

## The best way to write “peace be upon you” in a letter

Explained by Shaykh Salih 'Āli Shaykh

At the beginning of the letter he (Abu Darda may Allah be pleased with him) wrote: **سَلَامٌ عَلَيْكَ** (Salaam Alaika). This was from the manners of the Salaf as it relates to letters. At the start of the letter they would say: **سَلَامٌ** (Salaam) making it indefinite and not definite. It is not proper for the person writing the letter to begin with **السَّلَامُ** (As Salaam); rather the letter should begin with **سَلَامٌ عَلَيْكَ** (Salaam Alaika); Salaam Alaika or Salaam Alaikum wa rahmatuAllahi wa barakatahu.

The letter begins with the indefinite (Salaam) and ends with the definite (As Salaam). Some of the scholars mentioned this is extracted from what is mentioned in Soorah Maryam. If the greeting of peace is repeated twice in the same speech or the same letter, the first time it is written indefinite (Salaam) and the second time it is written definite (As Salaam). This is in Soorah Maryam.

In the first verse:

وَسَلَامٌ عَلَيْهِ يَوْمَ وُلِدَ وَيَوْمَ يَمُوتُ وَيَوْمَ يُبْعَثُ حَيًّا ﴿١٥﴾

So (Salaam) peace on him the day he was born the day that he dies and the day that he will be raised up to life! (Soorah Maryam 19:15)

And in the second verse:

وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَيَّ يَوْمَ وُلِدْتُ وَيَوْمَ أَمُوتُ وَيَوْمَ أُبْعَثُ حَيًّا ﴿٣٣﴾

"And (As Salaam) peace be upon me the day I was born, and the day I die, and the day I shall be raised alive!" (Soorah Maryam 19:33)