

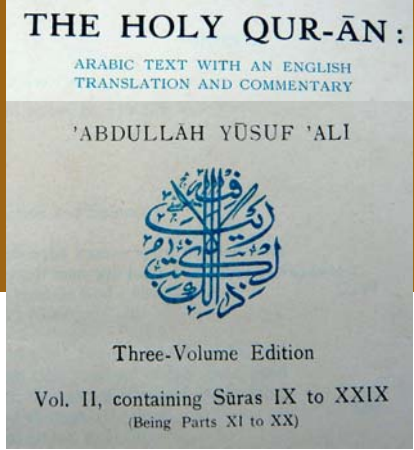
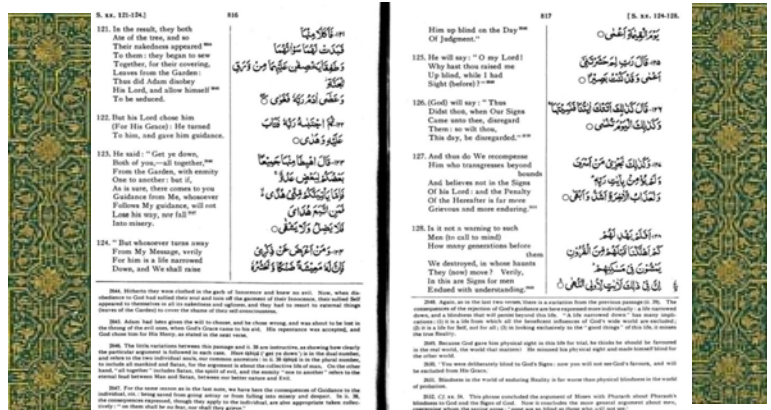
THE HOLY QURAN Text Translation & Commentary

“ *By Abdullah Yusuf Ali* ”

Among the Quran translations which found Saudi favour and therefore wide distribution was the Abdullah Yusuf Ali rendition that from its appearance in 1934 until now is the most popular English version among Muslims. While not an Islamic scholar in any formal sense, Yusuf Ali, an Indian civil servant, had studied at **Cambridge University**, graduated as a lawyer from **Lincoln's Inn** in London and was gifted with an eloquent, vivid writing style. Many of the most well known scholarly magazines in India published his works and expressed their appreciation for his beautiful literary style.

Abdullah Yusuf Ali (1872-1952), was born in **Bombay**, India to a wealthy Bohra family. His father a merchant was a very religious man, who made sure that his son learned Quran before anything else. As a child Yusuf Ali received religious education and could recite the entire Quran from memory. He learned Arabic and English and could speak both languages fluently. Yusuf Ali also studied **English literature** and visited several European countries as a student. Residing in London for a considerable period of time, he concentrated his efforts on the Quran and studied the Quranic commentaries beginning with those written in early days of Islamic history. After studying what was written about Quran in both **European and Eastern languages**, he returned to India as the Dean of Islamia College Lahore. He then began his monumental work of translating and commenting on the Quran which was later published as his most important book, *The Holy Quran – Text Translation and Commentary* in 1934.

All recent versions published after 9/11 have many changes in the translation and commentary, all made in the name of modernization and revision. But unfortunately these changes are in such key topics e.g. women dress code and usury that do not do justice with the open mindedness of the Quranic Arabic text. Abdullah Yusuf Ali's commentary was already very modern, comprehensive and open minded and hence there was no reason for his commentaries to be revised or modernized by any publisher. There was no reason to add the cultural and Muslim native land's influence into these revised editions by the publishers after 9/11. These revisions are pure dishonesty with the work of this great scholar who has translated Arabic Quran into English keeping the universal nature of message in mind regarding people of different nations, cultures and faiths. There is only one original version available now published by Tahrike Tarsile Qur'an. This version is the best available and minimally adulterated version of Abdullah Yusuf Ali's work in the market. The Tahrike Tarsile Version is available on Amazon.com.



Yusuf Ali doubtless was one of the few Muslims who enjoyed an excellent command over the English language. He was quick to point out that **“there can be no absolute or perfect translation of the Quran** and at best only an interpretation of its understood meaning can be offered”**”**. He attempted to explain his understanding of the Quran to his fellow countrymen – both Muslim and Non Muslims alike. His English translation is not a mere substitution of one word for another, but the best expression to the fullest meaning that can be understood from the Arabic text. **The rhythm and exalted tone of the original are reflected in the English interpretation.** It conveys the music and richness of the Arabic with poetic English versification.