

FOREWORD

But for their bulk, the contents of this volume could have been published as an (additional) appendix to our *Concise Dictionary of Koranic Arabic* (= *CDKA*). This implies that the present collection is based directly on *CDKA* and is supposed to be used in conjunction with it. Accordingly, all technical and methodical decisions that have shaped *CDKA* (for which see there pp. 7-15) have shaped the present dictionary as well.

This dictionary presents the main part of the Koranic lexicon, scil. its nouns (its substantives and its adjectives, incl. the participles), not in lexicographic order, but arranged in groups defined by semantic categories. It thus aims at enabling the user to check easily and expeditiously for example which colors, which mammals, which parts of the human body, which professions and political functions, which virtues and which sins are mentioned in the text. Restricting the survey to the nouns, thereby excluding the (finite) verbs, was motivated mainly by the fact that the verbs are much less readily grouped semantically and that, due to their wide range of use or even polysemy, many verbs would have had to be listed repeatedly, in a considerable number of different semantic groups, and this would have thwarted what is the purpose of any semantic classification in the first place. It should also be borne in mind that many verbs of the text are represented here by their verbal nouns and/or their participles.

I wish to thank again, collectively, my esteemed colleagues who have contributed in various ways to *CDKA*, as listed there on p. 2, and so have helped indirectly the compilation of the present dictionary as well. Special thanks go to Edith G. Ambros, who kindly proofread parts of the manuscript and to whom a considerable number of corrections are owed. As in *CDKA*, Stephan Procházka's invaluable assistance is already acknowledged on the title page.

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