

## LESSON 21

### THE SILENT ا 'ALIF, و WĀW AND ي YĀ'

The letters 'alif, wāw and yā' lengthen the vowel to which they correspond, namely, *fathah*, *dammah* and *kasrah* (see Lessons 8, 12 and 14). But when these three letters occur between a letter bearing a vowel sign and another with a *sukūn* or *shaddah*, they are not pronounced.

Observe the following combinations:

- |                               |  |                          |
|-------------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| 1. then pray                  | fad- <sup>u</sup>  | فَادُعُ                  |
| 2. and there gushed out       | fan-fajarat  | فَانْفَجَرَتْ            |
| 3. of infinite (great) bounty | dhul-faḍlil <sup>azim</sup>  | ذُو الْفَضْلِ الْعَظِيمِ |
| 4. of anything                | lishay'in  | لِشَيْءٍ                 |
| 5. are brought                | wa jīi-'a  | وَجَاءِيءَ               |
| 6. (their) souls desire       | tahwal-'aṅfus(u)<br>(the last vowel <i>u</i> lost<br>because of pause) | تَهْوَى الْأَنْفُسُ      |

INTRODUCTION TO QUR'ANIC SCRIPT

7. none despairs

lā yay-'asu

لَا يَأْيَسُ

ILLUSTRATIVE TEXT

1.

وَلَعَذَابُ الْآخِرَةِ أَشَدُّ وَأَبْقَى

(wa la-'adhābul - 'ākhirati 'ashaddu wa 'abqā)

And verily the doom of the Hereafter will be sterner and more lasting

2.

فَانْفَجَرَتْ مِنْهُ اثْنَتَا عَشْرَةَ عَيْنًا

(fan-fajarat min-huthnatā 'ashrata 'aynā)

And there gushed out therefrom twelve springs

3.

وَاللَّهُ ذُو الْفَضْلِ الْعَظِيمِ

(wallāhu dhul-faḍlil-'azīm (i))

And Allah is of infinite bounty

4.

وَلَا تَقُولَنَّ لِيْ شَيْءٍ اِيْتِيْ فَاَعْلُ ذَلِكَ غَدًا

(wa lā taqūlanna lishay-'in 'inni fā-'ilun dhālika ghadā)

And say not of anything: Lo! I shall do that tomorrow

5.

وَجَاءِيْءَ بِالنَّبِيِّنَ

(wa jāi-'a binnabiyyīna)

And the Prophets are brought

6.

يَقَوْمٍ لِمَ تُوذُوْنِيْ

(yā'qawmi lima tu'dūnī)

O my people! Why do you persecute me?

7.

وَمَا تَهْوَى الْأَنْفُسُ

(wa mā' tahwal- 'anfus)

And that which their souls desire