

Selections from the Kur'an

It was written by W. Edward Lane and his nephew Stanley Lane Pool. It is not a complete translation and consists of two parts: In the first part, Islam, the Qur'an, the Prophet Mohammed, the principles of faith and worship are mentioned, and in the other part, selected Qur'anic verses about the prophets from Adam to Jesus are translated. Notes and commentaries are included. Even if the Qur'an was translated to refute in Middle Ages and although some Orientalists were hostile to Islam, W. Lane did not write from entirely a negative point about Islam.



William Edward Lane (1801-1876)

British Orientalist, translator and lexicographer

Born in London, William Edward Lane completed his secondary education Hereford. When he was at the University of Cambridge, Lane studied Arabic language. He was very skilled at Arabic, and his success in Arabic led him to translate some Arabic sources like *Thousand and One Nights* and Kur'an into English. There is also a Arabic-English dictionary prepared by Lane. He made Orientalist studies being influenced by Napoleon's Egypt campaign. He often traveled to Egypt and lived with its people like those people. He wrote books describing Egypt.

Arabic-English Lexicon

That he began to prepare when he was in Egypt, 1842-1849, he continued to work on the dictionary till his death. The first volume was published in 1863. Prominent people like The Duke of Northumberland, from the British Government, Earl John Russell and Queen Victoria supported financially Lane's work.

Thousand and One Nights

Lane studied on the translation of Thousand and one Nights in 1838-1840. They were in the form of Egypt manuscripts and he turned them into book and translated as loyal to the original. He added notes and explanations to the translation with respect to beliefs, culture and life style of the Orient.



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