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THE QUR'AN

A Verse Translation

M. A. R. Habib & Bruce B. Lawrence

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Islam's founding text, rendered for the first time in flowing English verse.

This monumental feat of translation, the product of a ten-year-long collaboration between Bruce B. Lawrence, one of our most respected scholars of Islam, and M. A. R. Habib, a poet and scholar of literature, *The Qur'an: A Verse Translation* offers readers the first rendering in English to echo, in accessible and fluent verse, the

Rendering the entire text of the Qur'an into verse may seem initially to be a controversial move—after all, the Qur'an itself explicitly says that it is not poetry, and it warns Mohammed that some of his contemporaries may dismiss his revelations as "mere poetry" in an attempt to discredit Islam. But Lawrence and Habib have spent considerable time and effort over the last decade making the case on countless campuses and at various gatherings of scholars and experts of Islam that the 'out loud' virtues of the Qur'an in Arabic deserve to be honoured in English. The result is an English edition that strikes a perfect balance between sound and sense that reproduces the inimitable majesty and beauty of the Qur'an's Arabic.

A rich and informative introduction situates the Qur'an in its cultural context and describes its unique structure and history. A note from the translators explains their painstaking efforts to address the many challenges that any translator must face when rendering the Qur'an into English. Extensive notes and explanatory apparatus will help all readers—whether they are familiar with the original or coming to the text for the first time—to read (and hear) the Qur'an with fresh understanding and insight.

M. A. R. HABIB is Distinguished Professor of English at Rutgers University. Among his many books is a volume of poetry,

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