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# The Message Of The Qur'an



## Synopsis

This is the legitimate translation of and commentary on the Qur'an by Muhammad Asad offered by The Book Foundation, copyright holder of Muhammad Asad's work. As a translation it is one of the most respected. As commentary, it is unsurpassed. Muhammad Asad, born Leopold Weiss, was a towering intellectual figure and lived most of his adult life in Arabia and the Muslim world. He drew upon his extensive knowledge of classical Islamic texts to provide an illuminating commentary founded upon extensive linguistic, cultural, and historical knowledge.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I just received my hardback copy this morning. It's an impressively beautiful - and heavy! - book. Note: While I've just now received the book, I have already been reading the translation online. I think the physical book itself speaks to the immensity of the message of the Qur'an for the prospective reader's life. As a non-Muslim who is sincerely learning about Islam, Muhammad Asad's translation and explanation of the Noble Qur'an is unique in its attempt to address those who are thinkers, intellectuals or rationalists of some sort. Yet, in doing so, Asad eliminates nothing of the

Qur'an's expressed divinity and majesty. This alone is an awesome task that Asad executes with extreme care and intellectual brilliance. So, if you are concerned that Asad's translation is "too logical", be not afraid! Asad presents abundant justifications for his translative and interpretive decisions. He is refreshingly honest and transparent. In fact, even when Asad clearly prefers a particular meaning of an ayah (or verse), he will frequently cite other tafsirs (or interpretations) in order to show the reader the multitude of meanings regarded as valid by Islamic scholars. That includes tafsirs that Asad himself doesn't agree with. This, to me, is a true testament to Asad's authenticity as a scholar as well as his truthfulness as a Muslim. Throughout the book, there is beautiful arabic calligraphy honoring a particular ayah from the Qur'an. I couldn't help but touch each page with a profound sense of awe. As I said before, the physical book gives a real, tangible sense of the Noble Qur'an's immensity. I highly recommend this translation... if you have the money. This was the only translation that had overwhelming praise in all the right ways. But, as far as more affordable alternatives are concerned, one might consider either the Sahih (a.k.a. Saheeh) International translation for its simple readability or "The Koran Interpreted" translation by A.J. Arberry for its poetic style. As a general rule, however, I would recommend reading as many translations as you can online to not only get a sense of how each translation differs but also whether they stylistically express an appropriate tone within the text itself. A proper translation is certainly important, but it's absolutely vital that you, the reader, get the sense that these are the words of God, not the translator. Otherwise, the translator has truly failed, I believe. That is why, in my view, *The Message of The Qur'an by Asad, Muhammad (2003) Hardcover* is a truly exceptional work. And that's my two cents. :) Thanks for reading.

By and far the best translation/commentary in English today. If you want to understand Islam as it truly is, read the Qur'an. The best way to read the Qur'an is to learn/understand classical Arabic in the context of the time the Qur'an was revealed; unfortunately, as this would be a life long effort given the 1400+ years that have passed, the next best thing is to turn to someone else who has made this effort with deep thought and understanding. Muhammad Asad, may Allah (God) swt bless him, has done a magnificent job in translating the Qur'an while providing contextual commentary (tafsir) with a foundation on major works of tafsir by great Islamic scholars of early Islam (not simply the most conservative, as is popular today). In doing so, he's made the Qur'an accessible for English speaker while staying true to the Message of the Qur'an. The Qur'an doesn't simply ask the reader to believe in the message it propounds; in fact, its verses constantly repeat that this is a message for those who reason, ponder, think, etc. If your goal is to understand Islam through the

perspective the Qur'an challenges its readers with (i.e. rational thought with an open mind), then Muhammed Asad's translation/tafsir is perfect for you. However, for those (Muslims) who refuse to use the only gift that differentiates human beings for all other creation (i.e. the ability to Reason), you might not enjoy this translation/commentary as much; if that's the case, I humbly encourage you to refocus your attention to what the Qur'an is challenging you to do.

This is easily the most superior version of the Quran in English available. Asad is a masterful translator, using a vast and hard-won knowledge of traditional commentaries, Islamic history, and the Arabic language to truly translate the meaning of the Quran rather than just putting it into English words. The real treasure of this translation is Asad's copious footnotes. They are comprehensive, explaining why he chooses a particular word to represent a certain idea, where and why he departs from the classical commentators, and repeated cross-references to other verses and references to prophetic tradition in order to create continued concordance. Throughout, the theme of the commentaries is obviously polemical: it promotes the use of reason in interpreting the Qu'ran, rejects the doctrine of abrogation (that certain verses invalidate others), promotes the usage of Qu'ranic principles in government, and interprets certain verses metaphorically rather than literally. If one is off-put by that, it would be difficult to truly enjoy this translation (and indeed these have all contributed to its illegality in Saudi Arabia). But to one who wishes to truly understand the Qu'ran on its own terms, there is not a better translation out there. The appendices are wonderfully thought provoking, providing his thoughts on topics such as jinn, the prophet's supposed night journey to heaven, and the usage of metaphor. While I have the utmost regard for the translation, I found the Book Foundation edition to be heavy and unwieldy. The Dar-Al Andalus edition is more compact and easy to carry, if quite a bit less ornate.

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