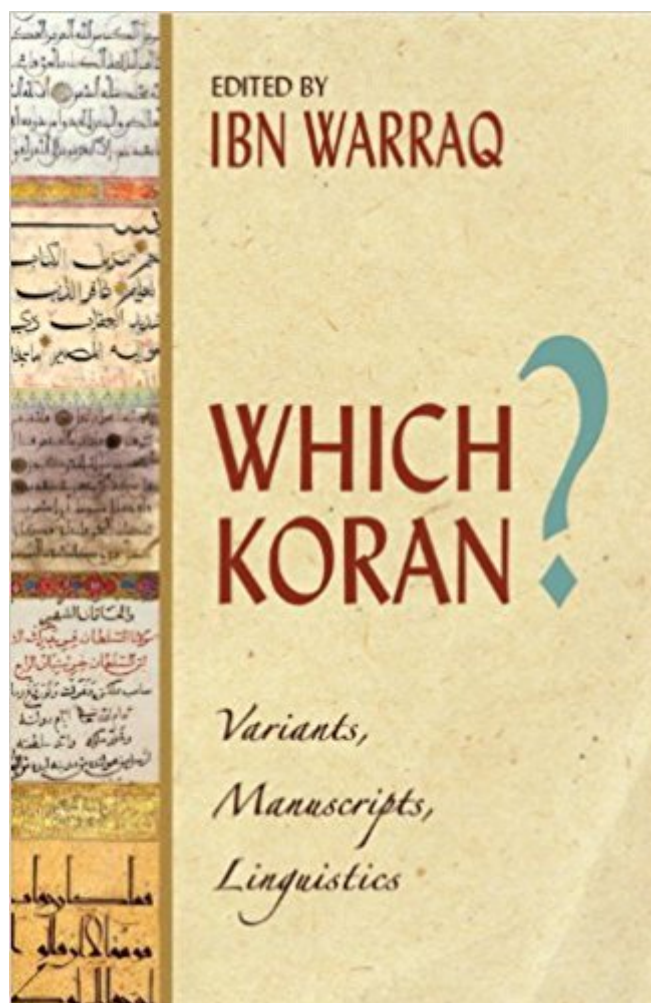


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# Which Koran?: Variants, Manuscripts, Linguistics



## Synopsis

For many millions of Muslims there is one and only one true Koran that offers the word of Allah to the faithful. Few Muslims realize, however, that there are several Korans in circulation in the Islamic world, with textual variations whose significance, extent, and meaning have never been properly examined. The author of *Virgins? What Virgins?* and *Why I Am Not a Muslim* has here assembled important scholarly articles that address the history, linguistics, and religious implications of these significant variants in Islam's sacred book, which call into question the claim of its status as the divinely revealed and inerrant word of the Muslim god. This work includes valuable charts that list the many textual variants found in Korans available in the Islamic world, along with remarks on their significance.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Despite the text's extraordinary significance, the origins of the Koran are obscure in the extreme. Much like earlier compilations edited by Ibn Warraq, *Which Koran?* brings together a wealth of important European scholarship, much of which is translated into English for the first time. It will be of great interest not only to specialists in early Arabic and Koranic studies but also to students of early Islam and those interested in scripture more generally."-Chase Robinson, formerly professor of Islamic history at the University of Oxford, now Distinguished Professor of History and provost of the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, and author of *Abd al-Malik*, *Islamic Historiography*, and *Empire and Elites after the Muslim Conquest*

Ibn Warraq is the highly acclaimed author of *Why I Am Not a Muslim*, *Virgins? What Virgins?*, and *Defending the West*. He is also the editor of *The Origins of the Koran*, *What the Koran Really Says*, *Leaving Islam*, *The Quest for the Historical Muhammad*, and *Which Koran?*.

This is a tome of a book, and far more in-depth than I personally needed, especially for someone who doesn't read Arabic. While you don't have to be a scholar of the Koran to read and appreciate this book, that's really its target audience. The rest of you will probably end up skipping about half the material, like I did. Still, what's left is worth reading. It provides a great overview of Koran textual variants and lays the groundwork for why they exist. It covers the Shia vs. Sunni controversy of a corrupted Koran, the Seven readers, probable construction of the suras, the Uthmanic codex, and the linguistic development of Arabic. The book is a collection of essays and articles from many different scholars, each with his own approach. Some revere the Koran, others regard it as scientifically important, and others despise it as an incondite farrago. Once you read this, you will know more about the history and the formation of the Koran than most Muslims.

Ibn Warraq in "Which Koran?" put together many of the old and new Scholarly works on the quran by western Islamic Scholars. The Book begins with a strong introduction By the Author himself, in it he quotes many authentic Sunni sources, which admit that many verses of the quran are lost. Then he goes on bringing parts of ibn masoud quran into life. Next, he destroys the claims of Maududi (who claims that the quran was never been change, even by a word or dot) by listing different existing qurans from different parts of the Islamic World which differ in verses, readings and the orthography. The Articles which are listed are very interesting, They talk about Linguistic, Variants and Manuscripts matters. However, the most interesting one in my opinion, was by the name of (An Ancient Syriac Translation of the Kur'an Exhibiting new Verses and Variants), written by Alphonso Mingana where a new verses of the Quran can be read. The book brings many different readings which are different than the Standard readings hold by muslims today, and in many cases those readings give even a better meaning of the text. Some of those readings can challenge many orthodox Sunni doctrines. Such as the quran is kept on a Heavenly Tablet. In conclusion, I recommend this book, to anyone who likes to know more about the different versions of the Quran.

Brings much needed light on the mystery of Islam and its founder.

A great book that reveals many myths about the quran, especially details as to its varying manuscripts and readings. Takes apart claims that the quran today is the unadulterated version from the time of muhammed himself. The famous Tokapi version is also discussed here along with others, known and not so well known.

Another book explaining the problems with islam being a good old boy club. Enslaving and disrespecting children and women for the advantage and profit of lazy muslims men.

Bought this elsewhere but it's a great read. Muslims keep telling Christians that there are many different Bible versions, proofing Christianity has no merit. However, they never mention that there are several Koran versions as well (because they lie, or because they just don't know anything about their own phony cult called islam?). They also don't tell you that the koran is full of contradictions and errors, e.g. it claims the earth is flat and the sun turn around it. Or that mountains were built to prevent earthquakes. Or that the sun sets in a muddy spring at night and has to ask for permission to rise every morning. Too bad for muslims that the koran also claims it's god's word (unlike the bible which was written by humans), revealing it as one big scam as god obviously wouldn't make such embarrassing mistakes. And their excuse that a goat ate parts of the koran makes that so called "religion" even more laughable. The koran, the word of god? I don't think so. Books like this and the internet will make it easy for muslims to realize what a big scam islam is. I thus strongly doubt islam has a future. I now suddenly understand why I know more ex-muslims than muslims. And somehow I feel I will know even more ex-muslims in future...

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