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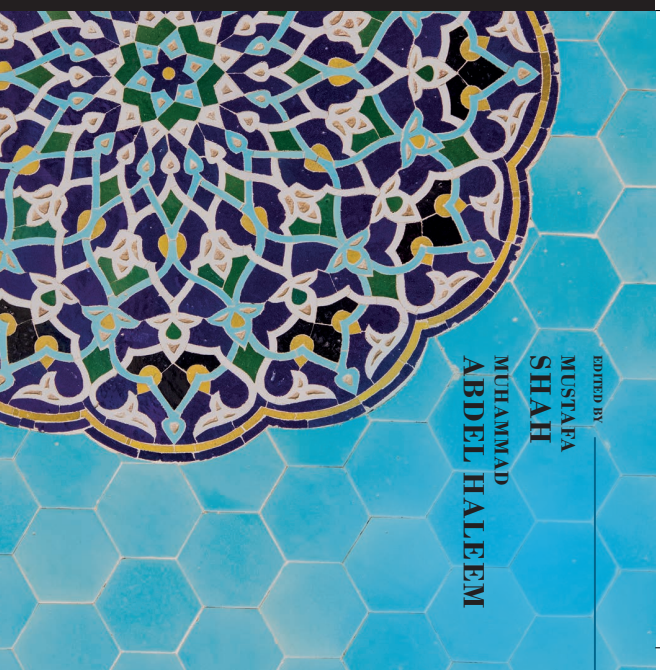
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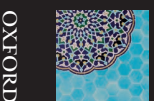


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The Oxford Handbook of QUR'ANIC STUDIES



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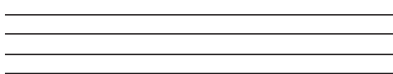
Traditionally revered as the literal word of God, the Qur'an serves as Islam's sacred book of revelation. Accordingly, its statements and pronouncements rest at the core of the beliefs and teachings that have inexorably defined expressions of the Islamic faith. Indeed, over the centuries, engaging with and poring over the contents of the Qur'an inspired an impressive range of traditional scholarship. Notwithstanding its religious pre-eminence, the Qur'an is also considered to be the matchless masterpiece of the Arabic language and its impact as a text can be discerned in all aspects of the Arabic literary tradition. Presenting contributions from leading experts in the field, *The Oxford Handbook of Qur'anic Studies* offers an authoritative collection of chapters that guide readers through the gamut of themes, subjects, and debates that have dominated the academic study of the Qur'an and its literary heritage. These range from chapters that explore the text's language, vocabulary, style, and structure, to detailed surveys of its contents, concepts, transmission, literary influence, historical significance, contemporary tradition, and ongoing scholarship devoted to translations. With the aim of serving as an indispensable reference resource, the *Handbook* assesses the implications of research discourses and discussions shaping the study of the Qur'an today. There exists no single volume devoted to such a broad review of the scholarship on the Qur'an and its rich commentary tradition.

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Abdel Haleem

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QUR'ANIC STUDIES



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THE OXFORD HANDBOOK OF

QUR'ANIC
STUDIES

Edited by

MUSTAFA SHAH

and

MUHAMMAD ABDEL HALEEM

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Abstract

Vocabulary of the Qur'an

Meaning in Context

Mustafa Shah (SOAS)

One of the striking features about the history of the academic study of the Qur'an's vocabulary is the enduring impact that scholarship in biblical philology and Semitics had upon its development. Tracing the historical trajectories of the work devoted to the treatment of the vocabulary of the Qur'an, this chapter reviews not only major arguments and findings in the field, but also key suppositions and constructs which underpinned the research. It shows that while the wider history of the usage of words and questions of etymology provides an important context for the study of Qur'anic vocabulary, attempts have been made to integrate other influential factors in the quest to define the semantic compass of words.

Keywords

Arabic lexicon; foreign vocabulary; gharīb; philology; lexical borrowing; etymology; Qur'anic dictionaries; hapax legomena