Introduction

Quick Summary. This is a proposal for one character required for Urdu: an end of verse marker.

History of usage. In early typesetting, the Bible was typeset with what are sometimes called “hanging” or marginal verse numbers. The verse number was set outside of the text in the margin. Depending on whether it was a left or a right page, or even which column on a page it was, the marginal number would be on one of the outer margins. The intention was that the verse numbers would not confuse the reader and cause an unnecessary stop or distraction in reading the text. Examples of marginal verse numbers can be found in at least the following scripts: Latin (Figure 1 and 3), Ethiopic (Figure 2), Devanagari (Figure 4), Telegu (Figure 5), Syriac (Figure 6), and Arabic (Figures 7, 9-12). This was definitely a difficult thing for typesetters to accomplish, and it was sometimes difficult for the reader to know where the verse ended if there was no full stop or if there were multiple full stops on the line.

Because of the need to know where a verse ended, sometimes another marker was included to show the end of the verse. This seems to be especially prevalent in Arabic script Bibles, possibly because of the already existing use of End of Ayah. However, an end of verse marker can be found in other scripts (Figure 3 in Latin script and Figure 6 in Syriac script).

Although marginal verse numbers are no longer commonly in use, the Urdu Bible continues to use the End of Verse marker (see Figures 12 and 13 for recent usage), and there is a current need for this character. The glyph required is a circle with a line under it.

There are many different forms of an end of verse marker:

- 5 pointed star (Figure 8, Arabic language and script)
- 6 pointed star (Figure 7, Azerbaijani in Arabic script, Figure 9, Persian in Arabic script, Figure 16, Ottoman Turkish in Arabic script)
- 9 pointed star (Figure 15, Persian in Arabic script)
- 12 pointed star (Figure 6, Syriac language and script)
- Circle with line below (Figures 10-14, Urdu and Kashmiri in Arabic (Nastaliq) script)
- Vertical bar (Figure 3, Kâte in Latin script)

It seems safe to conclude that many more forms could be found.

The markers sometimes also seem to represent a full stop, but in the Kâte and Syriac usage the full stop is still included.

06DD ARABIC END OF AYAH represents the end of a verse in the Quran. It is also often used as a verse marker in the Bible. However, the End of Ayah has a property of \( \text{Cf} \) which is a format control character. The expectation is that it will enclose digits. The character now being proposed is not a format control character. Because this character does not behave in the same way as 06DD ARABIC END OF AYAH, it should not unified with U+06DD.

The Figures show the use of an end of verse marker in Latin and Syriac scripts as well as in Arabic script. The non-Urdu end of verse markers could simply be represented by U+2055 FLOWER PUNCTUATION MARK or with various star-like characters.

Although this document shows various markers, the immediate need is for a character for Urdu use which uses a circle with line below.
We wish to propose the following character:

UCD
10ED0;ARABIC BIBLICAL END OF VERSE;So;0;ON;;;;N;;;;

“So” could possibly be changed to “Po”.

terminal_punctuation=True

Collation
Collation could be after 06DE;ARABIC START OF RUB EL HIZB or if the property is changed to “Po” with appropriate similar characters.

ArabicShaping
No_Joining_Group

Script Property
Script properties should be set to “Arabic”. If this character is later found to be required by other scripts, the property could change to “Common”.

Confusables
These could be confused with:

235B ⚬ APL FUNCTIONAL SYMBOL JOT UNDERBAR
235C ⨚ APL FUNCTIONAL SYMBOL CIRCLE UNDERBAR
References


1962. The Bible in Amharic. United Bible Societies. ISBN: 0 564 09542 7


1972. The Book of a Thousand Tongues. United Bible Societies. [Azerbaijan and Syriac figures are from this book.]

Figures

Figure 1, 1908, p. 607. Example of marginal verse numbers in English.

Figure 2, 1962, Amharic Bible. p. 206 of the New Testament part. Example of marginal verse numbers in Amharic.

Figure 3, 1965, Kâte New Testament. p. 608. Example of marginal verse numbers in Kâte and use of an end of verse marker.

Figure 4, 2001, Sanskrit New Testament. p. 580. Example of marginal verse numbers.

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Figure 5, 2006, Koya New Testament. p. 580. Example of marginal verse numbers.

Figure 6, 1873, Syriac: Modern, Elkoosh Gospels. ABCFM Press, Urumia. Example of marginal verse numbers and use of an end of verse marker.
Figure 7, 1884, Azerbaijan Gospels and Psalms. British and Foreign Bible Society. Example of marginal verse numbers and use of an end of verse marker.

Figure 8, 1951 Arabic book of Matthew, pp. 10-11. Use of 5 pointed star as an end of verse marker and full stop (red). Somewhat inconsistent use (blue). Does not use marginal verse numbers.

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Figure 9, 1975 Persian Bible, p. 374 of the New Testament part. Example of marginal verse numbers and use of 6 pointed star as an end of verse marker.

Figure 10, 1935 Urdu Bible, pp. 236-237. Example of marginal verse numbers and use of circle with line below as an end of verse marker.
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Figure 11, 1943 Urdu Bible, p. 259 of the New Testament part. Example of marginal verse numbers and use of circle with line below as an end of verse marker and full stop (red).

Figure 12, 2007 Urdu Bible, p. 299 of the New Testament part. Example of marginal verse numbers and use of circle with line below as an end of verse marker.
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Figure 13, 2010 Urdu Bible, p. 327 of the New Testament part. Use of circle with line below as an end of verse marker. Does not use marginal verse numbers.

Figure 14, Kashmiri book of John, p. 1. Example of marginal verse numbers and use of circle with line below as an end of verse marker.
Figure 15, 1850 Persian, p. 3. Marginal verse numbers and use of 8 pointed star as an end of verse marker.

Figure 16, 1819 Ottoman Turkish New Testament, p. 1. Marginal verse numbers and use of 6 pointed star as an end of verse marker.