

Chapter Six

The States of the Verb

Section one

Time Related States of the Verb

The States of the Past Tense Verb

Simple Past (الماضى المطلق)

It is negated in two ways:

1. With the particles of negation (حرفُ النفي) that precede the verb. They are 'ما' and 'لا'. E.g. ما/لا يذهبُ.
2. By preceding the verb with the particle of negation 'لم' which gives Jazm to the present tense. The past tense gets replaced by the same seeghah in the present tense. E.g. ذَهَبَ زَيْدٌ (Zaid left) → لَمْ يَذْهَبْ زَيْدٌ (Zaid didn't leave)

The Past Imperfect (Present perfect) (الماضى النقلى)

It indicates an action occurred in the past while its effect remains until the present time. It is formed by simple past + قَدْ, as in:

«يا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ قَدْ جَاءَكُمْ الْحَقُّ مِنْ رَبِّكُمْ» (O people! Indeed there has come to you the truth from your Lord) (Yunus 108)

The negation of this tense is by 'لَمَّا'; as in:

«وَلَمَّا يَدْخُلُ الْإِيمَانُ فِي قُلُوبِكُمْ» (and faith has not yet entered your hearts) (Hujuraat 14)

Note that when 'لَمَّا' is used preceding a past tense, its meaning is 'when'.

Past Perfect (الماضى البعيد)

كانَ + الماضى المطلق

Past continuous (الماضى الإستمرارى)

كان + المضارع

As in: «فمن كان يرجو لقاءَ رَبِّه فَلْيَعْمَلْ عَمَلًا صَالِحًا» (Kahf 110)

It is negated by 'ما' as in: ما كَانَ زَيْدٌ يَذْهَبُ

Or in this way: «كانوا لا يَتَنَاهَوْنَ عَن مَّنْكَرٍ فَعَلُوهُ» (they used not to forbid each other the hateful things) (Ma'idah 79)

