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EDITOR'S NOTE

Robert CASPAR

A HISTORICAL INTRODUCTION
TO ISLAMIC THEOLOGY

Muhammad and the Classical Period

Pontificio Istituto di Studi Arabi e d'Islamistica
(P.I.S.A.I.)
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EDITOR'S NOTE

The present work is the English translation of the first nine chapters of Robert Caspar's book, *Traité de théologie musulmane*, published by the PISAI in 1987. The tenth chapter on contemporary Islam has not been included; hence the change in the title. The division of chapters has been slightly modified and the notes and appendices regrouped as text or footnotes, for the convenience of the reader.

This translation is the work of Penelope Johnstone (Oriental Institute, Oxford); since the original work is already ten years old and was intended for a French-speaking readership, a brief additional bibliography by Justo Lacunza Balda (a lecturer at PISAI) has been placed at the end of chapters.

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ABBREVIATIONS

- OT: Old Testament
BOO: Bulletin d'Etudes Orientales (Damascus)
BIFAO: Bulletin de l'Institut Français d'Archéologie Orientale (Cairo)
BSOAS: Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies (London)
CERES: Cours d'Etudes et de Recherches Economiques et Sociales (Tunis)
CEMAM: Cours d'Etudes sur le Monde Arabe-Musulman (Beirut)
COMPTRENDRE (Rome: PISAI)
DC: La Documentation Catholique (Paris)
DI: Der Islam (Berlin)
EA: Etudes Arabes (Beirut)
EI: Etudes Islamiques (Beirut)
ENCOUNTER AND CLASH (Beirut: PISAI)
ETUDES ARABES (Beirut)
GRIC: Group for Research in Islam (London)
IELA: Institut d'Etudes Islamiques de l'Arabie Saoudite (Riyadh)
IFD: Institut Français de Damas (Damascus)
JMBES: Journal of Middle Eastern Studies (Cambridge)
IPSA: Ibtisam (Beirut)
IQ: Islamic Quarterly (London)
IS: Islamic Studies (Islamabad)
ISCH: Islamische Studien (Rome: PISAI)
JA: Journal Asiatique (Paris)
JAOS: Journal of the American Oriental Society
JRAS: Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society (London)
LUMIERE ET VIE (Lyon)
MIDEO: Mélanges de l'Institut Dominicain d'Etudes Orientales (Cairo)
MW: The Muslim World (Hartford, CT)
NT: New Testament
PFD: Publications de l'Institut Français de Damas (Damascus)
PISAI: Pontificio Istituto di Studi Arabi e d'Islamistica (Rome)
POC: Proche-Orient Chrétien (Jerusalem)
RFI: Revue des Etudes Islamiques (Paris)
RH: Revue Historique (Paris)
RHR: Revue d'Histoire des Religions (Paris)
RSR: Revue des Sciences Religieuses (Paris)
RT: Revue Thomiste (Louvain)
RTSS: Revue Tunisienne des Sciences Sociales (Tunis)
SI: Studia Islamica (Paris)
TJ: Travels and Journeys (Beirut)
ZA: Zeitschrift für Assyriologie

ABBREVIATIONS¹

- OT: Old Testament
BEO: Bulletin d'Etudes Orientales (Damascus)
BIFAO: Bulletin de l'Institut Français d'Archéologie Orientale (Cairo)
BSOAS: Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies (London)
CERES: Centre d'Etudes et de Recherches Economiques et Sociales (Tunis)
CEMAM: Centre d'Etudes sur le Monde Arabo-Musulman (Beirut)
COMPRENDRE (Rome, PISAI)
DC: La Documentation Catholique (Paris)
DI: Der Islam (Berlin)
EA: Etudes Arabes (Rome - PISAI)
EI 1 and 2: Encyclopaedia of Islam (Leiden, Brill)
ENCOUNTER AND CLASHES (Rome, PISAI)
ETUDES ARABES (Rome, PISAI)
GRIC: Groupe de Recherche Islamo-Chrétien
IBLA: (revue de l') Institut des Belles-Lettres Arabes (Tunis)
IFD: Institut Français de Damas
IJMES: International Journal of Middle East Studies (Cambridge)
IPEA: Institut Pontifical d'Etudes Arabes (Rome) see PISAI
IQ: Islamic Quarterly (London)
IS: Islamic Studies (Islamabad)
ISCH: Islamochristiana (Rome - PISAI)
JA: Journal Asiatique (Paris)
JAOS: Journal of the American Oriental Society
JRAS: Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society (London)
LUMIERE ET VIE (Lyon)
MIDEO: Mélanges de l'Institut Dominicain d'Etudes Orientales (Cairo)
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POC: Proche-Orient Chrétien (Jerusalem)
REI: Revue des Etudes Islamiques (Paris)
RH: Revue Historique (Paris)
RHR: Revue d'Histoire des Religions (Paris)
RSR: Revue des Sciences Religieuses (Paris)
RT: Revue Thomiste (Toulouse)
RTSS: Revue Tunisienne des Sciences Sociales (Tunis)
SI: Studia Islamica (Paris)
TJ: Travaux et Jours (Beirut)
ZA: Zeitschrift für Assyrologie

¹ At the end of each chapter can be found full information on the books cited in abbreviated form in the notes and on other works which refer to the content of the chapter.

SYSTEM OF TRANSLITERATION

Given the great variety of systems of transliteration for Arabic names (and for the names of non-Arab Muslim countries) we have decided upon the following:

1. For the names of non-Arab Muslims (Indians...), we have used the transcription which they themselves use, or which is attributed to them.
2. For the names of Arabic-speakers, except those whose name is better known in its Western form, we have used what is called the 'international' transcription, especially for the following letters:

th	corresponds to	ث	ş	corresponds to	ص
j		ج	d		ض
h		ح	t		ط
kh		خ	z		ظ
dh		ذ	'		ع
sh		ش	gh		غ

Robert Caspar

A HISTORICAL INTRODUCTION
TO ISLAMIC THEOLOGY
Muhammad and the Classical Period

A Historical Introduction to Islamic Theology, after a thorough examination of the Qur'anic data, traces the early development of *kalâm* (Islamic Theology) and then presents the main schools of the classical period. It is a partial edition of a larger work, *Traité de théologie musulmane*, published by the PISAI in 1987.

English translation by Penelope C. Johnstone (Oriental Institute, Oxford).
Additional bibliography prepared by Justo Lacunza Balda (PISAI).

Robert Caspar, a member of the Society of Missionaries of Africa, after higher studies in Tunis, Cairo, Paris and Rome, lectured in Islamic Theology and Mysticism at what has now become the Pontifical Institute of Arabic and Islamic Studies. He resided for many years in Tunisia where he was a founder member of the Groupe de Recherches Islamo-Chrétien (GRIC).

Author of *Pour un regard chrétien sur l'Islam* (Paris, Centurion, 1990) and of numerous articles, he now lives in France.