

Reading the Qur'aan in other than Arabic

Translated by Raha ibn Donald Batts

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the Name of Allaah the most Kind the most Merciful

Question: Does reading the Noble Qur'aan in other than the Arabic language contain sin? Because I read and translate from the book of Tafseer by Ibn Katheer for my brothers for the sake of Allaah who are non-Arabs in the English language; I hope that I will receive a timely response from you, may Allaah reward you with good.

Shaykh bin Baaz (رَحِمَهُ اللَّهُ)¹: In the name of Allaah, the Most Merciful, the Bestower of Mercy. May Allaah's prayers and peace be upon the Messenger of Allaah, his family, his companions, and those who follow his guidance. As to what follows:

Allaah (عزوجل)² revealed His Noble Book in the Arabic language. It is an Arabic Qur'aan; so it is not permissible that it be read in other than the Arabic language. Its meanings are only to be translated to other languages for the purpose of understanding the meanings and teaching the meanings so that the people who speak languages other than Arabic may know the meanings of the Speech of Allaah (عزوجل); and in order that they may benefit from the rulings of His Book, Glorified and Exalted be He. However, it is upon them to learn the words of the Qur'aan so that they may recite it in the prayer and outside the prayer in the Arabic language. Its Tafseer is only to be translated; its meaning is the Tafseer. Meaning, clarify to the one who does not know Arabic the meaning of:

اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ

[Allaah; none has the right to be worshipped but He, the Ever Living, the One Who sustains and protects all that exists.]³

And the meaning of:

حُرِّمَتْ عَلَيْكُمْ الْمَيْتَةُ وَالْدَّمُ وَلَحْمُ الْخِنْزِيرِ

[Forbidden to you (for food) are: Al-Maytah (the dead animals - cattle-beast not slaughtered), blood, the flesh of swine,]⁴

¹ (رَحِمَهُ اللَّهُ) (rahimahullaah) May Allaah the Most High have mercy on him

² (عزوجل) (Azza wa Jaal) Mighty and Majestic is He

³ سورة البقرة – Soorah al-Baqarah [2:255]

⁴ سورة المائدة – Soorah al-Maa'idah [5:3]

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And so on; clarify to them the meanings and the legislative rulings so that they may understand them in their language; and that language is not (considered to be) the Qur'aan. It is only the explanation of the Qur'aan and a translation. The Qur'aan is only that which is recited in the Arabic language, as Allaah (سبحانه وتعالى)⁵ has sent it down. The scholars who know other languages may translate its meanings for their Muslim brothers in order that they may understand it. Similarly, (they may do so) for the non-Muslims for the purpose of calling them to Allaah and clarifying the rulings of Allaah so that the non-Muslim may know the reality of the Qur'aan and what it contains from knowledge and that may be a reason for his entrance into Islaam.⁶

⁵ (سبحانه وتعالى) (Subhanahu wa-ta'ala) Glory be to Him, The Most High

⁶ Source: <http://www.binbaz.org.sa/mat/11353>