



Eastern Luminaries Disclosed to Western Eyes: A Critical Evaluation of the Translations of the Mu'allaqat into English and French (1782-2000)

Raja Lahiani

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This book studies and evaluates the different translations of the *Mu'allaqat*, seven canonical pre-Islamic odes, from Arabic into English and French. First, it introduces the *Mu'allaqat* and the chief controversies related to their study in both Eastern and Western scholarship. It then presents the translators of the *Mu'allaqat* and their translations and closes with two typologies of the translations and translators presented. A number of criteria for the evaluation of translations of poetry are developed.

The book provides a comparative study of the English and French translations of the *Mu'allaqat* with a focus on a number of communicative priorities in the source text, based on stylistic devices that require a sound awareness of the culture of pre-Islamic Arabia, the main setting of the *Mu'allaqat*.

The author assesses the reliability of the criteria of evaluation and the translatability of the *Mu'allaqat* as a text that is remote from its translators in time, in place, and with respect to literary tradition.

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