

LESSON 6

REVIEW

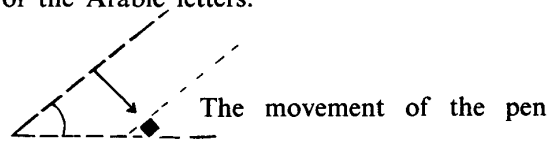
This book, as you know, is not on the art of writing Arabic. Its limited purpose is to train the learner to read the Arabic script. But you cannot fully understand the written form of letters unless you have some idea of their basic structure and formation. In this lesson we shall deal with the formation of three groups of letters of the Arabic alphabet.

- I. ب ت ث ن
- II. ج ح خ
- III. ف ق

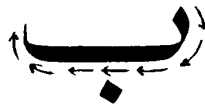
Arabic is written on an imaginary horizontal line across the page and the lowest edge of most of the Arabic letters in isolation should touch the line. The size of the letter, its height and width is measured by the width of the nib. Normally a reed pen with a slanted nib is used for writing Arabic. But a metal round hand pen (oblique reverse) in thirteen degrees of point may be used if a reed pen is not available. The nib of the pen is placed at 45° to the horizontal and drawn

INTRODUCTION TO QUR'ANIC SCRIPT

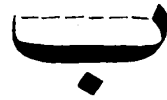
downwards and to the right to make a diamond-shaped dot. This dot is the starting point of most of the Arabic letters.



The letters of Group I, i.e., ب , ت , ث and ن are written with right to left strokes thus.



The length of ب , ت and ث is usually six strokes. thus



ن is almost a square.




The letters of Group II, i.e., ج and ح are written from left to right with the pen going downwards. They are called the descending letters.



The initial portion of these letters is not like a diamond dot, it starts with an edge and a slight curve.



LESSON 6

The first stroke of the letters of Group III, i.e., ق and ف are two curves, one left to right and the other right to left, making a shape similar to a bold comma  ; this initial part is called the 'neck'. Join it to the tail of ب and it will be a ف with the dot going up. If you join this 'neck' with the tail of a ن it will be a ق with two dots above.

Once you have grasped the characteristics or basic form of a letter, its recognition in any combination should not offer any difficulty. In the first group a tooth (ن) and the number and place of dots are significant. A dot below the tooth is ب (bā'), if the dot is above, it is ن (nūn). Two dots above the tooth signify ت (tā') and three dots above mean a ث (thā').

In the second group the hook looking like the two sides of a triangle > called the "box" is important. Without a dot this box is ح (ḥā') and with a dot above it is خ (khā'). A dot below the box signifies a ج (jīm).

The bold comma-like shape د is the salient feature of ف and ق. If there is one dot over this 'comma', which is called the 'neck', the letter is ق (qāf) and if there are two dots above, the letter is ف (fā').

حَلَفَ

ḤALAFĀ