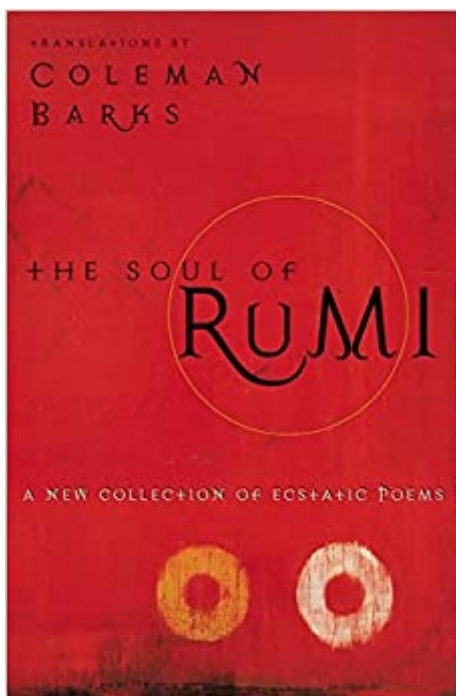


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# The Soul Of Rumi: A New Collection Of Ecstatic Poems



## Synopsis

Inside *A Lover's Heart There's Another World*, And Yet Another Rumi's masterpieces have inspired countless people throughout the centuries, and Coleman Barks's exquisite renderings of the thirteenth-century Persian mystic are widely considered the definitive versions for our time. Barks's translations capture the inward exploration and intensity that characterize Rumi's poetry, making this unique voice of mysticism and desire contemporary while remaining true to the original poems. In this volume readers will encounter the essence of Sufism's insights into the experience of divine love, wisdom, and the nature of both humanity and God. While Barks's stamp on this collection is clear, it is Rumi's voice that leaps off these pages with a rapturous power that leaves readers breathless. These poems express our deepest yearning for the transcendent connection with the source of the divine: there are passionate outbursts about the torment of longing for the beloved and the sweet delight that comes from union; stories of sexual adventures and of loss; poems of love and fury, sadness and joy; and quiet truths about the beauty and variety of human emotion. For Rumi, soul and body and emotion are not separate but are rather part of the great mystery of mortal life, a riddle whose solution is love. Above all else, Rumi's poetry exposes us to the delight that comes from being fully alive, urging us always to put aside our fears and take the risk of discovering our core self: No one knows what makes the soul wake up so happy! Maybe a dawn breeze has blown the veil from the face of God. These fresh, original translations magnificently convey Rumi's insights into the human heart and its longings with his signature passion and daring, focusing on the ecstatic experience of the inseparability of human and divine love. The match between Rumi's sublime poetry and Coleman Barks's poetic art are unequaled, and here this artistic union is raised to new heights.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

When Rumi was born in Afghanistan in 1207, it was a time of tremendous political turmoil in the Near East. Paradoxically, it was also a time of "brilliant mystical awareness," writes translator Coleman Barks in *The Soul of Rumi*. This brilliance shines through in every passage, as Barks celebrates the ecstatic nature of Rumi's poetry. Barks (*The Essential Rumi*) has been given much credit for leading modern Westerners to this astounding poet. His sensitivity to the reader is evidenced in how he organizes the poetry according to themes. Since Rumi is often quoted at public gatherings, such as weddings and memorial services, this makes referencing especially easy. In the section entitled "When Friend Meets Friend," readers find the poem "The Soul's Friend": The most living moment comes when those who love each other meet each other's eyes and in what flows between them then. To see your face in a crowd of others, or alone on a frightening street, I weep for that. Barks offers a gracefully rendered introduction to each section, providing personal and historical background of the poetry. Elegantly designed and printed on cream-colored, heavy-stock paper, this is a delight for Rumi fans. --Gail Hudson --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The Islamic mystical poet Rumi (1207- 1273) improvised the evocative poems which his followers wrote down. Translator Coleman Barks's *The Essential Rumi* won the Persian writer American fans, some of whom revere the poet as a religious guide. Now Barks is back with *The Soul of Rumi: A New Collection of Ecstatic Poems*. The giant volume includes part of Rumi's 64,000-line *Masnavi*, as well as many short poems and Barks's copious, informal, personal commentary. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I have loved Rumi's writings for a long time, but because the Persian mystic's poetry is steeped deeply in his ecstatic love affair with God, the meanings of his poems are often lost to even the most advanced readers of his poetry. However, Coleman Barks, a retired professor of english and poetry at the University of Georgia has done an exceptional job of translating this collection of Rumi's poems. But Barks's translation of Rumi's poetry is not all that makes this collection exceptional. It is

Bark's commentaries on the poems that opens each chapter. The commentaries explain Rumi's relationship with his friend and mentor Shams of Tabriz, speaks of the times in which Rumi lives and explains the poems in each chapter in a thoroughly understandable way. Bark's commentaries are delightful and engaging and the reader can feel his voice jump off the page. I wholeheartedly recommend "The Soul of Rumi" to readers who would like to gain a clearer and deeper meaning of Rumi's poetry and vision, and translator Coleman Barks offers up this clearer and deeper meaning in an interesting and efficient way. .

I am confused about this book! I read "The Essential Rumi", Translations by Coleman Barks (New Expanded Edition) with such relish, I grieved when the book ended, and started reading it again from page 1 (see my review of this book). Wanting even more of Coleman Barks' "Rumi", I ordered this "The Soul of Rumi". I don't understand why the two books are so different in tone and rhythm! It's almost as though each book has a different translator/poet. In this "Soul" book, Barks seems to have lost his song. I just can't hear the rhythm. He breaks up all the verses into segments of monotonous two-line-one-space text that seem to trip and stumble. I can't get into this book. What happened to the music? What a great disappointment from "The Essential Rumi". Maybe it's just me, wrong to expect the same brilliance from the same translator/poet.

Jelaluddin Rumi has become familiar to Western readers who seek out ecstatic poetry, as more and more translations and commentaries are offered on perhaps this greatest of mystical writers. But as they say, it takes one to know one, and Coleman Barks's masterpiece is the obvious product of an attuned heart and poetic soul. This volume is one of the clearest and most vibrant illustrations of the "wild heart" Rumi was and is. It is difficult to find superlatives which do justice to the beauty and towering vision this work contains. Every verse, every line seems to open, in some disarmingly simple way, vast new vistas of possibilities for the human spirit. How good is this book? The highest accolade that can be given Barks is that his brief section introductions, frequently fodder in other volumes exploring Rumi, here are powerful and transformative in their own right. Each one sets up the following verses in a natural and seamless flow. Barks's light shines brightly, even in the rarefied company he keeps. Get this volume and devour it. Then get another copy and give it to someone who is ready for the infinite freedom it open-handedly offers...

Definitely an interesting read.

I love Rumi for how he awakens your way of thinking about BE-ing in the world with all of its interdependence and our choices for how we will interact, how we will respond to our experiences and relationships. I've never come away from a Rumi reading with the same frame of reference...and that's a good thing.

My favorite translations of Rumi are by Coleman Barks. Have this one in paperback on my bookshelf; been read many times over. Purchased digital version to take Shams and Rumi with me wherever I go.

My favorite poet in an easy to read and spiritually moving book of interpreted poems. This author does an outstanding job; I have read other interpretations but this guy does it best/

There's wisdom in here for a lifetime. This book been a continued source of insight for me for every thing that life has thrown my way!

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