

I must now add some explanations necessary to facilitate the use of my lexicon.

The arrangement that I have adopted is, in its main features, the same as that of Golius: the words being placed according to their radical letters; and the roots being arranged according to the order of their letters (commencing with the first of those letters) in the usual alphabet.

Words of three different classes, in which the radical letters are the same, but different in number, I place in the same article. The first of these classes consists of words of two radical letters; as **بُنْ**: the second class, of reduplicative trilateral-radical words, in which the first and second radical letters are the same as those of the first class, and the third the same as the second of that class; as **بُنَّ** and **بُنُّ** and **بُنَّل** &c.: and the third class, of reduplicative quadrilateral-radical words, in which the first and third radical letters are the same as the first of the first class, and the second and fourth the same as the second of that class; as **بُنَّب** and **بُنَّبَة** and **بُنَّبَان** &c. These three classes are included in the same article in all the best Arabic lexicons; and two reasons may be given for my following the same plan. One reason is similarity of signification. Words of the first and second corresponding classes very seldom exhibit an alliance in signification; but instances of such alliance in words of the first and third classes are less rare; and instances of alliance in signification in words of the second and third classes are very numerous. The other reason is, that such words are generally held to be derived from the same root. Some of the Arabian lexicologists hold that a word of the class of **بُنْ** is a biliteral-radical word; so that the letters of its root are represented by **فَع**: but most of them regard it as, absolutely, a trilateral-radical word; so that the letters of its root are represented by **فَعَل**. With respect to a word such as **بُنَّب**, the opinion held by El-Farrà and others, and ascribed to El-Khaleel, is, that it is to be represented by **فَعْنَع**; so that the letters of its root are represented by **فَع**: another opinion, ascribed to El-Khaleel and his followers among the Baṣreees and Koofees, is, that it is to be represented by **فَعْنَل**; so that the letters of its root are represented by **فَعَل**: another, ascribed to Seebaweyh and his companions, is, that it is originally a word to be represented by **فَعَل**, and that the third radical letter is changed, and made the same as the first; so that the letters of its root are represented by the same letters as if the word itself were to be represented by **فَعْنَل**: the opinion commonly obtaining among the Baṣreees is, that it is to be represented by **فَعْنَل**; so that the letters of its root are represented, in this case also, by **فَعَل**; and as the last of these modes of representing the word is the one most usual, I generally adopt this mode in my lexicon, except in quoting from an author who uses another mode. The trilateral root, in both of these classes of words, is that which is preferred in the Muzhir, where, in the 40th Section, not far from the commencement, these different opinions are stated.

Agreeably with the same principle, quasi-quadrilateral-radical words (the conjugations and varieties of which will be found in a table inserted in this preface) I class with the trilateral-radical words from which they are derived by the Arabian lexicologists and grammarians.

What is commonly called "the Verb of Wonder" I mention among the verbs. The Koofees say that it is a noun, meaning an epithet. (See **مَا أَمِيلِحَ زَيْدًا**, in article **مَلِحَ**.)

Dialectic variants, synonyms, and words nearly synonymous, from the same root, are mentioned and explained in one paragraph: but every word thus explained in a paragraph headed by another word is also mentioned by itself, or accompanied by a word or words nearly resembling it in form, with a reference to that paragraph. (In order to facilitate the reference, an arrow-head (†) is inserted to render conspicuous a word explained in a paragraph headed by another word.) Several obvious advantages result from this arrangement; not the least of which is a considerable saving of room. In these cases, when I have found it possible to do so, I have placed the most common word first, or otherwise distinguished it from the rest: sometimes I have shown which words are more or less common by the authorities that I have indicated for them.