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## **An Anthology of the Highlights of the Quran Compilation by Dr. Badr Hashemi**

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### **BOOK REVIEW**

*Dr. Badr Hashemi* the compiler of the Anthology, was born and raised in a religious family environment which inherited a legacy of the centuries old tradition of dispensing values, virtues and education. He learnt and partly memorized Quran and Hadith at an early age. Subsequently attended courses at Al-Azhar in the Quranic Arabic and lectures in interpretation of the Quran and Fiqah by Al-Shaykh. Ali Tantavi and Shaykh Yusuf Al-Qaradawi.

He did his doctorate from UK and is a fellow of the World Bank institute of development economics in *Washington DC* and United Nations Asian Development Institute. Worked as a civil servant in Pakistan and was part of the international civil service with United Nations.

Well versed in Arabic and English *Dr. Badr Hashmi* has studied Psalms, Torah, Evangel, Islamic History and culture, ancient civilization and comparative religions.

He initiated English translation and paraphrasing of the Quran in 1998 with the aim of returning to the Quran and understanding of the Quran with the Quran. The project is on its midway and follows a non partisan and non sectarian approach.

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The Anthology of the Highlights of Quran with parallel Arabic text is *Dr Hashmi* latest contribution, Nearly 1000 Ayats (statements) have been meticulously identified linked in a chain to provide a condensed and consolidated substance of the do's and don'ts in simple to comprehend English without skipping any Surah. Direct translation of select Ayats has been condensed and blended with the context printed in italics.

While translating the Arabic text *Dr Badr Hashmi* was strongly mindful of the fact that the Quran is a unique, unmatched masterpiece of Arabic literature, having neither forerunner nor successor in its own idioms, style precision and subtlety. The spirit, the beauty, the eloquence the depth and comprehensive of Arabic that can never be captured by any other language.

The compiler was moved by the fact there in this age of materialism the tradition of reading Quran is slowly diminishing both in the Arabic speaking countries as well as in other countries According to one estimate about 3% people read the Holy Quran once in their life time while about 7% are content with selective reading They, barring few exceptions, have only a rudimentary understanding or any meaningful comprehension of the divine message. The trend of reading the Holy Quran is most disheartening amongst the college and university students particularly among those who are being raised in the English speaking environments.

*Dr. Badr Hashmi* was deeply grieved by the ignorance of Muslim youth about their own religion and the message contained in the Quran. He was moved to produce An Anthony of the Highlights

of the Quran” to draw the Muslim youth nearer to the Quran by reading and understanding the highlights of Allah’s final message to humanity.

An Anthology and particularly the anthology of Quran can never be a substitute for the Quran. Apparently the aim of Mr. Badr Hashmi is to motivate the young man and women of English speaking world to have an understanding of the message contained in the Holy Quran. The Anthology presents the essence of the Quran and includes only the most important instructions contained in the Holy book. Some of these are:-

- Quran is meant for the welfare of Humanity
- Mockery and opposition to the words of Allah would never go unpunished
- Allah’s unity and supremacy and submission to Him
- Everyone’s dignity must be respected regardless of ones, religion, race, ethnicity, gender and social status.
- There is no coercion in matters of religion.
- The battle between right and wrong, truth and falsehood would never cease.
- Stand firm on the right as you have been commanded
- Allah does not change the condition of people unless they first change what is in themselves, i.e. thinking, in their attitude and behaviors
- People need to be vigilant against satanic temptations
- Allah orders kindness to all and forbids obscenity, sodomy, adultery, fornication and commercial dishonesty.

- Every person's ability to hear, to see and to think shall be interrogated and called to account on the Day of Judgment.
- Whoever looks forward with hope and to meeting one's "Rub" –Lord supreme on the day of judgment must do righteous deeds, not associate anyone or anything in worshipful reverence and obedience to Him, and firmly believe in the message of Quran revealed unto His last Prophet to humanity, the seal of Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ)

All the Quranic verses supporting above mentioned teaching points have been included in the anthology, nicely translated in simple English and narrated upon One gets moved by the excellence of translation and the lessons drawn from those verses of the Holy Quran.

The Anthology also contains a brief biography of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) and annotated glossary of key concepts and 'The Names' The most beautiful – "Asma ul Husna of Allah"

Dr. Badr Hashmi deserves to be congratulated for his valuable endeavor to motivate younger ones of English speaking world to have an understanding of the Holy Quran. The book deserves to be on the table of all college and university students and all those who are being raised and are living in English. Speaking environment, to be read and pondered upon.

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