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Verse Anthologies Quiller-Couch, Arthur, ed. 1919. The Oxford Book of English Verse. Six centuries of the best poetry in the English language constitute the 883 poems of this unsurpassed anthology. Poetry (the term derives from a variant of the Greek term, poiesis, "making") is a form of literature that uses aesthetic and rhythmic qualities of language—such as phonaesthetics, sound symbolism, and metre—to evoke meanings in addition to, or in place of, the prosaic ostensible meaning. General Overviews. One of the scholarly rituals that anyone interested in understanding the breadth of Renaissance poetry must perform is to read the historical overviews Lewis 1954 and Bush 1945 (the third and fifth volumes of the Oxford History of English Literature) on 16th- and 17th-century verse. Tafsir (Arabic: تفسير, translit. Tafsīr, lit. 'interpretation') is the Arabic word for exegesis, usually of the Qur'an. An author of a tafsir is a mufassir (Arabic: مفسر; plural: Arabic: مفسرون, translit.