

but DL: deny laughing DMTH: dominant minus drink in parallel gutters DYTIDIK: but what the heck do I know G&G: chuckle & grin CID: crying in disgrace CUL: see you later **YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOUR KIDS ARE SAYING ONLINE.** CYO: see you online DBA: doing business as usual DL: dead link DLTBBB: don't let the bed bugs bite DIKU: do I know you? EMFBI: excuse me for butting in F2F: face to face FC: fingers crossed FISH: first in, still here FMTYEWTK: far more than you ever wanted to know FOMCI: falling off my chair laughing FTBOMH: from the bottom of my heart FID:



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CLIPPINGS

U.S. woman's English translation of Quran draws criticism

The Associated Press

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CHICAGO: An English translation of the Quran — one of the first by a Muslim woman — has created a stir on the Internet and among Islamic scholars who argue that her limited Arabic language skills and use of a dictionary for verbatim translations raises questions about her interpretation of the Islamic holy text.

Laleh Bakhtiar, an Iranian-American, was raised Catholic before she converted to Islam. She does not speak fluent modern Arabic — which is known as classical Arabic, but took three years of Quranic Arabic and has written or translated about 25 books on Islam.

"This translation of the Quran, is a culmination of 45 years of learning," Bakhtiar said of the work, which is expected to arrive in U.S. bookstores next week.

Bakhtiar relied heavily on dictionaries for a word-by-word translation method, something which has elicited sharp comments on Web sites in the Arab world and bothers some Islamic scholars.

Muslims believe the Quran is the word of God handed down to the Prophet Mohammed, and only the most skilled linguists and religious scholars are capable of a translation that can even somewhat accurately reflect the holy text's complicated language and meaning.

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Islamic law professor Khaled Abou El Fadl at the University of California, Los Angeles, said Bahktiar's three years of Arabic study is not enough for the translation of the Quran and that her reputation is as an editor not as a scholar.

Many are calling Bakhtiar's work a feminist translation, but supporters say her work is being criticized because she is a woman.











"Anytime you have a change like this coming from within the community, especially coming from a woman, you're undoubtedly going to ruffle some feathers," said Daisy Khan, the executive director of the American Society for Muslim Advancement.

The Quran was translated into English in the 1930s. There are more than 20 translations. But since most Muslims learn

to read the Quran in Arabic, English versions are considered supplementary and there is no clear authority on the translation.

Bakhtiar, who does not consider herself a feminist, thinks the reaction the book is getting is premature.

A first printing of her book is expected to be available next week at large bookstores such as Barnes & Noble and Borders. Bakhtiar is also recording an audio version.

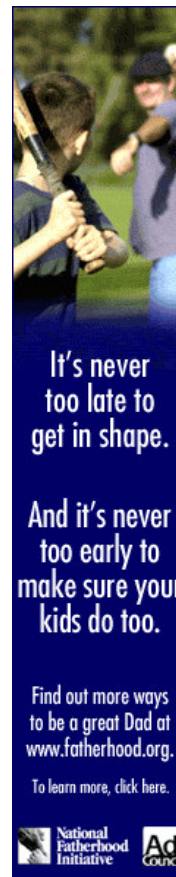
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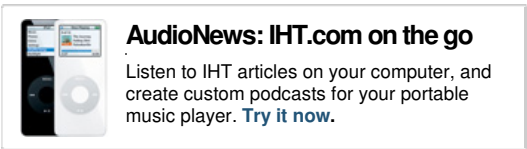
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