



Lyrics of Life: Sa'Di on Love, Cosmopolitanism and Care of the Self (Edinburgh Studies in Classical Islamic History and Culture E)

By *Fatemeh Keshavarz*

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This imaginative and accessible study of the lyrical, humorous, social and educational aspects of classical Persian poetry focuses on the works of the master medieval poet Sa'di of Shiraz (d. 1291), one of the funniest, most influential and lyrical figures in classical Persian poetry. Sa'di, a prominent ethicist and a devout teacher of virtues, stands out for his worldliness, his practical teachings, and his love for living a wholesome life, as well as for his signature elegance and artistry that has compelled critics to call his lyrics perfectly polished diamonds. In a language deliberately free of technical jargon, Keshavarz argues for the versatility of Sa'di's poetic voice and portrays his notion of love as open to multiple perspectives including homoerotic aesthetics. She brings to life the worldly wisdom that kept the lyrical, adventurous, and ethical legacy of Sa'di fresh and effective through the passage of time.

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- Sales Rank: #3519858 in Books
- Published on: 2015-01-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 6.30" h x .80" w x 9.40" l, 1.10 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 224 pages

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Editorial Review

Review

"Sa'di is a poet for this age, and every age. And there is no better gateway to the rose garden of Sa'di's magnificent world than the mind, the heart, and the pen of Fatemeh Keshavarz. Keshavarz situates Sa'di as a deeply humane voice, poetically lyrical, and ethically cosmopolitan. We are indebted to Professor Keshavarz for another masterful and lyrical work that opens up not just Sa'di, but a whole possibility of humanistic encounter with the pre-modern world. Recommended most enthusiastically for all who love literature, ethics, and cosmopolitanism." -- Omid Safi, Duke University

About the Author

Fatemeh Keshavarz is Director of Roshan Institute for Persian Studies and the Roshan Institute Chair in Persian Studies at the University of Maryland. She is a published poet and author of six books including *Reading Mystical Lyric: the Case of Jalal al-Din Rumi*, *Recite in the Name of the Red Rose: Poetic Sacred Making in Twentieth Century Iran*, and *Jasmine and Stars: Reading More than Lolita in Tehran*. In 2009, her NPR appearance on 'On Being: The Ecstatic Faith of Rumi' received the Peabody Award, and she received the Hershel Walker Peace and Justice Award.

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