

LESSON 25

QUR'ANIC SPELLINGS

THE REDUNDANT 'ALIF

There are several places in the Qur'an where an 'alif is written, though it is redundant and not pronounced. The phrases with a redundant 'alif are given below and the redundant 'alif has been marked by a cross sign, thus ×. The chapter and verse have been indicated so that you can mark them in your copy of the Qur'an. Note that this 'alif is besides those 'alifs which, though not pronounced, indicate a grammatical rule.

1. `afa-`immāta (3.144) أَفَأَئِنَّ مَاتَ
2. la-`ilallāhi (3.158) لَا إِلَى اللَّهِ
3. `aṇ-tabū`a (5.29) أَنْ تَبُوءَآ
4. min-naba-`il-mursalīn (6.34) مِنْ تَبَاغَى الْمُرْسَلِينَ
5. la-`awḍa-`ū (9.47) لَا أَوْضَعُوا

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| 6. <u>Thamūda</u> (11.68, 25.38, 29.38 and 53.51) | ثَمُودًا |
| 7. umamul-litat-luwa (13.30) | أُمَّمٌ لِّتَاتٍ لُّوَا |
| 8. lan-nad- ^u wa (18.14) | لَنْ نَدْعُوا |
| 9. lākinna (18.38) | لَكِنَّا |
| 10. 'afa-'immitta (21.34) | أَفَأَنْ مِّتَّ |
| 11. la'adhbaḥannahū (27.21) | لَا أَذْبَحْنَاهُ |
| 12. liyarbuwa (30.39) | لِيَرْبُوا |
| 13. la-'ilal-jaḥīm (37.68) | لَا إِلَى الْجَحِيمِ |
| 14. wa lākil-liyab-luwa (47.4) | وَلَكِنْ لِّيَبْلُوا |
| 15. wa nabluwa (47.31) | وَنَبْلُوا |
| 16. la-'antum (59.13) | لَا أَنْتُمْ |
| 17. salāsila (76.4) | سَلْسَلًا |
| 18. qawārira (76.16) | قَوَارِيرًا |

مَلَائِمَ and أَنَا should be pronounced without an 'alif. It is redundant, the vowel *a* after ل and ن respectively is short, so the pronunciation will be مَلَائِمَ mala-'ihi and أَن ana. مائة is also pronounced as mi-'atun مِئَةٌ, 'alif is redundant.

INTRODUCTION TO QUR'ANIC SCRIPT

THE REDUNDANT STROKE

There are a few words in the Qur'an which have a redundant stroke or tooth without dots or a vowel sign. The stroke has no phonetic value; it is not pronounced. It has been retained for grammatical reasons. In the North African script the stroke is retained with two dots of ي . A list of words with the redundant stroke is given below:

1. mawlānā (2.286)	مَوْلَانَا	Our Protector
2. ma'-wāhum (3.151)	مَأْوَهُمْ	Their abode
3. naj-wāhum (4.114)	نَجْوَهُمْ	Their conferences
4. hadānī (6.162)	هَدَانِي	He has guided me
5. lanarāka (7.60)	لَنَرَاكَ	We see thee
6. hawāh(u) (7.176)	هَوَاهُ	His lust
7. mathwāhu (12.21)	مَثْوَاهُ	His abode
8. lanarā-hā (12.30)	لَنَرَاهَا	We see her
9. 'arānī (12.36)	أَرَانِي	I saw
10. 'atāhā (20.11)	أَتَاهَا	He came to it
11. 'ardākum (41.23)	أَرَدَاكُمْ	(Your thought) has ruined you
12. 'atqākum (49.13)	أَتَقَاكُمْ	The most righteous among you

13. Mikāla (2.98) مَيْكَلٌ Michael
 14. at-Tawrātu (throughout) التَّوْرَةُ The Torah

THE REDUNDANT WĀW

1. ḥayātun حَيَاةٌ Life
 2. zakātun زَكَاةٌ Alms
 3. ṣalātun صَلَاةٌ Prayer
 4. ar-ribā الرِّبَا Usury
 5. al-ʿulamāʾu الْعُلَمَاءُ Learned (men)

THE DAGGER ʾALIF (VERTICAL FATHAH) INSTEAD OF FATHAH AND ʾALIF

1. hādhā هَذَا This
 2. dhālika ذَلِكَ That, this
 3. lākinna لَكِنَّ But
 4. ʾIbrāhīma إِبْرَاهِيمَ Abraham
 5. ʾIsmāʿīla إِسْمَاعِيلَ Ishmael
 6. ʾIshāqa إِسْحَاقَ Isaac
 7. ʾAr-Raḥmānu الرَّحْمَنُ The Beneficent