

LESSON 4

In this lesson we learn the following:

The verb in the *mâdi* (past tense), e.g. : ذَهَبَ 'he went' , رَجَعَ 'he returned'.

Most Arabic verbs have only three letters which are called the radicals.

The basic form of the verb in Arabic is the *mâdi*. As we have seen in Book 1, ذَهَبَ means 'he went'. But if it is followed by a subject the pronoun 'he' is to be omitted, e.g.: ذَهَبَ بِلَالٌ means 'Bilâl went' and not 'Bilâl he went'. In the same way, ذَهَبَتْ means 'she went,' but if a subject follows, the pronoun 'she' is dropped, e.g.: ذَهَبَتْ أَمِينَةٌ 'Aminah went.'

In ذَهَبَ 'he went' and ذَهَبَتْ 'she went,' the subject is said to be *damîr mustatir* (ضمير مستتر) (hidden pronoun).

To this basic form of the *mâdi* suffixes are added to indicate the other pronouns. This process is called *isnâd* (الإسناد). In this lesson, we learn the *isnâd* of the verb in the *mâdi* to the following pronouns:

ذَهَبَ 'he went': the subject is *damîr mustatir*.

ذَهَبَتْ 'she went': the subject is *damîr mustatir*. The ta (ت) is the sign of its being feminine.

ذَهَبُوا 'they went': the subject is the *wâw*. The *alif* after the *wâw* is not pronounced. (dhahab-û)

ذَهَبْنَ 'they (fem.) went': the subject is the *nûn*. (dhahab-na)

ذَهَبْتَ 'you (masc. sing.) went': the subject is the *ta*. (dhahab-ta)

ذَهَبْتُ 'I (masc. & fem.) went': the subject is the *tu*. (dhahab-tu)

Note the difference between the masculine and feminine forms:

أَيْنَ بِلَالٌ وَحَامِدٌ وَخَالِدٌ؟ - ذَهَبُوا إِلَى السُّوقِ

أَيْنَ أَمِينَةٌ، وَفَاطِمَةٌ وَزَيْنَبُ؟ - ذَهَبْنَ إِلَى الْمَدْرَسَةِ

2) To render a verb in the *mâdi* negative the particle مَا is used, e.g.:

ذَهَبْتُ إِلَى السُّوقِ 'I went to the market.' → مَا ذَهَبْتُ إِلَى السُّوقِ 'I did not go to the market.'

مَا خَرَجَ الْإِمَامُ مِنَ الْمَسْجِدِ 'The imâm did not go out of the mosque.'

دَخَلَ بِلَالٌ وَلَكِنَّهُ مَا جَلَسَ 'Bilâl entered but he did not sit.'

3) The difference between نَعَمْ and بَلَى: The word بَلَى is used in reply to a negative question. If a Muslim is asked أَلَسْتَ بِمُسْلِمٍ؟ 'Are you not a Muslim?' the answer is: بَلَى، أَنَا مُسْلِمٌ 'Yes, I am a Muslim.' But if a non-Muslim is asked the same question, he replies نَعَمْ، لَسْتُ بِمُسْلِمٍ. So in reply to a negative question, نَعَمْ means 'no' and بَلَى means 'yes'. German has a word for بَلَى. It is 'doch'.

4) لِأَنَّ: 'because', e.g.:

مَا خَرَجْتُ مِنَ الْبَيْتِ لِأَنَّ الْجَوَّ بَارِدٌ 'I did not go out of the house because the weather is cold.'

ذَهَبَ إِبْرَاهِيمُ إِلَى الْمُسْتَشْفَى لِأَنَّهُ مَرِيضٌ 'Ibrahîm went to the hospital because he is sick.'

Note that لِأَنَّ is made up of لِ 'for' and أَنَّ which is a sister of إِنَّ. So the noun following it is *mansûb*.

Exercises

1. Answer the following questions.
2. Mark the correct statements with (✓), and the incorrect ones with (x).
3. Fill in the blanks with the verb ذَهَبَ with the correct *isnâd*.
4. Correct the following sentences.
5. Answer the following questions in the negative using مَا.
6. Learn the use of لِأَنَّ.
7. Answer the following questions using نَعَمْ or بَلَى.

📖 Vocabulary:

لَا يَأْسَ may no harm come to you!

شَايٍ tea