



The Qur'an in Translation

John Maindonald from Canberra draws our attention to the June 21 issue of the *Guardian* and a review of a new translation by Tarif Khalidi. Read it at <http://books.guardian.co.uk/reviews/classics/0,,2286791,00.html>

"The reviewer makes numerous comparisons with Dawood's Penguin 1956 translation [including these:]

"It [Dawood's Penguin 1956 translation] has been a great source of discomfort for Muslims, who see in it deliberate distortions that give the Qur'an violent and sexist overtones. **It is the one most non-Muslims cite when they tell me with great conviction what the Qur'an says.**"

"While Dawood's [Penguin 1956] translation presents the Qur'an as a patriarchal, sexist text, Khalidi brings out the gender-neutral of the original."

Some of the contrasts are stark. If Khalidi is right (and it appears to me that he is), Dawood's translation did a great disservice to the Muslim world."

John Maindonald

"The Qur'an is cryptic, often requiring addition of parenthetical words that are not in the literal Arabic to explain the meaning. ... the meaning of words can differ between classical and modern Arabic. ... the Quran must be understood in terms of the context of the words in Muhammad's own time." Read more at: www.prophecyfellowship.org/archive/index.php/t-167647.html