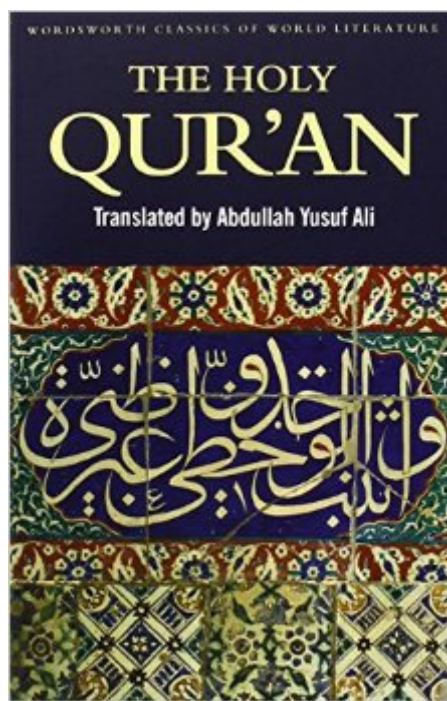


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The Holy Qur'an



Synopsis

The Holy Qur'an (also known as The Koran) is the sacred book of Islam. It is the word of God whose truth was revealed to the Prophet Muhammad through the angel Gabriel over a period of 23 years. As it was revealed, so it was committed to memory by his companions, though written copies were also made by literate believers during the lifetime of the Prophet. The first full compilation was by Abu Bakar, the first Caliph, and it was then recompiled in the original dialect by the third Caliph Uthman, after the best reciters had fallen in battle. Muslims believe that the truths of The Holy Qur'an are fully and authentically revealed only in the original classical Arabic. However, as the influence of Islam grows and spreads to the modern world, it is recognised that translation is an important element in introducing and explaining Islam to a wider audience. This translation, by Abdullah Yusuf Ali, is considered to be the most faithful rendering available in English.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I would like to say that this book is certainly worth one's while to have on your shelf. I find that I tend to prefer Shakir's translation (or if you prefer, interpretation), but both do an excellent job of applying the Early Modern English of the King James Bible to the Qur'an. I mention this because Yusuf Ali made a conscious decision to be not arcane, but archaic; the King James Bible has remained as popular as it has because of its elevated style, and attempts by Qur'an translators to use the same kind of language, then as now, were attempts to pay the Qur'an the highest compliment by using the highest language available in English. In fact, I would argue that both Yusuf Ali and Shakir's translations (I've not read others in their entirety) use archaism often to greater effect than in some parts of the Bible. I mention this because the "revised" edition of Yusuf Ali's interpretation distributed

by Tahrike Tarsile Qur'an, Inc. completely removes the translator's original archaisms (i.e., the use of "thee" and "thou," etc.) in an effort to make it more accessible to modern readers (I can't stand this choice for my own reading, although I now use that edition to lend to friends who are interested in an introduction). In terms of parenthetical additions to the text (I don't know if there is a more technical term for these kinds of glosses), I could frankly do without them in either translation--although I understand this is often standard practice--I feel that both tend to make up for what at least beginners might consider the other's shortcomings. It is certainly worth buying in conjunction with Shakir's for the latter's topical index in its Tahrike Tarsile edition.

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