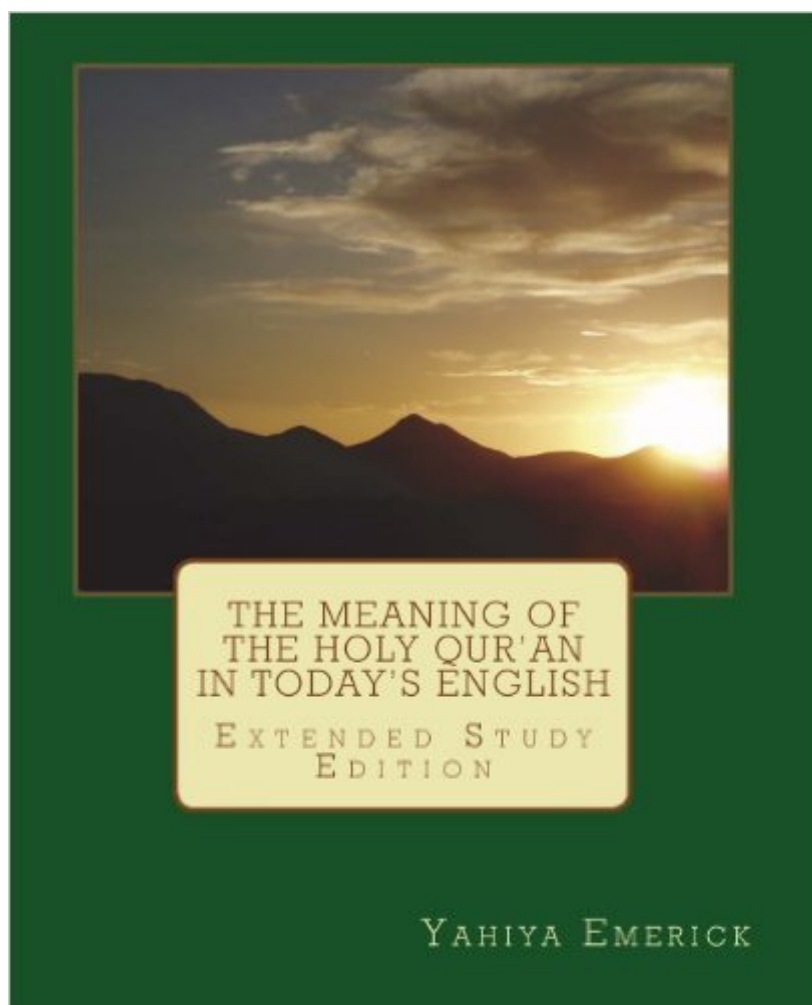


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The Meaning Of The Holy Qur'an In Today's English



Synopsis

This is a translation of the Qur'an into modern English with a complete suite of commentary, introductory materials, biographies and a multitude of other resources. The commentary is designed to bring the understanding of Islam into the modern era.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Yahiya Emerick dedicated a big part of his life in creating his expounded translation of the Qur'an. The amount of time spent on research is obvious through his elaborate blocks of background information and footnotes. The "Extended Study Edition" is an excellent resource for extensive research for understanding the history behind the verses and how they were perceived at the time of the revelations. Emerick uses many hadiths [teachings of Prophet Muhammed (peace upon him)] and sunnahs [examples from the Prophet's life] to explain aspects surrounding particular verses. I was pleased that Emerick disproved many myths about Islam; for examples, the myth that Islam forbids music, and the myth that adoption is unislamic. I disagreed with a few of his footnotes, however. I was particularly disappointed that he upheld the myth that, in Paradise, men will have perpetual virgins "only to please our carnal desires, which will be without restriction..." (n 48). Of course, in Paradise we presumably will be perfected, spiritual beings without sexual lusts. (I certainly do not want to go to a Heaven where people are living with the same unrestrained, sexual immorality as they are today.) The book lacks user-friendliness on one point, which is that the chapter numbers are not at the tops of pages. In other words, if you opened the book at a random page, you would not be able to tell in which chapter you are reading. Emerick created an above average translation of the meanings of the Qur'an. He has some fault, however, in grammatical skill

and poetic use of the English language; therefore, the literary value falls short of excellence. The translation lacks some elegance as Emerick often misses the tone of the original Qur'an.

This is a new translation of the Qur'an that was published earlier this year (2010). There are four editions available - a translation only, a translation with asbab al nuzul (circumstances/cause for revelation), a translation with asbab al nuzul and limited commentary, and a translation with asbab al nuzul and full notes. This edition is the latter. This is an excellent translation written in modern English. It is written in paragraph format, using italics to denote quotations, making it very easy to follow. Each chapter begins with detailed background information. Asbab al nuzul is written in a different typeface before the associated verses, which makes it clear that it is not part of the translation itself. Commentary is written in footnotes, unfortunately in a very small font; however, this is understandable given this translation is over 800 pages long in a single volume. The paper quality is very nice; none of that almost see-through paper that is common in many translations. The commentary in this translation is excellent and different from any other translation I have read in all that it encompasses. First, Emerick allows the Prophet (SAWS) to explain the Qur'an by way of ahadith, which are contained in the footnotes. Footnotes also detail what a wide array of classical commentators have said about the verses. If it is the view of one or two commentators only, he names them. If it is a majority of commentators, he states as such. If there is a minority view that he happens to feel is strong, he states it is a minority view and explains why this view appeals to him. As a result, you aren't left wondering if the translator is pushing a certain angle.

As an Islamic studies student, I consider this the best English Qur'an I have encountered. When people have asked me in the past which translation of the Qur'an is the best, I have usually held off on making a recommendation. I have never had a translation that I felt I could securely recommend to non-Muslims or other English speakers. But now I feel that I can firmly offer The Study Edition of Emerick's Qur'an as a great resource. Emerick has 3 similar publications out in addition to The Study Edition (828 pages); A Journey Through the Qur'an (804 pages) and The Holy Qur'an in Today's English (674 pages). They all have notes throughout, as does a kid's edition he wrote (which also features pictures and is similar to a kid/teen bible), however The Study Edition contains more footnotes, and Appendices with extra information and resources. This is an excellent edition to have for the serious student. It is very approachable, and while it contains a lot of information, this helps give context. This is my big problem with most English versions of the Qur'an that are recommended or used today. Neither the mass market paperback Yusuf Ali version and the newer

Oxford Classics version translated by M.A.S. Abdel Haleem contain much context for the content. Emerick's Study Edition has plenty, including not only tafsir (exegesis) but quoting from Asbab ul-Nuzul (the circumstances of revelation). His endnotes also contain tons of references to the Bible, and to hadith. So when reading this Qur'an, you are also getting exposed to many other books and scriptures. That's how great scholarship should be.

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