

Chapter “4”

Ghunnah

- Definition:

- **Linguistically:** Ghunnah is a sound that resonates within the nasal cavity.
- **Terminologically:** it is a pleasant sound which is composed of the characteristics of either the nun or the mim, and the tongue does not play any part in its pronunciation.
- **Point of Articulation:** The nasal passage, which is at the very top of the inside of the nose.
- **Duration:** The length of time taken to pronounce two letters.
- **Manner of Pronunciation:** It follows the sound of the following letter in regard to tafkhim (heaviness), and tarqiq (lightness).
 - If the following letter is one of the letters of isti'la' (heavy letters, for which the jaw is kept open but the lips are kept close together), such as in: "يَنْطُفُونَ" (Al-Anbiya 63)
 - If the following letter is one of the letters of istifal (thin letters, for which the jaw is kept nearly closed but the lips are kept apart), such as in: "مَا نَنْسَخُ" (Al-Baqarah 106).

Levels of Ghunnah

There are five well-known levels of ghunnah which are divided into 2 types:

First Type: Complete Ghunnah

It includes the first 3 levels where the ghunnah is complete:

- 1- **First Level (Highest):** with Nun & Mem with Shaddah & Complete Idgham. Examples:
 - The nun and mim with shaddah: **إِن ، ثَم**.
 - Idgham with ghunnah of the nun and mem: **مِنْ نَعْمَةٍ ، مِنْ مَالٍ ، أَمْشَاجٍ نَبْتَلِيهِ**.
 - Idgham al-mutamathilayn al-saghir: **أَمْ مِنْ أَسَس**.
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- 2- **Second Level:** with incomplete Idgham. Examples:
 - Idgham with ghunnah of the waw and ya: **مِنْ يَطْع ، مِنْ وَال ، وَجُودٍ يَوْمَنْد**.
- 3- **Third Level:** with Ikhfaa' & Iqlab. Examples:
 - True Ikhfaa': **بِنَصْرِكُمْ ، كَرَامًا كَاتِبِينَ**.
 - Ikhfaa' shafawi: **لَكُمْ بَعْد**.
 - Iqlab: **أَنْبِئُونِي ، سَمِيعًا بَصِيرًا**.

Second Type: Ghunnah of Origin

It is a ghunnah that does not show during performance, because it is within the structure of the memand nun, and includes the final 2 levels of ghunnah:

4- **Fourth Level:** with Izh-har.

- Izh-har halqi (of the throat): **مَنْ هَاجِر ، عَزِيْزٌ حَكِيْمٌ**.
- Izh-har shafawi (of the lips): **أَمْثَالِكُمْ ، كُنْتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ**.

5- **Fifth Level:** with Nun & Mem with Haraka (not constant). Example:

- **وَنَذِر ، مِكتوبًا**.

- **Question:** How there is ghunnah for the fourth and fifth ranks, i.e. when the sakin letter is followed by a letter that is pronounced clearly, or the mutaharrik letter?

- **Answer:** The scholars proved the occurrence of ghunnah in both these cases since it is difficult to pronounce the nun and mim in these two cases if the makhrāj of the ghunnah (the nasal passage) is blocked.

Review



- Ghunnah: a sound that resonates within the nasal cavity.**
- The duration of the ghunnah is the length it takes to pronounce two letters. It is produced from the nasal cavity and follows what is after it in terms of heaviness and lightness.**
- Ghunnah is divided into two types: complete ghunnah and ghunnah of origin**
- Complete ghunnah includes 3 levels of ghunnah, whereas the ghunnah of origin includes 2.**
- The highest level of ghunnah is with Nun & Mem with Shaddah & Complete Idgham with the least harakahs.**

Test Your Knowledge!

A- Fill in the blanks

1. The highest level of ghunnah is found in _____ and _____,
such as in Allahs words _____ and _____.
2. Examples of the third level of ghunnah include _____ and
_____ and _____.
3. The ghunnah follows what is _____ in takhfeem and
_____.
4. Ghunnah is a sound composed of _____ of nun and mem
_____.
5. Ghunnah is divided into two types: _____ and _____.

B- True or False

1. There must be movement of the tongue in order to pronounce the ghunnah
correctly. ()
2. The level of ghunnah in "سميع بصير" is the same as that in "أندادا". ()
3. An examples of complete ghunnah is the Izh-har shafawi. ()
4. An example of the second level of ghunnah is in Allahs words:
"صحفاً مطهرة" ()
5. The ghunnah in Allah's words: "من رسول" is of the first level. ()

