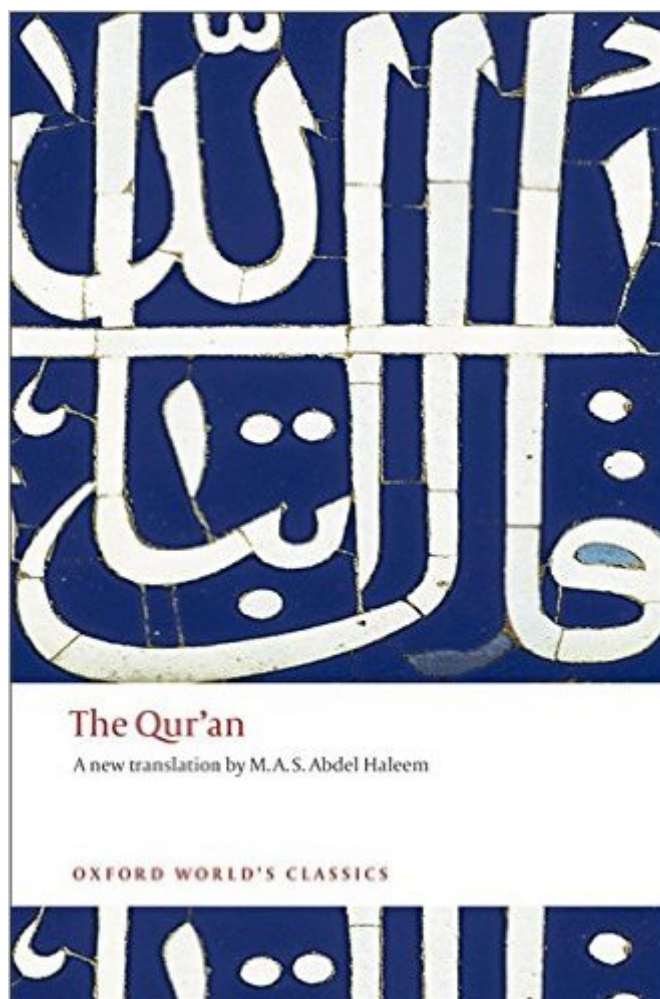


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The Qur'an (Oxford World's Classics)



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. Yet despite the growing interest in Islamic teachings and culture, there has never been a truly satisfactory English translation of the Qur'an, until now. This superb new translation of the Qur'an is written in contemporary language that remains faithful to the meaning and spirit of the original, making the text crystal clear while retaining all of this great work's eloquence. The translation is accurate and completely free from the archaisms, incoherence, and alien structures that mar existing translations. Thus, for the first time, English-speaking readers will have a text of the Qur'an which is easy to use and comprehensible. 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. Clearly written and filled with helpful information and guidance, this brilliant translation of the Qur'an is the best available introduction to the faith of Moslems around the world.

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Customer Reviews

Other reviewers have emphasized the ease of reading Abdel Haleem's translation. I have to agree. But at times the ease of reading seems to come from clarifying passages that are somewhat obscure in the original Arabic. And then there is this: There are four passages in the Qur'an on alcohol (the translation is Arberry's, considered by many to be the best, though the verse numbering follows the Fluegel edition and not the subsequent and now standard Cairo edition and can therefore be frustrating to use as a reference):16:67 And of the fruits of the palms and the vines, you take therefrom an intoxicant and a provision fair. Surely in that is a sign for a people who understand.4:43 O believers, draw not near to prayer when you are drunken until you know what you are saying2:219 They will question thee concerning wine, and arrow-shuffling. Say: `In both is a heinous sin, and uses for men, but the sin in them is more heinous than the usefulness.'5:90-91 O believers, wine and arrow shuffling, idols and divining arrows are an abomination, some of Satan's work; so avoid it; haply so you will prosper. Satan only desires to precipitate enmity and hatred between you in regard to wine and arrow-shuffling, and to bar you from the remembrance of God, and from your prayer. Will you then desist?As we all know, Islamic law forbids drinking alcohol. Verse 5:90-91 is taken to be the final word on the subject and is understood to have abrogated (annulled) previous verses that are more permissive. Clearly the most permissive is 16:67, which unambiguously calls intoxicants derived from grapes and dates one of God's signs. This unambiguously calls alcohol a blessing.

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