I am Proud to be a Muslim

Dr. V. Abdur Rahman

UK Islamic Academy

From the Author’s Preface:
(After praising Allah and sending salaat and salaam upon Prophet Muhammad, his Household and Companions, our Shaykh states):

“This book I am Proud to be a Muslim consists of forty short chapters in each of which I mention a reason for being proud to be a Muslim. These reasons come from the Glorious Qur’an and the ahadiith of the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم.

Some of these values of Islam, though important in themselves, do not get highlighted enough in a holistic approach to Islam. Hence the need to highlight them now specially when the benign and humane teachings of Islam need to be presented in a way which is not only acceptable to the new generation, but is also attractive to them. ...”

From the Publisher’s Note:
“The 40 carefully selected gems create a powerful portrayal of real Islam.”

Iqbal Ahmad Azami
(UK Islamic Academy)
An absolute delight to read.

"I Am Proud To Be A Muslim" contains 40 topics or 'lessons' with a title for each and brief explanation short and to the point.

The book contains three types of categories based on:

1. Verses of Qur'an
2. Statements/actions of Prophet Muhammed—peace be upon him
3. Statements/actions of the companions of the prophet.

The topics of Dr Abdur Rahim’s "I Am Proud To Be A Muslim" cover everything from brushing your teeth and smiling, to general encouragement and social manners and responsibilities as well as clearing up ancient un-Islamic practices that are still around today. It was not written with the idea to preach, but rather to ask the reader to reflect.
The book also serves to educate anyone who is unaware or misinformed about Muslims.

The publisher's note at the beginning of the book is particularly insightful:

"Dr Abdul Rahim has managed to put together this unique compilation of succinct sayings, verses, and glimpses from our rich history and tradition to explain what Islam is and why Muslims, and many who embrace Islam on a daily basis, feel proud and immensely grateful for the blessing of Islam."

He then says:

"Muslims often feel insulted and irked at the portrayal of Islam in the media, and the perception of Muslims it creates amongst ordinary people. Such inaccurate portrayals of Islam upset us because deep down we know all too well how compassionate the true beliefs and teaching of Islam are."

At the end Dr Abdur Rahim has all the Hadith in Arabic with vowel points as well as a takhrij of the sources where the Hadith are from for those who wish for more research.

The book finishes with a glossary of Arabic words as well as an explanation of some Arabic phrases and even some space to make personal notes and comments.
Please note: This book is a break from Dr Abdul Rahim's normal genre which is heavily based on the Arabic language/grammar. Here he's NOT doing that.

Three technical points:

1) The English sometimes gives only the meaning and the general idea of what the Verse or Hadith points out to, while the Arabic (at the end of the book) has the actual text / textual proof.

2) Some of the Arabic text contains additions not translated by Dr Abdur Rahim perhaps because he just wanted to mention the concise points. Thus, there is extra benefit for those understand Arabic.

3) The book is a nice size to hold and read, and at 120 pages, it is not too small and not too bulky.

It is truly amazing that Dr Abdur Rahim – at over 80 years of age – is still insightful as to what the Muslims need to hear, and quite capable of conveying that message clearly and concisely.

A joy to read, and even more to review.

Sincerely,

Muhammed Taha Abdullah