

Editors Notes

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

اللَّهُمَّ كُنْ لَوْلِيِّكَ الْحُجَّةِ بْنِ الْحَسَنِ صَلَواتُكَ عَلَيْهِ وَعَلى آبائِهِ فِي هَذِهِ السَّاعَةِ وَ فِي كُلِّ سَاعَةٍ وَلِيًّا وَ حَافِظًا وَ قَائِدًا وَ نَاصِرًا وَ دَلِيلًا وَ عَيْنًا حَتَّى تُسَكِّنَهُ أَرْضَكَ طَوْعًا وَ تُمَتِّعَهُ فِيهَا طَوِيلًا

In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful

"O, Allah! Be now and at all times for your representative Hazrat Hojjat-Ibnil-Hasan (may your blessings be upon him and his ancestors), a master, protector, guide, helper, proof, and guard, until he resides peacefully on the earth, and let him enjoy (your bounties) for a long time (to come)."

In the Name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful

The current book is the English translation of Muntakhab al-athar, which is probably the largest single collection of traditions about the Mahdi, peace be on him. The text used for this translation is the printed edition of Salmān Fārsī publications, 1422 AH. The following notes should be considered regarding this translation:

All verses of the Quran appear in boldface.

The words between square brackets are usually additions added by the translator/editor to make the translation of the traditions more expressive. Sometimes, square brackets have been used for the purpose of showing differences in different manuscripts.

Some small sections from the original book have been omitted in the translation. These were mostly explanations by the author about not-so-common Arabic words used in the traditions. The results of these explanations have been incorporated in the translated text and have been used to select suitable

equivalent English words. Other sections that have been omitted were mostly minor variations in the wordings of the traditions that the author had pointed to in the footnotes. Since these variations usually had the same meaning in English they have not been mentioned. Occasionally, the authors explanations have been slightly altered or shortened to make them more fluent in English.

Verses of the Quran have mostly been translated by the editor (unless otherwise mentioned).

All instances of 'ibn' (meaning son of) have been written as 'b.' except in places where 'ibn' is not preceded by a proper noun, e.g. ibn Qutayba.

For the sake of conciseness and simplicity, the connection between two narrators in a chain is simply shown using the word 'from.' For instance, if the chain is 'X narrated to me that Y heard Z say' it has been written as 'From X, from Y, from Z.'

Phrases like: 'Allah's blessings be on him and his family' and 'peace be on him/her' have not been abbreviated as is customary in some translations.

The word 'father' which is written as 'Ab', 'Ab', and 'Ab' in Arabic, is only written as 'Ab' in the translation, except in places where it is preceded by b. or ibn in a compound name. In such cases Ab is used in conformance with the Arabic pronunciation, e.g. Ali b. Ab lib or ibn Ab l-ad.

'He says' is usually used to refer to the author of the last book mentioned, e.g. "Faraj al-mahm, p. 247, he says: 'A section about what we have narrated . . .'"

After some of the references in the footnotes, 'short version' has been written. This means that the reference points to a shorter version of the same tradition mentioned in the main text.

The transliteration used is in accordance with the following table:

Symbol	Transliteration	Symbol	Transliteration	
ء	'	ط	ṭ	Long:
ب	B	ظ	ẓ	آ, ا
ت	T	ع	`	و
ث	Th	غ	gh	ى
ج	J	ف	f	Short:
ح	ḥ	ق	q	َ
خ	kh	ك	k	ـ
د	d	ل	l	ـ
ذ	dh	م	m	Diphthongs:
ر	r	ن	n	أو
ز	z	ه	h	أى
س	s	و	w	
ش	sh	ى	y	
ص	ṣ	ة	a, at	
ض	ḍ	ال	al-, l-	

Since we are fallible, it is inevitable that we will make mistakes. If you find any in the current book please inform us so they can be corrected in future versions.

Finally, I would like to thank Mr. Mr Abdol-Hossein Taleie for his useful suggestions during the reviewing process and Ali Mansouri for proofreading the draft.

The editor can be contacted through h.akhoondali@yahoo.com [1].

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