



Rumi: The Big Red Book: The Great Masterpiece Celebrating Mystical Love and Friendship

By Coleman Barks

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“Really, what other book would anyone ever need?” —Naomi Shihab Nye, author of *Honeybee*

“Elegant and exquisite.” —Deepak Chopra, author of *Muhammad, Jesus, and Buddha*

The Big Red Book is a poetic masterpiece from Jalaluddin Rumi, the medieval Sufi mystic whom *Time* magazine calls “the most popular poet in America.” Readers continue to be awed and inspired by Rumi’s masterfully lyrical, deeply expressive poems, collected in volumes such as *The Illustrated Rumi*, *The Soul of Rumi*, and the bestselling *The Essential Rumi*. With *The Big Red Book*, acclaimed poet and Rumi interpreter Coleman Barks offers a never-before-published translation of a crucial anthology of poems widely considered to be one of Persian literature’s greatest treasures.

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Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

Starred Review Without question, we can credit Coleman Barks with making Rumi accessible to American readers through his modernized renditions of the best-known poems of the great Islamic mystic (The Essential Rumi, 1995; Rumi: The Book of Love, 2003). This is the capstone of Barks' life's work, a vast collection centering on Shams Tabrizi, a wandering mystic who transformed Rumi's life. Rumi was already renowned when Shams arrived in Konya, in today's Turkey, having wandered for years searching for someone with a soul as profound as his own with whom to share "sobbet," a mystical conversation about God and love. Rumi and Shams inspired each other for several years, until Shams mysteriously disappeared. He lives on in Rumi's searching poems. Most of the hundreds of poems collected here are short: "Take someone who does not keep score, / who is not looking to be richer, or afraid of losing, / who has not the slightest interest even / in his own personality. He is free." Even the longer ones have the same intimate tone. Richly sensual yet never flowery, Barks' language emphasizes Rumi's embodied spirituality in a book to savor. --Patricia Monaghan

Review

"Without question, we can credit Coleman Barks with making Rumi accessible to American readers through his modernized renditions of the best-known poems of the great Islamic mystic.... Richly sensual yet never flowery, Barks' language emphasizes Rumi's embodied spirituality in a book to savor."

From the Back Cover

Considered one of the masterpieces of world literature, *The Big Red Book* is perhaps the greatest work of Rumi, the medieval Sufi mystic who also happens to be the bestselling poet in America.

Rumi was born in 1207 to a long line of Islamic theologians and lawyers on the eastern edge of the Persian Empire in what is now Afghanistan. In order to escape the invading Mongol armies of Genghis Khan, his family moved west to a town now found in Turkey, where he eventually became the leader of a school of whirling dervishes. It was a fateful day in 1244 when he met Shams Tabriz, a wild mystic with rare gifts and insight. The renowned scholar Rumi had found a soul mate and friend who would become his spiritual mentor and literary muse. "What I had thought of before as God," Rumi said, "I met today in a human being."

Out of their friendship, Rumi wrote thousands of lyric poems and short quatrains in honor of his friend Shams Tabriz. They are poems of divine epiphany, spiritual awakening, friendship, and love. For centuries, Rumi's collection of these verses has traditionally been bound in a red cover, hence the title of this inspired classic of spiritual literature.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Caleb Jones:

Why don't make it to become your habit? Right now, try to ready your time to do the important act, like

looking for your favorite guide and reading a book. Beside you can solve your trouble; you can add your knowledge by the book entitled Rumi: The Big Red Book: The Great Masterpiece Celebrating Mystical Love and Friendship. Try to make book Rumi: The Big Red Book: The Great Masterpiece Celebrating Mystical Love and Friendship as your good friend. It means that it can be your friend when you sense alone and beside that of course make you smarter than in the past. Yeah, it is very fortunate in your case. The book makes you more confident because you can know almost everything by the book. So, let us make new experience and knowledge with this book.

Natalia Burton:

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Irma Cook:

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Oliver Whitley:

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