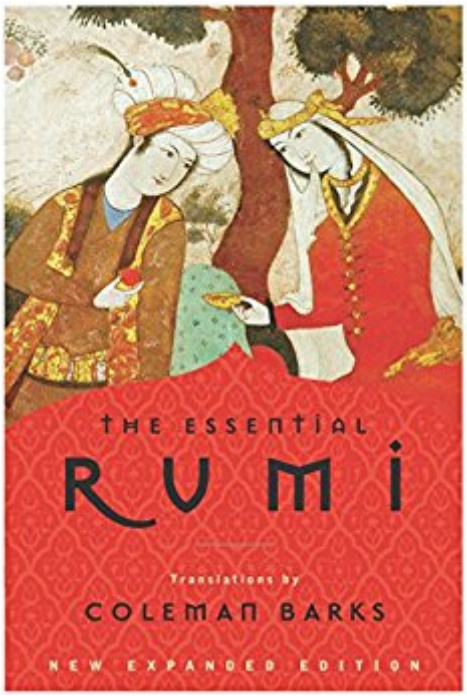
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The Essential Rumi - Reissue: New Expanded Edition



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Synopsis

This revised and expanded edition of The Essential Rumi includes a new introduction by Coleman Barks and more than 80 never-before-published poems.Through his lyrical translations, Coleman Barks has been instrumental in bringing this exquisite literature to a remarkably wide range of readers, making the ecstatic, spiritual poetry of thirteenth-century Sufi Mystic Rumi more popular than ever.The Essential Rumi continues to be the bestselling of all Rumi books, and the definitive selection of his beautiful, mystical poetry.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The poetry of love and relationships with Rumi translated by Coleman Barks. Each poem usually about a page long, titled, and inviting to read, one or more, depending on your needs. He is well known for writing about love in relationships, meeting the Divine in the other person.

As one involved in meditation as a path to enlightenment and quite well read in the subject I greatly enjoyed thisvolume of Rumi’s poetry. As poetry on its own it stands head and shoulders above most

poetry written in the English language. That is saying a lot as English has produced some magnificent works both historically andcontemporarily. Rumi can easily be compared to Shakespeare in quality although their subject matter was quite different. Shakespeare of course dealt with egoic human nature while Rumi is more concerned with the mystical Spirit of all things. For the uninitiated some of the symbolism may take a while to understand but I think anyone who is considering this volume would be acquainted with such symbols as a door or a window or even the capital "K" King, or Friend as compared to friend. Although Rumi is 13th century Muslim many of his references are to the transcendent figures of Christianity. Many Christians may never have thought of the symbolic relationship of Jesus and his donkey but Rumi explains it very succinctly. Christianity of course has its own areas of mystical thought but for the most part have been banned by the Church as heretical simply because they erase the necessity of intermediaries between man and God, ie. the power structure of the priesthood. Look to the Gnostic Writings of the early church to see how similar they are to mystical thinking universally. Some of the words uttered by Jesusin the Gnostic Gospels might seem quite incomprehensible to our modern, indoctrinated minds. Of course in mystical thought, of which Rumi is a paramount figure, man's approach to God is direct. "The Kingdom of Heaven is Within" and " To know one's Self is to know God " are but two basic examples.Over and above the mystical thinking exemplified in this volume, it is highly erotic and at times, perhaps mainly to the Western mind, down right hilarious. Imagine a cook's responses to the objections of the chickpea in being boiled in water. The cook's responses turn out to be quite reasonable in themselves, not to mention the spiritual understanding involved.It is no wonder that Rumi is the most read poet in America today (by children of the '60's?) and it is said that Coleman Bark's translations are much of the reason. I can not comment on that as I have only begun to read the work of other translators and am yet unable to intelligently compare and contrast but I will say that the translations of Coleman Bark have enabled a deep chord to be struck within me by this writer and poet in 13th century Farsi.I would highly recommend this volume to anyone exploring the Spiritual, as I would also recommend this volume to anyone who either loves poetry itself or thinks of poetry only as something to be taken or left. If you are one of the latter it may introduce you to a whole new view of literary expression. As with most all poetry it does demand time of contemplation to fully grasp its beauty and meaning. Rumi will always occupy of place of importance in my library, non-fiction of course.

If you haven't read Rumi, drop everything and order this, you will not regret. It's beautiful, earthy, and will assist your path to enlightenment and not in any particular spiritual belief, but enlightened

spirituality. Be sure to get this edition/translation

The sweetness of Rumi is expressed in a way that seems to be contemporary and available to anyone willing to listen. I read a little every morning and when I finish the book, I start at the beginning once more. I have done this for years and his poetry is ever fresh. This translation in particular is friendly, just like I imagine Rumi would have wanted his thoughts to find their way to us.

This is an excellent English translation of Rumi's poetry. My wife who is into these things praises it highly. (I liked it too.)

Is there anything more special than sharing poems and stories with those who you love? I bought this book to give as a birthday gift to one of my friends and it really was the perfect gift. The poems in this book are incredibly beautiful and thought-provoking. There are many lessons you can learn from Rumi's words, his writing. If you are feeling angry, upset, joyful, sad, you can find a poem in this book that you can relate to and that will help you overcome what you are feeling. Reading Rumi's words has helped me see that these emotions, no matter how much they may hurt, are ultimately beautiful and a part of life. Being able to know that what you are feeling, is what everyone feels sometime in their lifetime. There is something truly magical in that.

One of my all-time favorite books which I can and will read over and over. High poetry with low humor which one can embrace and be encouraged to live a better life in each every day moment.

I read this book daily. I found out about the book by listening to Coleman Barks read the poems on a CD. It is very inspiring and transcends all religions.

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