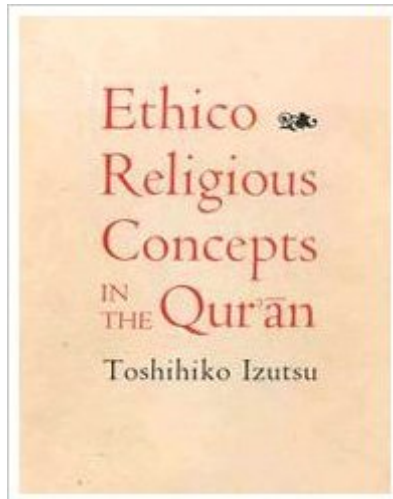




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Ethico-Religious Concepts In The Qur'an



Synopsis

In the *Ethico-Religious Concepts in the Qur'ân* Toshihiko Izutsu analyzes the guiding spirit of the Islamic moral code, the basic ethical relationship of man to God. Izutsu asserts that, according to the Qur'anic conception, God is of an ethical nature and acts upon man in an ethical way. The resulting implications for man are enormous, requiring devotion not merely to God but to living one's life ethically. Izutsu shows that for the Qur'an our ethical response to God's actions is religion itself; it is at the same time both ethics and religion. Izutsu explores these themes by employing ethnolinguistics, a theory of the interrelations between linguistic cultural patterns, to analyse the semantic structure of major concepts in the Qur'an. Islam, which arose in the seventh century, represents one of the most sweeping religious reforms ever to appear in the East. The Qur'an shows in vividly concrete terms how time-honoured tribal norms came into bloody conflict with new ideals of life, and finally yielded to the rising power. This transitional epoch is of particular importance in the whole of Islamic thought, a time during which the key terms of a traditionally fixed system of values were transformed in their connotative structure, modified in their combinations, and finally integrated into an entirely different system. Originally published in 1959 as *The Structure of the Ethical Terms in the Koran* and revised under the current title in 1966, this 2002 reprint makes this classic work of Islamic studies once again available.

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Great book

This advanced historical-linguistic analysis of the Quran is among the best books ever written on the Quran in any European language. Parts of it can be very difficult, but it is well worth the effort. Izutsu demonstrates the manner in which an analysis of the semantic shift of key Quranic words from pre-Islamic poetry to their Quranic usage reveals many aspects of the Quran's basic message. The wonderful thing about his approach is that it leaves aside the question of revelation and can be employed by Muslims and non-Muslims alike. It is simply a semantic analysis that could then be viewed from a faith perspective or secularist perspective depending upon one's inclinations. This is among the most important books on the Quran. Any with a serious interest in understanding the Quran must read it.

Excellent. And very impressive write-up.

Many people have not heard of Toshihiko Izutsu, but he was the first to translate the Arabic Quran into Japanese. He was a professor and had significant knowledge of linguistics and language. He knew many languages for example. His analysis of key words and concepts in The Quran is superb and easily ranks amongst the best I've read. Highly recommended.

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