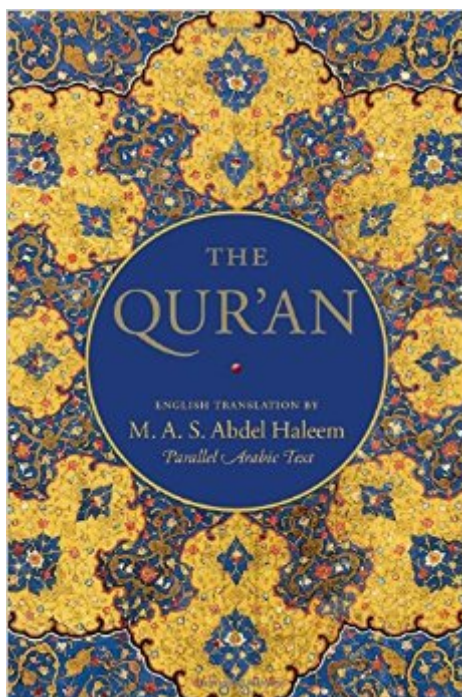


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The Qur'an: English Translation And Parallel Arabic Text



Synopsis

One of the most influential books in the history of literature, recognized as the greatest literary masterpiece in Arabic, the Qur'an is the supreme authority and living source of all Islamic teaching, the sacred text that sets out the creed, rituals, ethics, and laws of Islam. First published in 2004, M. A. S. Abdel Haleem's superb English translation has been acclaimed for both its faithfulness to the original and its supreme clarity. Now Haleem's translation is published side-by-side with the original Arabic text, to give readers a greater appreciation and understanding of the holy book. Revised for the new edition, this translation is written in contemporary language that remains true to the meaning and spirit of the original, making the text crystal clear while retaining all of this great work's eloquence. It is now set page-for-page against the most widespread traditional calligraphic Arabic text, for the benefit of Muslims who wish to make the connection between the translation and the Arabic text, as well as Arabic readers and non-Arabs learning to read the Qur'an in Arabic. As in the original volume, the translation is completely free from the archaisms, incoherence, and alien structures that mar other translations. Furthermore, Haleem includes notes that explain geographical, historical, and personal allusions as well as an index in which Qur'anic material is arranged into topics for easy reference. His introduction traces the history of the Qur'an, examines its structure and stylistic features, and considers issues related to militancy, intolerance, and the subjection of women. This brilliant bilingual edition of the Qur'an is the best available English-language translation. It has been approved by Al-Azhar University, the oldest Muslim university and the world's leading institution for the study of Arabic and Islam.

Book Information

Hardcover: 672 pages

Publisher: Oxford University Press; Blg Rev edition (July 29, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 019957071X

ISBN-13: 978-0199570713

Product Dimensions: 9.5 x 1.8 x 6.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

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Customer Reviews

This is my first time reading the Qur'an, but I wanted a nicely bound English edition to go along with my other leather Bibles and Tanach. This Qur'an by M.A.S. Abdel Haleem fit the bill. It is wrapped in green leather with gold foil on the covers and gold edging on the pages. It includes a black ribbon marker to keep your place. The translation itself is very modern and easy to read, which I appreciate. Mr. Haleem included footnotes to explain things in the text (some of which were more helpful than others), as well as including an introduction to each Sura to indicate whether it was a Meccan or Medinan Sura, as well as the general circumstances going on at the time of the revelation. One prior reviewer commented that Mr. Haleem blunted the anti-western slant of some of the verses. It does seem that to some extent, he does in fact either avoid confrontational language or try to explain away some of the harshness due to circumstances. I don't read Arabic, so I have no idea whether this is legitimate or not. At any rate, this is about the most beautiful English Qur'an I've seen and I am very glad to add it to my library. [Edit] It's been a while now since I have posted this review, and feel I can further comment on the other reviewer's criticism of Mr. Haleem's pro-Western stance. After studying and comparing multiple Qur'anic translations, it is apparent that even within the Islamic world, certain phrases in Arabic can convey multiple meanings due to the nature of the Arabic language. Some translators follow more Western friendly interpretations than others, but really, I think the issue is properly focused on what the likely intended meaning was - some interpretations are certainly more "noble" than others.

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