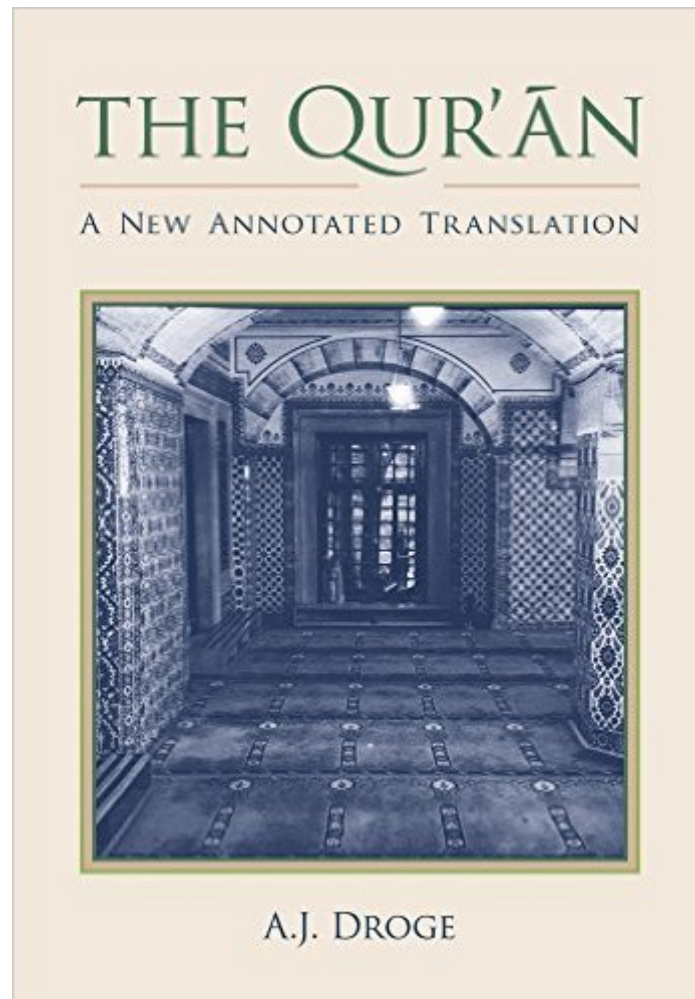


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The Qur'an: A New Annotated Translation (Comparative Islamic Studies)



Synopsis

This new edition of the Qur'an is specifically designed to meet the needs of students of religion, and provides them with a one-volume resource comparable to what is available for the Jewish and Christian scriptures. The meticulously crafted translation affords readers not only a better sense of what the Qur'an says, but how it says it, in a rendition that strives to remain faithful to the way it was originally expressed. Accompanying the translation is an extensive set of annotations. These are keyed to the text for ready reference, and divided according to their boldface topical headings at the bottom of each page. The annotations offer a wealth of linguistic and historical detail to enhance the understanding and appreciation of the text. They also contain abundant references to parallel passages within the Qur'an, as well as comparatively among the scriptures of Judaism and Christianity. With an introduction, set of maps, timeline, guide to further reading, and comprehensive index, this is the edition of the Qur'an all students of religion beginning as well as advanced will want to possess for their exploration of Islam's central text.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is by far the best English language translation of the Qur'an for English speakers who actually want to understand the text. It is well laid out for easy comprehension, and supplied with excellent notes on meanings of words and phrases to help clear up potential ambiguities. It avoids the mistake of using King James Bible English " which obscures the meaning and mystifies the text. It avoids the mistake of translating the interpretations given by Muslim scholars instead of the actual Arabic of the text. It does not smooth out the language, but carefully conveys the meaning of the

original Arabic even when it doesn't make sense or the text seems interrupted. And it is consistent, translating the Qur'an's vast number of highly repetitious formulaic phrases in a highly consistent way: this in itself is a major achievement. This is not a pious translation like Yusuf Ali's nor does it attempt to be a work of high-brow literature like Arberry's: it just gives a clear, consistent and honest translation in fluent contemporary English. The introduction is also a tour de force: it is one of the best available concise introductions to the unique characteristics of the Qur'an. This translation will go from strength to strength in the years ahead, and will inevitably eclipse all translations before it. It is a masterpiece of rigorous, objective scholarship. Droge has done us all a great service with his masterly work.

Although I have an MA in the study of religion, I have not studied Islam or the Qur'an to any significant extent, so I'm not writing as an expert. Nonetheless, I was delighted to hear that this book was being published. The straightforward, rather literal, translation of the Arabic is easy to read and give what seems to be a "good feel" for the original text, though you'd have to ask a bilingual English/Arabic speaker to know for sure. The annotation is extensive; many pages devote as much room to the footnotes as to the text, itself. They certainly help one understand a text written in a different time, from a different culture. In addition to explaining some details of the original Arabic, they point out references to people, places, and events in the Hebrew Bible and New Testament. The introduction gives a very scholarly perspective on the origin and transmission of the text of the Qur'an. I found it very interesting, but I imagine some people will find it not supporting traditional Islamic views on the topic. This is an introduction meant for college students, not converts. Last, but not least, the Index at the back of the book is amazing. Although it's not a full concordance, it lists nearly all of major words and names in the text, indicating all of the passages where they appear. A review should compare a book to its competitors, but I, at least, haven't found any other scholarly, annotated translations of the Qur'an into English. I'm sure others will follow as more and more English-speakers are studying Islam.

This is certainly the best English translation of the Quran. Moreover, it is accompanied by an excellent scholarly introduction and serious academic notes. Droge's translation rivals the work of Rudi Paret in German.

As a person who has a little understanding of the quran and islam in general, this translation is probably the best one I have used compared to other translations. I am, however, by no means the

hierarchy to judge the quality of this book. It worked for me. The map, the glossary, the key names, terms and abbreviations and the index made it really easy to navigate throughout the quran. One thing I really liked about this text is the literal translation from Arabic to English. While that is a hard task to accomplish since not all Arabic words can be translated into English and the quran is a very hard text to translate into other languages. For anyone who doesn't understand or cannot read Arabic, this translation is the best one can find. While I did enjoy using this particular translation, I can see that for some people who are more educated than myself will find many things that are wrong or a little off. Since the author uses literal translations, many muslim scholars might have opinions that literal translations might not be the best way to portray certain surahs because they have more in depth meaning and the translation cannot get it quite right. One thing I really appreciated in this quran is the footnotes in the annotation. The footnotes are extensive and go over every little detail needed to better or fully understand the context of the surahs. In many cases it provides background information or information relevant to pertaining of how or why certain things happened or came about such as laws or ways of life. In the end, this translation is easy for anyone to pick up and read and understand. I liked it more than other translations because it gives a more thorough understanding of the quran other than just the translation in English.

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