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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Sharh Ibn Aqil – Lesson 95

Summary

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Topic: Position of Khabar and Restrictions on Precedence

In Arabic grammar, certain conditions require that الخبر (khabar) precede المبتدأ (mubtada) to maintain sentence clarity and coherence. One such condition occurs when the المبتدأ includes a pronoun that refers back to a part of the خبر. This structure ensures a logical and grammatically sound relationship between the mubtada and khabar.

Pronoun Reference in Khabar-Mubtada Structures

An example of this rule can be seen in في الدار صاحبها ("In the house is its owner"), where خبر (صاحبها) precedes المبتدأ (في الدار) because the pronoun ها in صاحبها refers back to الدار in the khabar. Here, تقديم الخبر (placing the khabar first) is necessary to clarify the reference of the pronoun within the sentence.

Ibn Aqil's Perspective

In analyzing such cases, Ibn Aqil points out that ملابس الخبر ("a part of the khabar") functions as the referent (مرجع) of the pronoun, rather than the entire khabar. This distinction suggests that only a specific part of the khabar establishes the necessary relationship, as not all elements within the khabar might serve this referencing role. For example, in the phrase على التمرة مثلها زبدًا



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("On the date is its likeness in foam"), (على التمرة) contains the referent مثلها within the mubtada.

Interpretive Notes

The term ملابس (mixed or blended) is often interpreted as indicating a "part" (جزء) because it implies an element that is integrated with or inherent within a larger structure. This concept clarifies why only part of the khabar may need to reference the pronoun in the mubtada.

Additional Case: Disagreement on Pronoun Reference

In some cases, there is debate over whether a pronoun can refer back to an antecedent positioned verbally and actually prior to it. For instance, in ضرب غلامه زيد ("Zaid hit his servant"), غلامه contains a pronoun referring to زيد. Here, scholars debate whether the pronoun is allowed to reference زيد since it precedes it both in word order and intended meaning.