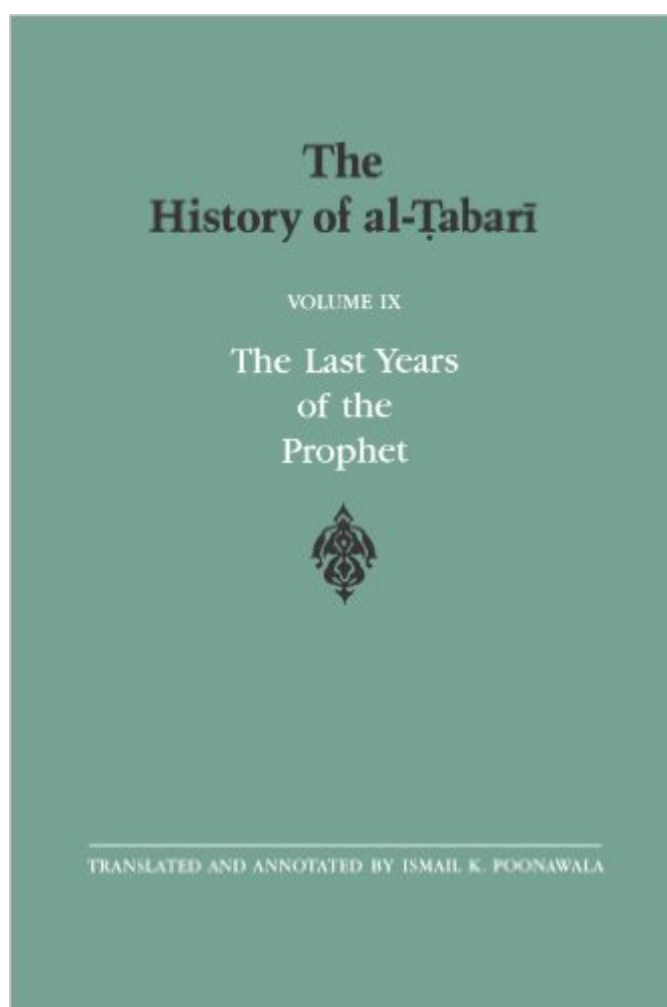


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The History Of Al-Tabari Vol. 9: The Last Years Of The Prophet: The Formation Of The State A.D. 630-632/A.H. 8-11 (SUNY Series In Near Eastern Studies)



Synopsis

This volume deals with the last two and a half years of the Prophet's life. In addition to the three major expeditions to Hunayn, Ta'if, and Tabuk, it describes in detail the circumstances surrounding the illness from which he died and the subsequent crisis of leadership faced by the nascent Muslim community. The author depicts with admirable fairness all the various opinions and divisions that existed within the community. He also presents a vivid picture of the Prophet's physical appearance, his personal life, and his marriages. Among other topics discussed in this volume are all the deputations that came to Medina; a summary of all the expeditions and raiding parties; and his scribes, freedmen, horses, camels, goats, swords, coats of mail, and so on. It also covers the apostasy of Musaylimah, Aswad, and Tulhahah and the Prophet's attempts to deal with them. The translation not only preserves the original lively flavor of al-Tabari but also, in its annotations, draws extensively on both parallel Arabic sources and the intensive research of recent years. Readers who seek a deeper understanding of the Prophet's personality and of the reasons for antagonisms engendered among various factions will find this volume most informative.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Finally a book detailing the Sassanids. Usually translations of old historical works make an insipid reading but Bosworth has done an excellent job here. Footnotes added throughout the text clear up a lot of things and add tremendously to this interesting and turbulent era. The reader may misjudge the book to be a lesser work as Tabari bases his words on hearsay. However, it should be

emphasized that Arabs were renowned for their amazing memory. So much so that the words of the Quran were for many years kept in memory rather than being written down on paper. Tabari does not even fail to mention a good length of the names of every narrator's forefathers. In essence the book is about the Sassanids. It tells in good detail of a variety of events from the lives of Kisra. This book has my full recommendation to the reader who wishes to know more about this otherwise poorly documented dynasty.

The book is dull and cluttered with so many asnads, at a first glance. But once you read every annotation provided by Mr. Poonawala, the picture emerges is so vivid that you feel as if you are witnessing the event live. One must have patience to follow the annotations, how much they interrupt your speed of reading, as if the more you chew the morsel of food, more tasty it becomes.

This is the Final chapter in the life of Prophet (PBH). This volume covers the Farewell Hajj, false prophets, personal features of Prophet Muhammad (PBH), his daughters, his complexion and physical features and finally election of Hz. Ebu Bakr to Caliphate with various narrations of the election procedure. Hz. Ali's responses to the election and his delayed approval is also covered. Most of the narrations are repeated in many other Islamic books for Tabari is one of the major sources of the Islamic History yet to read these series will give you additional knowledge to compare references and the context it is written.

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