

Proposal to encode an Arabic honorific used in Christian texts

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Background

The Unicode Technical Committee, in its recent meetings, has accepted eighteen Arabic honorifics proposed by the first author and others. Only characters for which we could find examples in running text in published material were proposed. Since, we have found another honorific in published material, this time in Christian religious texts.

Proposal

Encode the following character in the Unicode Standard:

Glyph	Codepoint	Name
سلامه علينا	FDCF	ARABIC LIGATURE SALAAMUHU ALAYNAA

The main character properties should be as follows:

FDCF;ARABIC LIGATURE SALAAMUHU ALAYNAA;So;0;ON;;;;;N;;;;;

The script property for the character should be Arabic. All other properties should be similar to U+FDFF ARABIC LIGATURE BISMILLAH AR-RAHMAN AR-RAHEEM.

Notes

1. The phrase سلامه علينا (“his blessing on us”) appears to have originated among Egyptian Copts, to later spread among other Arabic-speaking Christians.
2. The character name matches the existing patterns in Unicode character names. The Arabic phrase has been transcribed with a key similar to that used in U+FDFF ARABIC LIGATURE BISMILLAH AR-RAHMAN AR-RAHEEM and the Quranic characters accepted at U+08D5..U+08D2 (see L2/14-105), as opposed to U+FDFF..U+FDFF and U+0610..U+0613. This is because the former pattern is more common among Arabic speakers.
3. The following twenty-three forms exist in some honorific fonts, but we haven’t yet found evidence for their usage in published material. They may be proposed later:

Glyph	Spelled out form
اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِمُ الْصَّلَاةُ اجْمَعِينَ	سلام الله عليهم اجمعين
اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِمُ الْصَّلَاةُ اجْمَعِينَ	رضوان الله عليهم اجمعين
اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ الْصَّلَاةُ	صلوات الله عليه
اللَّهُ عَلَيْهَا الْصَّلَاةُ	صلوات الله عليها
اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِمَا الْصَّلَاةُ	صلوات الله عليهما
اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِمُ الْصَّلَاةُ	صلوات الله عليهم
اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِمُ الْصَّلَاةُ اجْمَعِينَ	صلوات الله عليهم اجمعين

Glyph	Spelled out form
رَحْمَتُ اللَّهِ	رحمها الله
رَحْمَتُهُمَا	رحمهما الله
رَحْمَتِهِمَا	رحمهن الله
سُرُّهُمُ قُدْسٌ	قدس سرهم
سُرُّهُمَا قُدْسٌ	قدس سرهما
قُدْسٌ سُرُّهُ الشَّرِيفُ	قدس سره الشريف
عَجَلُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى فَرَجُهُ الشَّرِيفُ	عجل الله تعالى فرجه الشريف

عَلَيْهِمُ رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ	رحمة الله عليه
عَلَيْهَا رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ	رحمة الله عليها
عَلَيْهِمْ رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ	رحمة الله عليهم
عَلَيْهِمَا رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ	رحمة الله عليهما
عَلَيْهِنَّ رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ	رحمة الله عليهن

حَفِظَهُ اللَّهُ	حفظه الله
حَفِظَهَا اللَّهُ	حفظها الله
حَفِظَهُمُ اللَّهُ	حفظهم الله
جَلَّ وَعَلَا	جل وعلا

Sample of usage

إغواءات إبليس للسيد المسيح⁽⁴⁾

وَتَوَجَّهَ سَيِّدُنَا عِيسَى ^{عليه السلام} إِلَى الْبَرَارِيِّ مُنْقَادًا بِرُوحِ اللَّهِ لِيَتَعَرَّضَ لِإِغْوَاءَاتِ إبليس. وَبَعْدَ أَرْبَعِينَ يَوْمًا بَلِيَالِيهَا قَضَاهَا صَائِمًا أَخَذَ الْجُوعُ مِنْهُ كُلَّ مَاخِذٍ،⁽⁵⁾ أَنَاهُ إبليسُ مُوسوسًا: «أَنْتَ الْابْنُ الرُّوحِيِّ لِلَّهِ، قُلْ لِهَذِهِ الْحِجَارَةِ فَتَصِيرَ خُبْزًا تَرُدُّ بِهِ الْجُوعَ عَنكَ». فَأَجَابَ ^{عليه السلام} قائلًا: «جَاءَ فِي التَّوْرَةِ: «لَيْسَ بِالْخُبْزِ وَحْدَهُ يَحْيَا الْإِنْسَانُ، بَلْ بِطَاعَتِهِ لِكُلِّ أَمْرٍ جَاءَ مِنْ عِنْدِهِ تَعَالَى». إِلَّا أَنْ إبليسَ لَمْ يَبْأَسْ، فَقَادَهُ إِلَى الْمَدِينَةِ الْمُقَدَّسَةِ، حَيْثُ وَقَفَ بِهِ عَلَى أَعْلَى مَكَانٍ فِي الْحَرَمِ الشَّرِيفِ وَقَالَ لَهُ: «أَلَسْتَ الْابْنَ الرُّوحِيِّ لِلَّهِ، فَالْقِ بِتَفْسِكَ مِنْ هَذَا الْعُلُوِّ، وَلَا تَخَفْ، فَقَدْ جَاءَ فِي كِتَابِ الزَّبُورِ أَنَّ اللَّهَ يُوَصِّي مَلَائِكَتَهُ

(1) هناك علاقة قريبي بين النبي يحيى ^{عليه السلام} وسيدنا عيسى ^{عليه السلام}. ولأن يحيى كان يكبر عيسى بستة أشهر، وهذا كان يعني أنه

Figure 1. Example of usage from al-Nasrī 2019, p. 653.

فيه بعيدا من حوله يريدون لمسه والحصول على الشفاء مثلهم. اما الدين كان بهم قس شيطاني فقد أخذت شياطينهم تحزن لسيدنا عيسى ^{عليه السلام} بما جده وتصرخ: "أنت الابن الروحي لله!"¹² وكان سيدنا عيسى يلج عليها بشدة ألا تبوح بسرّه.

تسمية سيدنا عيسى للحواريين الاثني عشر

¹³ وَوَضِعَدَ سَيِّدُنَا عِيسَى ^{عليه السلام}، بَعْدَ ذَلِكَ، جَبَلًا فِي تِلْكَ الْمَنْطِقَةِ، بَعْدَ أَنْ دَعَا¹⁴ الْاِثْنَيْ عَشَرَ شَخْصًا بِأَسْمَائِهِمْ، وَهُمْ الَّذِينَ أَصْبَحُوا حَوَارِيَّيْهِ الْمُرَافِقِينَ لَهُ الَّذِينَ سَيَنْشُرُونَ رِسَالَتَهُ لِلنَّاسِ،¹⁵ مُؤَيَّدِينَ بِالْقُدْرَةِ عَلَى الشِّفَاءِ وَبِالسُّلْطَانِ عَلَى طَرْدِ الشَّيَاطِينِ.¹⁶ وَهَؤُلَاءِ الْحَوَارِيُّونَ هُمْ: سَمْعَانُ الَّذِي سَمَّاهُ بُطْرُسَ،¹⁷ وَيَعْقُوبُ وَبُوحَنَّا وَلَدَا زَبْدِي، (وَقَدْ سَمَّاهُمَا سَيِّدُنَا عِيسَى -سَلَامُهُ عَلَيْنَا- ابْنِي الرَّعْدِ)،¹⁸ وَأَنْدْرَاوُسُ وَفِيلِبُّسُ وَابْنُ تَلْمَايَ وَمَتَّى وَتُومَا، وَيَعْقُوبُ بْنُ حَلْفِي، وَتَدَاوُسُ وَسَمْعَانُ الْوَطْنِيُّ الْمُتَحَمِّسُ،¹⁹ وَيَهُوذَا الْإِسْخَرْيُوطِيُّ الَّذِي خَانَ سَيِّدُنَا عِيسَى ^{عليه السلام} فِي النِّهَايَةِ.

المسيح عيسى في رده على علماء التوراة

²⁰ وَعَادَ سَيِّدُنَا عِيسَى ^{عليه السلام} إِلَى مَكَانِ إِقَامَتِهِ، وَأَخَذَ النَّاسُ يَجْتَمِعُونَ حَوْلَهُ مِنْ جَدِيدٍ، حَتَّى تَحْدَرَ عَلَيْهِ وَعَلَى اتِّبَاعِهِ تَنَاوَلَ طَعَامَهُمْ مِنْ شِدَّةِ الْإِزْدِحَامِ.²¹ وَأَزْدَرَى بَعْضُ النَّاسِ عِيسَى ^{عليه السلام} قائلين إنَّ بِهِ مَسًّا عَقْلِيًّا. وَعِنْدَمَا سَمِعَ أَقْرِبَاؤُهُ بِأَخْبَارِ احْتِقَارِهِ وَإِزْدِرَائِهِ

Figure 2. Example of usage from Jatlawī 2017, p. 264.



Figure 3. The honorific in spelled-out calligraphic form, from al-Nasrī 2019, p. 641.

Bibliography

1. Al-Hādī Jatlāwī. 2017. *al-Ma'nī al-sahīh li-Injīl al-Masīh* (المعنى الصحيح لإنجيل المسيح). Āfāq, Tunis. ISBN 978-614-430-068-8.
2. Fathī al-Nasrī. 2019. *Adwā'un alā Siyar al-'Anbiā': al-'Anbiā' al-'Awwalūn* (أضواء على سير الأنبياء: (الأنبياء الأولون)). Al-Furāt, Beirut. ISBN 978-0-9566897-6-4.

A. Administrative

1. Title: ***Proposal to encode an Arabic honorific used in Christian texts***
2. Requester's name: **Roozbeh Pournader and Lorna Evans**
3. Requester Type: **Expert Contribution**
4. Submission date: **March 10, 2020**
5. Requester's reference, if applicable: **N/A**
6. Choose one of the following:
 This is a complete proposal: **Yes**
 (or) More information will be provided later: **No**

B. Technical – General

1. Choose one of the following:
 - a. This proposal is for a new script (set of characters): **No**
 Proposed name of script: **N/A**
 - b. The proposal is for addition of character(s) to an existing block: **Yes**
 Name of existing block: **Arabic Presentation Forms-A**
2. Number of characters in proposal: **1**
3. Proposed category: **A-Contemporary**
4. Is a repertoire including character names provided? **Yes**
 - a. If YES, are the names in accordance with the "character naming guidelines" in Annex L of P&P document? **Yes**
 - b. Are the character shapes attached in a legible form suitable for review? **Yes**
5. Fonts related:
 - a. Who will provide the appropriate computerized font to the Project Editor of 10646 for publishing the standard? **Lorna Evans**
 - b. Identify the party granting a license for use of the font by the editors (include address, e-mail, ftp-site, etc.): **SIL International**
6. References:
 - a. Are references (to other character sets, dictionaries, descriptive texts etc.) provided? **Yes**
 - b. Are published examples of use (such as samples from newspapers, magazines, or other sources) of proposed characters attached? **Yes**
7. Special encoding issues:
Does the proposal address other aspects of character data processing (if applicable) such as input, presentation, sorting, searching, indexing, transliteration etc. (if yes please endorse information)? **Yes**

8. Additional information:

Submitters are invited to provide any additional information about Properties of the proposed Character(s) or Script that will assist in correct understanding of and correct linguistic processing of the proposed character(s) or script. Examples of such properties are: Casing information, Numeric information, Currency information, Display behaviour information such as line breaks, widths etc., Combining behaviour, Spacing behaviour, Directional behaviour, Default Collation

behaviour, relevance in Mark Up contexts, Compatibility equivalence and other Unicode normalization related information. See the Unicode standard at <http://www.unicode.org> for such information on other scripts. Also see Unicode Character Database (<http://www.unicode.org/reports/tr44/>) and associated Unicode Technical Reports for information needed for consideration by the Unicode Technical Committee for inclusion in the Unicode Standard.

C. Technical - Justification

1. Has this proposal for addition of character(s) been submitted before? **No**
If YES explain: **N/A**
2. Has contact been made to members of the user community (for example: National Body, user groups of the script or characters, other experts, etc.)? **Yes**
If YES, with whom? **The user community has contacted SIL International to help get the character encoded in Unicode**
If YES, available relevant documents: **N/A**
3. Information on the user community for the proposed characters (for example: size, demographics, information technology use, or publishing use) is included? **Yes**
Reference: **See above**
4. The context of use for the proposed characters (type of use; common or rare): **Rare**
Reference: **N/A**
5. Are the proposed characters in current use by the user community? **Yes**
If YES, where? Reference: **See above**
6. After giving due considerations to the principles in the P&P document must the proposed characters be entirely in the BMP? **Yes**
If YES, is a rationale provided? **Yes. Need to be next to similar characters.**
If YES, reference: **N/A**
7. Should the proposed characters be kept together in a contiguous range (rather than being scattered)? **N/A**
8. Can any of the proposed characters be considered a presentation form of an existing character or character sequence? **Yes**
If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided? **Yes**
If YES, reference: **Similarity to already-encoded characters and different usage.**
9. Can any of the proposed characters be encoded using a composed character sequence of either existing characters or other proposed characters? **Yes**
If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided? **Yes**
If YES, reference: **See above**
10. Can any of the proposed character(s) be considered to be similar (in appearance or function) to, or could be confused with, an existing character? **No**
If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided? **N/A**
If YES, reference: **N/A**
11. Does the proposal include use of combining characters and/or use of composite sequences? **No**
If YES, is a rationale for such use provided? **N/A**
If YES, reference: **N/A**
Is a list of composite sequences and their corresponding glyph images (graphic symbols) provided? **N/A**
If YES, reference: **N/A**
12. Does the proposal contain characters with any special properties such as control function or

similar semantics? **No**

If YES, describe in detail (include attachment if necessary): **N/A**

13. Does the proposal contain any Ideographic compatibility characters? **No**

If YES, are the equivalent corresponding unified ideographic characters identified? **N/A**

If YES, reference: **N/A**