

نُكْرٌ & إِمْرٌ

إِمْْرٌ [im'run] is that which can be unethical and illogical and very strange. It can be used for something good or bad.

نُكْرٌ [nuk'run] is that which is something unheard of and no individual in any society would say that this is something good. It is not recognised by any society as a good deed. This word is only used for something evil.

Qutaadah رحمه الله said that **نُكْرٌ** is greater than **إِمْْرٌ** and is a more suitable word to use in the situation of the killing of the boy because the action resulted in the destruction and death of someone where as **إِمْْرٌ** was used when talking about the boat where the fear of

sinking was there but the boat didn't actually sink and kill anyone.

There is also an opinion that the word **إمْرٌ** is greater than **نُكْرٌ** because **إمْرٌ** was used in a place where many people could have been killed whereas **نُكْرٌ** was used in a place where only one person was killed.

However, what appears to be the most correct and strongest of the two opinions is that **نُكْرٌ** is greater because the killing of a boy resulted in a life being taken and one life being taken is greater than the possibility of many lives being taken.

ALLAH knows best.

Let's look at the two ayaat these words come in.

ALLAH says:

فَانْطَلَقَا حَتَّىٰ إِذَا رَكِبَا فِي السَّفِينَةِ خَرَقَهَا قَالَ أَخَرَقْتَهَا لِتُغْرِقَ أَهْلَهَا
لَقَدْ جِئْتَ شَيْئًا إِمْرًا ﴿٧١﴾

Sahih International

So they set out, until when they had embarked on the ship, al-Khidhr tore it open. [Moses] said, "Have you torn it open to drown its people? You have certainly done a grave thing."

[Surah Al Kahf Ayah 71]

ALLAH says:

فَانْطَلَقَا حَتَّىٰ إِذَا لَقِيََا غُلَامًا فَقَتَلَهُ، قَالَ أَقْتَلْتَ نَفْسًا زَكِيَّةً بِغَيْرِ نَفْسٍ
لَقَدْ جِئْتَ شَيْئًا نُكْرًا ﴿٧٤﴾

Sahih International

So they set out, until when they met a boy, al-Khidhr killed him. [Moses] said, "Have you killed a pure soul for other than [having killed] a soul? You have certainly done a deplorable thing."

[Surah Al Kahf Ayah 74]

Taken from:

الموسوعة الإلكترونية الشاملة للقرآن الكريم

Abu Ezra

أَبُو عَزْرٍ