TAFSIR IMPLICATIONS OF THE PAUSE ON THE WORD BELĀ (بِلَا)

Mensur Malkić, PhD

Abstract

In this paper we presented the meaning of the word belā (بِلَا), different stances of the Arabic language authorities on its ambiguity as well as different opinions of experts in the field of Qira’at and Tafsir about the types of pausal forms on this word. We listed individual examples relying on the Qur’anic order and pointed out possible tafsir implications by applying the contextual or pausal form. Providing explanation, we also pointed out the differences in diacritical marks on the word belā (بِلَا) in Istanbul and Medinan orthographic versions with the aim to remind the Qur’an reciters about the importance of adhering to the pausal punctuation marks specified in Mushafs in order to preserve the meaning of the Qur’anic text.

Keywords: the Qur’an, word belā, contextual, pausal and initial forms.