

Unit 9

إِنَّ and

"her sisters"

A predicate gives information about the first part of a sentence. The word for predicate in Arabic is **khbar** which means **information**.

In previous Units, we have come across the particle **إِنَّ** in some phrases and sentences. We have also learnt that the noun controlled by **إِنَّ** is in the accusative. Here we want to give some more examples of the use of **إِنَّ**.

In Arabic, a simple sentence which does not have a verb and which begins with a noun is called a **nominal sentence**.

إِنَّ اللَّهَ غَفُورٌ رَحِيمٌ

In the above sentence, the word **اللَّهِ** is called the 'noun of **إِنَّ**'. It is singular and ends with a fat-hah. The noun of **إِنَّ** is always in the accusative.

The word **غَفُورٌ** is called 'the predicate of **إِنَّ**'. It is singular and ends with dammah. The word for predicate in Arabic is **خبر** and means 'information'. The predicate gives information about the noun of **إِنَّ**. The predicate of **إِنَّ** - if it is a noun or adjective - is in the nominative.

Some more examples - read from right to left:

Predicate of إِنَّ	Noun of إِنَّ	
عَلِيمٌ حَكِيمٌ	اللَّهِ	إِنَّ
وَاسِعَةٌ	أَرْضَ اللَّهِ	إِنَّ
لَكَاذِبُونَ	الْمُنَافِقِينَ	إِنَّ
		Indeed God is Knowing, Wise.
		Indeed God's earth is spacious.
		Indeed the hypocrites are liars.

Consider Time

The word **العَصْرُ** has the sense of time through the ages. It also means afternoon. There are many words in the Qur'an for time. **وَقْتٌ** - the time of day; **يَوْمٌ** - a day or an aeon in time; **دَهْرٌ** - time in eternity; **حِينٌ** - a period of time; **سَاعَةٌ** - a moment.

The verses in line 2 are the first of **Suratu-l 'Asr**. This short **surah** deals with the real purpose of the human being on earth - to believe in God and do good deeds. It also stresses the believers' need for mutual support and solidarity. The **surah** summarizes the Qur'anic view of history and human worth and success. It was a habit of some Companions of the Prophet to recite **Suratu-l 'Asr** at the end of their meetings.

There are other particles, known in Arabic grammar as 'the sisters of **إِنَّ**' which have the same effect as **إِنَّ**. The frequently used ones in the Qur'an are:

أَنَّ that; **كَأَنَّ** as if; **لَكِنَّ** but; **لَعَلَّ** perhaps

Predicate	Noun	
بِيَدِ اللَّهِ	الْفَضْلَ	وَأَنَّ
قَرِيبٌ	السَّاعَةَ	وَلَعَلَّ
لَا يَعْلَمُونَ	أَكْثَرَ النَّاسِ	وَلَكِنَّ
لَا يَفْقَهُونَ	الْمُنَافِقِينَ	وَلَكِنَّ
		And that (all) grace is in God's hand.
		And perhaps the Hour is near.
		But most people do not know.
		But the hypocrites do not understand.

إِنَّ and 'her sisters' are often used with attached pronouns. The following combinations occur in the Qur'an:

إِنَّ - إِنَّهُ إِنَّهَا إِنَّكَ إِنَّكُمْ
 أَنْ - أَنَّهُ أَنَّهَا أَنَّكَ أَنَّكُمْ
 لَكِنَّ - لَكِنَّهُ لَكِنَّهَا لَكِنَّكَ لَكِنَّكُمْ
 لَعَلَّ - لَعَلَّهُ لَعَلَّهَا لَعَلَّكُمْ لَعَلَّنَا

Indeed the earth belongs to God. 7: 128	1	إِنَّ الْأَرْضَ لِلَّهِ
By Time! Surely the human being is in loss. 103: 1-2	2	وَالْعَصْرِ إِنَّ الْإِنْسَانَ لَفِي خُسْرٍ
Truly, the mercy of God is near. 7: 56	3	إِنَّ رَحْمَةَ اللَّهِ قَرِيبٌ
Indeed, in that is a sign for the believers. 15: 77	4	إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَآيَةً لِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ
Indeed the righteous shall be in bliss and the corrupt shall be in hell. 82:13-14	5	إِنَّ الْأَبْرَارَ لَفِي نَعِيمٍ وَإِنَّ الْفُجَّارَ لَفِي جَحِيمٍ
The hypocrites are indeed liars. 63: 1	6	إِنَّ الْمُنَافِقِينَ لَكَاذِبُونَ
The righteous shall be in gardens and in bliss. 10: 45 and 52: 17	7	إِنَّ الْمُتَّقِينَ فِي جَنَّاتٍ وَنَعِيمٍ
And know that among you (is) the messenger of God. 49: 7	8 ■	وَأَعْلَمُوا أَنَّ فِيكُمْ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ
And that (all) bounty is in God's hand. 57: 29	9	وَأَنَّ الْفَضْلَ بِيَدِ اللَّهِ
But the hypocrites do not understand. 63: 7	10 ■	وَلَكِنَّ الْمُنَافِقِينَ لَا يَفْقَهُونَ
It is the truth from your Lord, but most people do not believe. 11: 17	11 ■	إِنَّهُ الْحَقُّ مِنْ رَبِّكَ وَلَكِنَّ أَكْثَرَ النَّاسِ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ
Perhaps the Hour is near. 42: 17	12	لَعَلَّ السَّاعَةَ قَرِيبٌ
And God over everything is Powerful. 2: 254	13	وَاللَّهُ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ
Indeed, God over everything is Powerful. 2: 20	14	إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ
But God is the Possessor of grace for all the worlds. 2: 251	15 ■	وَلَكِنَّ اللَّهَ ذُو فَضْلٍ عَلَى الْعَالَمِينَ

Notes for text above

- **Line 8:** The word **أَعْلَمُوا** - *Know!* - is a verb and is imperative plural.
- **Line 10:** The words **لَا يَفْقَهُونَ** mean 'they do not understand'.
- **Line 11:** **لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ** means 'they do not believe'.
- **Line 15:** The word **ذُو** means 'possessor of'. It is masculine and nominative. The word which comes after it is in the genitive.

عَصْرٌ	time; mid-afternoon
خُسْرٌ	loss
قَرِيبٌ	near
فُجَّارٌ / فَجَّارٌ	corrupt/pl.
فَقَّهٌ / يَفْقَهُ	to understand