

# القرآن الكريم

*'The Message of the Qur'ān'*

by Muhammad Asad

## Question

I purchased *The Message of the Qur'ān* by Muhammad Asad but somebody advised me to be very careful and read only an accurate translation of the Qur'ān. Otherwise a person could go astray.

I feel terrified after listening to this.

Could you please advise me?

Faḍīlat al-Shaykh Dr. V. Abdur Rahim (حفظه الله) replies:



Dear Sr Farah,

السلام عليكم

The warning given to you by a well-wisher is correct to some extent.

Not all translations of the Glorious Qurʾān are good.

Muhammad Asad has mentioned in his translation some views which are contrary to those of the majority of the Muslims (جْمَهُور).

I will mention here two of them.

**1.** The majority of the Muslims believe that after the advent of Islām, the only way to salvation is to be a Muslim as in Qurʾān 3:85, and one of the basic tenets of Islām is to believe that Muhammad صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ is the final messenger of Allāh.

Muhammad Asad does not seem to hold this view.

Commenting on Qurʾān 2:62, he says:

*'With a breadth of vision unparalleled in any other religious faith, the idea of "salvation" is here made conditional upon three elements only:*

*belief in God,  
belief in the Day of Judgment,  
and righteous action in life.'*

2. In Qur'ān 3:49 Allāh سبحانه وتعالى mentions some of the miracles given to 'Īsā, عليه السلام one of which is that he makes the shapes of birds out of clay and breathes into them, and they become birds.

Asad explains it away as referring to his followers who are made of clay and by breathing into them spirituality, creates for them a '*soaring destiny*'.

I think this is enough to give you an idea of Asad's thinking.

I hope this has helped you.

والسلام,

abdur rahim