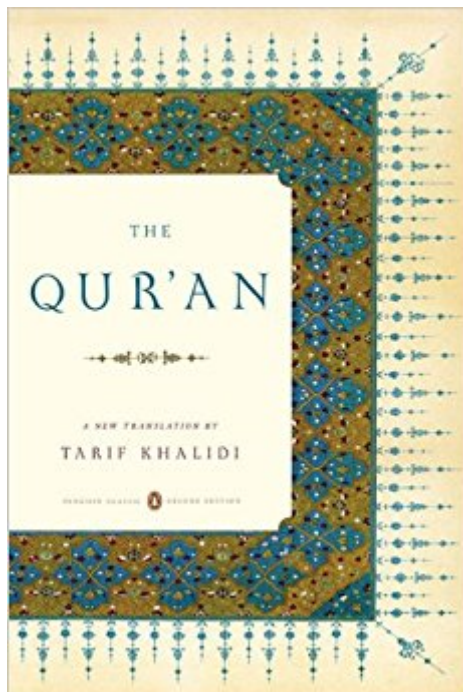


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The Qur'an: A New Translation



Synopsis

A landmark new translation of the sacred text of Islam in an elegant deluxe edition. Literally "the recitation," *Al-Qur'an* is considered within the Muslim faith to be the infallible word of God. Tarif Khalidi, the foremost scholar of Islamic history and faith, provides a fresh English translation that captures the startling, exquisite poetry of one of the world's most beloved religious texts. Retaining the structure and rhythms of the original Arabic, Khalidi enlivens the ancient teachings and prophetic narratives central to the Muslim faith and solidifies *Al-Qur'an* as a work of spiritual authority and breathtaking beauty. For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators.

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Customer Reviews

"An eloquent and eminently readable translation . . . much closer to the way the first Muslims experienced the Qur'an." -Reza Aslan, author of *Zealot* "While being faithful to the original, [Khalidi] succeeds in conveying linguistic shifts, from narrative to mnemonic, sermons to parables. And there is an innovative component: it is the first translation that tries to capture both the rhythms and the structure of the Qur'an. . . . This translation manages to give a glimpse of the grandeur of the original. . . . A magnificent achievement." -Ziauddin Sardar, *The Guardian* (London) "What sets

Khalidi apart from his predecessors is his sensitivity to the sounds and many layers of meaning of the original as well as his skill in conveying them to an anglophone audience...Khalidi's introduction and bibliographic note are marvelously succinct, explaining the textual nature and structure of the Qur'an, its place in Muslim life, and providing a very useful summary of recent research and further reading...a landmark in the history of English translations of the Qur'an." --Ziad Elmarsafy, Times Literary Supplement

Tarif Khalidi was born in Jerusalem in 1938. He received degrees from University College, Oxford, and the University of Chicago, before teaching at the American University of Beirut as a professor in the Department of History from 1970 to 1996. In 1985 he accepted a one-year position as senior research associate at St Anthony's College, Oxford, and from 1991 to 1992 was a visiting overseas scholar at St John's College, Cambridge. In 1996, Tarif Khalidi left Beirut to become the Sir Thomas Adams' Professor of Arabic at Cambridge University, the oldest chair of Arabic in the English-speaking world. He was also Director of the Centre for Middle East and Islamic Studies and a Fellow of King's College, Cambridge. After six years, Professor Khalidi returned to the American University of Beirut, taking on the Sheikh Zayed Chair in Islamic and Arabic Studies, the first chair to be filled at the University since the civil war.

I don't speak Arabic and so I rely on multiple translations for study, and this by far is the best I have ever used. I use three translations for study: Khalidi, Haleem, and Asad. Here are two portions of the Koran according to each translation:=== Q. 128 *فَاِنْ تَوَلَّوْاْ فَقُلْ حَسْبِيَ اللّٰهُ هُوَ الَّذِيْ سَخَّرَ لَّيْسَ لَكُم مِّنْ دُوْنِهِ سُلْطٰنٌ ۚ فَاِنْ تَوَلَّوْاْ فَقُلْ حَسْبِيَ اللّٰهُ هُوَ الَّذِيْ سَخَّرَ لَّيْسَ لَكُم مِّنْ دُوْنِهِ سُلْطٰنٌ ۚ* === Tarif Khalidi *فَاِنْ تَوَلَّوْاْ فَقُلْ حَسْبِيَ اللّٰهُ • this translation: To you has come a messenger, from among your number, Aggrieved by the hardship you suffer, Concerned for you, Tender and compassionate towards the believers. If they turn away, say: *فَاِنْ تَوَلَّوْاْ فَقُلْ حَسْبِيَ اللّٰهُ* God suffices me. There is no god but He. In Him I trust. Lord of the great throne is He.' M. A. S. Abdel Haleem *فَاِنْ تَوَلَّوْاْ فَقُلْ حَسْبِيَ اللّٰهُ • Oxford World's Classics: A Messenger has come to you from among yourselves. Your suffering distresses him: he is deeply concerned for you and full of kindness and mercy towards the believers. If they turn away, [Prophet], say, *فَاِنْ تَوَلَّوْاْ فَقُلْ حَسْبِيَ اللّٰهُ* God is enough for me: there is no god but Him; I put my trust in Him; He is the Lord of the Mighty Throne. *فَاِنْ تَوَلَّوْاْ فَقُلْ حَسْبِيَ اللّٰهُ*, Muhammad Asad: INDEED, there has come unto you [O mankind] an Apostle from among yourselves: heavily weighs upon him [the thought] that you might suffer [in the life to come]; full of concern for you [is he, and] full of compassion and mercy towards the believers. But if those [who are bent on denying the truth] turn away, say: *فَاِنْ تَوَلَّوْاْ فَقُلْ حَسْبِيَ اللّٰهُ* "God is enough for me! There is no deity save Him. In Him have I placed**

my trust, for He is the Sustainer, in awesome almightiness enthroned. **Q. 55:1** **Tarif Khalidi** • this translation: The All-Merciful! He taught the Qur'an, He created man, He taught him eloquence. Sun and moon move in measured order; Shrubs and trees bow down; The sky He raised, and established the balance, So that you do not infringe the balance, But measure in fairness, and not shortchange the balance. **M. A. S. Abdel Haleem** • Oxford World's Classics: It is the Lord of Mercy who taught the Qur'an. He created man and taught him to communicate. The sun and the moon follow their calculated courses; the plants and the trees submit to His designs; He has raised up the sky. He has set the balance so that you may not exceed in the balance: weigh with justice and do not fall short in the balance. **Muhammad Asad**: THE MOST GRACIOUS has imparted this Qur'an [unto man]. He has created man: He has imparted unto him articulate thought and speech. [At His behest] the sun and the moon run their appointed courses; [before Him] prostrate themselves the stars and the trees. And the skies has He raised high, and has devised [for all things] a measure, so that you [too, O men,] might never transgress the measure [of what is right]: weigh, therefore, [your deeds] with equity, and cut not the measure short!

Having been a student and teacher of classical Arabic and the Quran for some time, I have read many the Quran many times in Arabic and English translations. This is one of the easiest modern English translations of the Quran I have found. It also has high accuracy. Any translation has short-comings so if you would like deeper research, look the exact words up in a dictionary like Lane's Lexicon. There is another Quran translation published back in 1980 from a collaboration between the Shia and Sunni councils of Lebanon that is also extremely good. I don't have any more information on it, and since I cannot find it in anywhere, I always recommend this translation.

I love this translation. I really wish Khalidi would expand upon it though and offer a version with contextual and historical notes. Most Muslims never read this one, but it's really a joy to read. I read it along with more literal and classical translations, like the one by Yusuf Ali or Sahih International, both of which are somewhat boring to read.

I find it useful to refer to several translations when looking for a deeper understanding of a particular verse, and many translations are available on the internet for such a purpose. But this is the version I like to read for pleasure and inspiration. It's prose and style avoid the archaic language of "thee, thy and thou", and there is no inserted texts [usually in parenthesis like this] as is commonly found

in other translations which seem intent on adding more meaning where in fact none may have been intended.

I wanted to learn more about the belief of Muslims, and to have a better understanding of the sacred text of Islam. I am a follower of Christ, I like knowing about others belief. The best way is to read their own material.

A great, spiritual book. Highly recommended.

Easy to read compared to some translations.

I desired a translation of the Qur'an which I could read through and think about on my own. This book was all that I had hoped for.

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