

Foreword

The English translation of The Holy Qur'ān by the late Ḥaḍrat Maulawī Sher 'Alī (may Allāh be pleased with him) was first published in Holland in 1955 and since then many editions have been published in different countries. In 1997 Islam International Publications Ltd. issued a new edition with an appendix containing alternative translations of some verses, or parts of verses, as well as explanatory notes to some of them by Ḥaḍrat Mirzā Tāhir Aḥmad, the fourth successor of the Promised Messiah (may Allāh bless his soul with His infinite mercy). In the present edition we have dropped the appendix and brought the material under relevant verses marking them with starlets*. (The alternative translations by Ḥaḍrat Mirzā Tāhir Aḥmad are given in bold letters. But where he has made a deletion in the original translation, no bold letters are used). This, we hope, will facilitate the reader to make full use of these additions. Starlets are also used to indicate publisher's notes, however, at the end of each such note, 'publisher' is printed in brackets. The symbols '†', '‡' indicate the original notes by the translator.

The present project was begun under the instructions of Ḥaḍrat Mirzā Tāhir Aḥmad, the fourth successor of the Promised Messiah and Head of the World Wide Aḥmadiyya Muslim Jamā'at (May Allāh bless his soul with His infinite mercy). Before Ḥuḍur's demise, he constantly guided us and prayed for us; and made some changes in, and additions to, his own translation. After his demise, Ḥaḍrat Mirzā Masroor Aḥmad, Khalīfatul Masīḥ the Fifth, has been guiding us and praying for us. Whenever we felt that in the appendix of the old edition some typing mistakes or minor mistakes of punctuation, setting etc. needed to be corrected, we always sought guidance first from Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul Masīḥ IV and later from Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul Masīḥ V. Only those corrections are incorporated which were approved by Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul Masīḥ IV and later by Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul Masīḥ V.

We are pleased to record our gratitude and indebtedness to Munīr-ud-Dīn Shams, Additional Wakīl-ut-Taṣnīf, London, for his relentless help that he gave us in preparing this edition. He was always ready to present our textual and other difficulties to Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul Masīḥ and seek his guidance on our behalf. We appreciate his constantly encouraging us to bring out this edition as soon as possible. We cannot, however, overlook to thank the team in Pakistan who assisted Munīr-ud-Dīn Shams in this difficult task. The team was headed by Mirzā Anas Aḥmad, M.A. M.Litt. (Oxon), Wakīl-ul-Ishā'at Tahrīk-e-Jadīd, Rabwah and included Mirzā Luṭfur Raḥmān, Sayyid Maṣnūr Aḥmad Bashīr, 'Azīz-ur-Raḥmān Khālīd, Ashraf Ishāq, Mubashir Aḥmad and Shaikh Naṣeer Aḥmad who typeset the manuscript and made it camera-ready for publishing; we very much appreciate his expertise in Desktop Publishing. Last, but not the least, we are extremely grateful to Chaudhary Ḥamīdullāh M.A., Wakīl-ul-A'lā Tahrīk-e-Jadīd, Rabwah, for his guidance and encouragement to the Rabwah team and for his helping it in every possible manner whenever it needed any assistance from him.



(See details of transliteration on page 'p').

In transliterating Arabic words we have followed the following system adopted by the Royal Asiatic Society.

- ا at the beginning of a word, pronounced as *a*, *i*, *u* preceded by a very slight aspiration, like *h* in the English word 'honour'.
- ث *th*, pronounced like *th* in the English word 'thing'.
- ح *h*, a guttural aspirate, stronger than *h*.
- خ *kh*, pronounced like the Scotch *ch* in 'loch'.
- ذ *dh*, pronounced like the English *th* in 'that'.
- ص *s*, strongly articulated *s*.
- ض *d*, similar to the English *th* in 'this'.
- ط *t*, strongly articulated palatal *t*.
- ظ *z*, strongly articulated *z*.
- ع 'a, a strong guttural, the pronunciation of which must be learnt by the ear.
- غ *gh*, a sound approached very nearly in the *r* 'grasseye' in French, and in the German *r*. It requires the muscles of the throat to be in the 'gargling' position whilst pronouncing it.
- ق *q*, a deep guttural *k* sound.
- ء ', a sort of catch in the voice.

Short vowels are represented by *a* for — (like *u* in 'bud'); *i* for — (like *i* in 'bid'); *u* for — (like *oo* in 'wood'); the long vowels by *ā* for — or — (like *a* in 'father'); *ī* for — or — (like *ee* in 'deep'); *ai* for — (like *i* in 'site'); *ū* for — (like *oo* in 'root'); *au* for — (resembling *ou* in 'sound').

The consonants not included in the above list have the same phonetic value as in the principal languages of Europe.

All praise belongs to Allāh to Whom we bow in sincerest gratitude for enabling us to complete this task.

The Publisher

Index of Symbols Denoting Pauses

- م Compulsory Stop.
- The sign at the end of a verse. It is preferable, though not necessary, to stop here.
- ط It is preferable, though not necessary, to stop here.
- Optional. To pause, or to continue.
- ج It is better to pause.
- لا Necessary to continue, do not pause.
- وقف Stop vocal sound for a moment, without breaking breath.
- وصى Desirable to continue, do not pause.
- نف Recommended pause.
- ❦ ❦ Part of the verse in between these signs indicate that if you pause at words preceded by the first sign you should not pause at the second but if you do not pause at the first, pause at the second. For example,

ذٰلِكَ الْكِتٰبُ لَا رَيْبَ فِيْهِ هُدًى لِّلْمُتَّقِيْنَ ﴿٣﴾	ذٰلِكَ الْكِتٰبُ لَا رَيْبَ فِيْهِ هُدًى لِّلْمُتَّقِيْنَ ﴿٣﴾
Dhālikal-Kitābu lā raiba fih, hudal-lil-muttaqīn ↑ (pause here)	Dhālikal-Kitābu lā raib, fihi hudal-lil-muttaqīn ↓ (pause here)