And, indeed, We have made the Qur’an easy to understand, so is there anyone to seek advice from it? (54-32)
APPROVAL FROM MINISTRY OF INFORMATION SAUDI ARABIA

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King Fahad National Library-in-Publication Data
Ahmad Imtiaz
The Easy Quran / Imtiaz Ahmad
Al Madinah Al-Munawwarah, 2010
760p; 25 cm
ISBN :978-603-00-6359-8
1-Quran – Translation 2- Quran – Translating into English
I-Imtiaz Ahmad(translator)
II- Title
221.42 dc 1431/9546
L.D. no. 1432/9546
ISBN: 978-603-00-6359-8

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Publishers and Distributers:
AL QURANALKAREEM INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION
An Institute of research and publication of The Holy Quran
KARACHI ISLAMABAD LAHORE
E-mail : alquranalkareem@internationalfoundation.com

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May Peace & Blessings of Allah be on him
May Peace be on him
May Allah be pleased with him
May Allah be pleased with her
FOREWORD

In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful.

All praise and thanks is due to Allah Who enabled me to accomplish this highly beneficial project for the mankind. I am also extremely grateful to my wife, Dr Sophia Ahmad, who inspired and supported me in this project also.

What motivated me to make this translation of the Holy Qur’an in easy English? In my books I quoted many Verses of the Holy Qur’an with their standard translation in English. I felt that the translation of some of the Verses did not make the desired impact on the readers. I, therefore, made this humble effort to convey the message of the Holy Qur’an to non native speakers of English more effectively. This intrinsic motivation, strength and patience came from Allah. In fact, Allah’s Mercy and Gracious Kindness increased day by day as I came across very sincere and capable people at various stages of this project. In this way a fantastic team emerged which provided me with lots of love and encouragement. I really love them all. Each one of them was unique in his/her help and I love them all. It was very enjoyable and rewarding for me to work with all of them. I honestly consider them as members of my family. My eyes overflow with tears when I am trying to list their names here. The Easy Qur’an team includes the following galaxy of intellectuals:

Dr. Sophia Ahmad (my wife), Mohammed Zubair Hussain, Aisha Fozia, Shifa Faatimah, Sabra Sualeh, M. Qamaruddin Qasmi, Gasti Noor Barliandjaja, Dr. Amin Ismael, Dr. Aspri Rahmat, Dr. Shakeel Farooqui, Maryam Minhajuddin, Saleh Echon, Talha Yunas, Hafizullah, Mohammad Shuaib, Hafiz Abdur Rahman, Hafiz Khawaja Muhammed Sultan, Iqbal Ahmad.

I made use of The Easy Dictionary of the Qur’an compiled by Shaikh Abdul Karim Parekh. May Allah reward him immensely for his pioneer work in this field. I also benefited a lot from the various programs of Peace T.V. and Huda T.V. and I have mentioned several recent scientific discoveries about which Allah informed us long time ago.

I am grateful to Dr. Abdul Hameed Abduljabbar and his family who have so kindly made my stay possible in Madinah Munawwarah for the last fourteen years. I am deeply indebted to Allah for enabling me to accomplish this project during my stay in Madinah Munawwarah as a neighbour of our beloved Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ). I cannot further describe this unique experience of my life. May Allah accept this joint effort of The Easy Qur’an team and enable the future generations to understand and practice the Holy Qur’an sincerely. Ameen!

I was highly encouraged when the Ministry of Information, Saudi Arabia approved this translation of Qur’an for printing and distribution just as they had done in case of my other twenty five books in various languages. I was also honoured
when Dr. Asghar Ali Shaikh, Professor Taiba University, Madinah Munawwarah for the last 34 years, kindly consented to write the preface for this translation. May Allah reward him. Ameen!

Allah says in Surah Yunus: 57

أُمِّنِيٓا لَّيْكُمْ بِالْحَقِّ بَعْدُ مَا أَنْزَلْنَا عَلَيْكُمْ مِنْ بَيَاضِ الْقُرْانِ وَالَّذِي مَعَهُ مِنْ الْمَلَائِكَةِ وَهُوَ الْمُحْقِقُ بِهِمَا وَالْمُخَاطِبُ الْمُحْقِقُ

O mankind! A (fantastic) advice (i.e. Qur’an) has come to you (to guard you against evil deeds. And if you follow it) then (all) the ailments of the hearts will be healed with it. It (i.e. Qur’an) guides you (to perform good deeds) and (through these good deeds) it will be a mercy (i.e. means of achieving reward from Allah). All these blessings are for the believers (since only they ponder over its Verses and practise the guidance sincerely).

As Allah says in Surah Al-Imran: 164

ُقِدِّرْنَا لِلنَّاسِ مِن شَيْءٍ مِّن ذَٰلِكَ وَأَخَذْنُنَا مِن أَنفُسِهِمْ أَجْرَاهُمْ لَهُمْ مَا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ

Indeed Allah has done a great favour to the believers when He sent among them a messenger [Muhammad (ﷺ)] from among them. He recites to them His Verses and purifies them (from sins) and teaches them the Book (Qur’an) and wisdom [i.e. sayings of Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ)]. And, indeed, before this they were in obvious ignorance.

Allah also says in Surah Yunus: 58

قَبِلْ فَضْلِ اللَّهِ وَالَّذِي رَوَىَ لَكُمْ مِنَ الْكِتَابِ وَالْخَلَائِفَةَ وَضَيْغَاءَ الْقُرْآنِ

Say: (After listening to these blessings of Qur’an) “People should rejoice for this Allah’s Bounty (i.e. Qur’an) and Mercy of Allah [i.e. Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ)].” This is better than what (wealth) they collect.

I do not want to make this foreword long. Let us go to the Holy Qur’an and try to benefit from Allah’s unique gift by reciting, understanding and reflecting on it and putting it in practice in our daily lives. May Allah open our hearts and minds for it. Ameen!

We conclude that Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) is a mercy for the universe since we received this gift through him. Surah Al-Anbiya:107

وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَا إِلَّا بِالْحَقِّ لِأَلْهَمَّةِ وَلِلْمُكَفَّرِينَ

[O Muhammad (ﷺ)!] And We have not sent you except as a mercy for mankind, jinn and all that exists.

Finally, Surah As-Saffat: 181,182

وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى الْمُرْسَلِينَ الْجَهَّلِ الْمُخْلِصِينَ وَالْمُنْتَصِرِينَ

And peace be on the messengers! And all praises and thanks are due to Allah, the Creator of mankind, jinn and all that exists.

27 Ramadhan-ul- Mubarek 1432 H
27 August 2011 C
Imtiaz Ahmad
Madinah Munawwarah, Saudi Arabia.
PREFACE

In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

(Dr. Asghar Ali Shaikh,
Professor Taiba University, Madinah Munawwarah, Saudi Arabia)

The art of translation is fairly difficult and complex. The translator not only requires a sound knowledge of concerned languages, but he also needs a skill to translate the vocabulary, idioms and language expressions of one language into the vocabulary, idioms and language expressions of the target language. The difficulty lies in the selection of appropriate words of the target language which could accurately convey the meanings and sense of the original words being translated. Words generally have many synonyms and contain more than one meaning. To pick up the most suitable word from amongst several words carrying closely related or sometimes entirely different meanings is quite an uphill task for the translator. It is here, where the translators get confused and make slips and errors.

What seems difficult for all the translators in general, is all the more arduous for those who translate the Holy book of Qur’an into English or any other world language. The translator of mundane (non-religious) knowledge enjoys many liberties. He can make free translation. His job is just to convey the ideas and thoughts of one language in the target language as idiomatically as possible, but the translator of the Holy Book works under severe limitations and strict restrictions. He has to be very cautious and most careful in the choice of words. He cannot deviate a bit from the contextual meanings and in case there is a need for explanation or interpretation to facilitate reader’s comprehension he has to use parenthesis or write a footnote. In the translation of the Holy Qur’an idiom is not so important as the word and its meaning.

Words are said to be the raw material of a language and sentences are the most important units of thought and expression. To build up the sound vocabulary and then to knit it in sentences effectively is a difficult task. Diction is no doubt a very important feature of a language, but liberty to sacrifice the sense of the context for the sake of diction, rhetoric, rhyme and rhythm is not allowed in case of the Holy Qur’an. Some of our well known men of letters have done excellent translations, but unintentionally they fell prey to the love of using idiomatic language and adopting a literary style causing confusion in comprehension. I am not quoting any examples for the fear of controversy and in the interest of brevity. Hence I keep myself limited to describe the merits of the translation under review titled as
'The Easy Qur’an’ translated by Mr. Imtiaz Ahmad, a renowned author of several Islamic books written in English and Urdu.

‘The Easy Qur’an’ is true to its title. Its vocabulary, style, and expression are easy to follow and understand. The sentences are short and simple and the language is within the reach of foreign English readers of medium level. The author’s focus is on the choice of proper meanings and accurate vocabulary and not on the style and idiomatic language.

Here I would like to highlight some of the salient features of ‘The Easy Qur’an’.

1. A healthy tone of simplicity, accuracy and spirituality prevails throughout the translation.

2. There is a skilful blending of literal meanings and relevant interpretations which are brief and to the point.

3. Long footnotes have been avoided and the emphasis is laid on the context and its meaning.

4. Wherever necessary, the author has generously used parenthesis to facilitate the comprehension of the text.

5. A balance has been maintained between the length and brevity by curtailing detailed interpretations.

6. Another distinction of this translation is that most of the Ahadith in the footnotes have been given in Arabic Text as well, along with their proper punctuation marks and symbols to facilitate their accurate reading by the non-Arabic readers. References of Ahadith are also given to ensure authenticity.

7. Another distinguished feature of this translation is that the recent scientific discoveries are described in it. They clearly prove that the Holy Qur’an is the book of Allah Almighty.

8. ‘The Easy Translation’ obviously inculcates in the minds of its readers love for the understanding of Allah’s Glorious Book and follow it in letter and spirit.

9. Finally, it is a very happy and valuable addition to the existing rich treasure of English Translations of Glorious Qur’an and, inshallah, it will meet the needs and requirements of foreign speakers of English irrespective of caste, creed and ethnic background.

But before I finish I would like to quote a very scholarly and valuable paragraph from the foreword of the “Noble Qur’an” written by Shaikh Saleh ibn Abdulaziz ibn Mohammad Al-al-Shaikh, Minister For Islamic Affairs, Endowments, Dawah and Guidance, the Supervisor General of the Qur’an Complex, Madinah Munawwarah.

“We are aware of the fact that the translation of the meanings of the Glorious Qur’an, however accurate it may be, must fall short of conveying the wealth of meaning that the miraculous text of the original conveys; and that the meaning conveyed by the translation is only the sum total of what the translator has
understood from the text of the Glorious Book of Allah(swt) and that it cannot escape the defects and drawbacks that are inherent in every human endeavour.” (page III)

This certainly applies to ‘The Easy Qur’an’ as well.

Now a few words about the translator:

Mr. Imtiaz Ahmad is a well known Pakistani born American scholar and is an author of several valuable books written on important Islamic issues dealing with socio-economic and cultural aspects. Almost all of these books have been printed and published in large numbers and have been translated in many languages of the world.

Mr. Imtiaz Ahmad is a renowned scholar, a devoted muslim and is working for the propagation of Islam with a missionary zeal. After having lived in U.S.A for 26 years he migrated to Madinah Munawwarah where he could do work for Islam with more vigour and freedom. He is now wholly and solely committed to the production of Islamic literature and distributing it free of cost to the people of different countries. The latest of his publications is ‘The Easy Qur’an’ on which he has spent several years of his life and has burnt midnight oil at an age when he actually needs rest. May Allah(swt) accept his humble endeavour and reward him heavily in this world and in the life hereafter. Ameen!

Last but not least I conclude this preface with my humble submissions that all Praise is for Allah the Almighty(swt) Who Bestows His Mercy on us, the poor creatures, and all respects and regards are for the Holy Prophet Mohammad (ﷺ) under whose benign patronage and in whose blessed city this translation has been done. May Allah the Almighty forgive our sins and shower His Mercy on all of us. Ameen.

27 Ramadhan-ul-Mubarak 1432 H
27 August 2011 C

Prof. Dr. Asghar Ali Shaikh
M.A. Ph. D (Washington, U.S.A)