The Mudood (Lengthenings) Part 9

The Separate Letters that begin some surahs

Preface: The letters that begin some of the surahs of the Qur’an are fourteen in number. These fourteen letters are found in the phrase:

"" These letters are divided into four groups:

1. That which has no medd at all: This refers to the alif () as it has no medd letter in it.

2. That which has a medd of two counts: The letters in this category can be found in the phrase:

"" meaning the letters are recited as when found in the letters that sometimes begin a surah, and are lengthened two counts. When these letters are written out as above, they consist of only two letters, and are of the natural medd

().

3. That which has a medd of six vowel counts: The rest of the letters from the fourteen that start some surahs of the Qur’an fall into this category. These letters are seven in number, and can be found in the phrase: "". All are lengthened six counts. The letters of the group are categorized into to two groups:

The Light Compulsory Lengthening in a letter and The Heavy Compulsory Lengthening in a letter .

The category that the letter falls into depends on whether it is merged into the next letter, or not.

The Heavy Compulsory Lengthening in a letter

The Light Compulsory Lengthening in a letter

A. The letter when written out consists of three letters

B. The middle of the three letters is a medd letter

C. A merged letter follows the medd letter, meaning that the third letter is merged with the letter that follows it.

A. The letter when written out consists of three letters

B. The middle of the three letters is a medd letter

C. A saakin letter follows the medd letter, but it is not merged with the letter that comes after it

4. The "": The can be lengthened four or six vowel counts, according to the rules of the way we read, which is the way of: Hafs ‘an ‘Aasim from the way of Shatibiyyah

( ). This is due to the fact that the as a separate letter of an opening to a surah is found at the beginning of surah Maryam click here to listen to this aayah,

and the beginning (second aayah) of surah Ash-Shooraa .

The Compulsory Light Lengthening in Letters

Its definition: The letters of the group "" are each individually read as a three letter word, the middle letter being a medd letter, andthe third letter having an original (or permanent) sukoon. The determiner of the letter being or is the last letter and whether it merges with the first letter of the next three letter word or not. In the case of the letter, it is not merged with what comes next. This is why it is called . This medd is lengthened six vowel counts.

Examples:

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In this example we can see that the when written out consists of three letters; the middle letter is a medd letter (alif) , the last letter

("") has a sukoon it, and is followed by a , which the does not merge into, and therefore it is called .

The Compulsory Heavy Lengthening in Letters

Its definition: This type of lengthening occurs when a letter of the "" group of letters that begin some of the surahs, (as described above), has the last letter of the three letter word representing the individual letter, merging into the letter that comes after it. This is the reason for it being called (heavy). This medd has a required lengthening of six counts.

Example:

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In this example, we find two letters, the and the that consist of three letters. The has a medd letter as the middle letter, then followed by a letter that is a sakinah, but merged with the first letter of the next spelled out letter . The is then . The does not have its third letter merging with what comes next (there is none after the meem), so it is .

Summary of different medd in the letters that begin some surahs

No medd

Two count natural medd

Merged

()

Not merged

()

Six vowel counts

Follower of the leen medd

Four or six vowel counts

The different separate letters that are found at the beginning of some surahs appear in the following combinations: