the meaning of this couplet:

فَبِينَا نَحْنُ نَرْقُبُهُ أَتَانَا \* مَعْلَقَ وَفَضَّةٍ وَزَنَادَ رَاعٍ

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



Dear Br Farhan

وعليكم السلام


فَبَيْنَا نَحْنُ نَرْقُبُهُ أَتَانَا      مُعَلَّقَ وَفِضَّةٍ وَزِنَادَ رَاعٍ

This couplet has no companions preceding or following it. Grammarians quote it to explain that the *zarf* «بَيْنَا» occurs as a *muḍāf*, and its *muḍāf ilayhi* can be a nominal or a verbal sentence. (In this couplet it a nominal sentence).

Let us now examine some of the new words used in the couplet.

- رَقَبَ رُقُوبًا، وَرِقْبَةً، وَرِقْبَانًا (a-u), *to watch, to await*.
- عَلَّقَ تَعْلِيقًا ii, *to suspend*.

In modern Arabic it is used in the sense of *to comment*.

- الْوَفِضَةُ, a leather bag carried by shepherds.  Pl وَفَاضٌ.
- الزَّنْدُ, the stick of a fire drill.

This stick is rotated in the depression of a wooden base known as **الزَّئِدَةُ** to kindle fire. Both the parts are known as **الزَّئِدَانِ**, and the plural is **زِنَادٌ**.

The meaning of the couplet is:

*While we were awaiting him,*

*He came with a leather bag suspended (from his shoulder)*

*And a shepherd's fire drill apparatus.*



The original construction of **مُعَلَّقٌ وَفُضَّةٌ** is : **مُعَلَّقًا وَفُضَّةً** wherein **وَفُضَّةً** is the *maf'ūl bihī* of **مُعَلَّقًا**.

That is why **زِنَادٌ** is *mansūb* as it is *maf'ūf* of **وَفُضَّةً** in its original *i'rābic* status.

Hope this has helped you understand the couplet.

والسلام,

abdur rahim