



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

"Coleman Barks is a pioneer and renown scholar on Rumi, the great Sufi. In his elegant and exquisite way, Coleman has made Rumi as popular as Shakespeare to the world and continues to inspire us with the Rumi's ecstatic poetry." (Deepak Chopra, author of The Shadow Effect and Jesus)

"Really, what other book would anyone ever need?" (Naomi Shihab Nye, author of Honeybee)

"Coleman Barks found Rumi floating in some Georgia lake and brought him back to life. What a blessing! Rumi says, 'Some nights stay up until dawn, as the moon sometimes does for the sun.' Coleman has stayed up all night, and every reader is grateful." (Robert Bly, National Book Award-winning poet and translator)

"Rumi's Big Red Book tells us: 'Compassion builds a door, Restlessness cuts a key.' I am forever grateful to Coleman Barks, restless, yearning to find the bridge from Rumi and Shams to the world we presently inhabit. He is truly to Be Loved for making this 'transaction with beauty'..." (Debra Winger, Actress)

"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." (Booklist (**starred review**))

"An emeritus English professor at the University of Georgia, Barks has spent 34 years working on Rumi's poetry — you could even say that Rumi has been the secret companion musician Barks has danced to." (Los Angeles Times)

"Barks has become internationally renowned for his translations.... Rumi: The Big Red Book is the culmination of his work." (Shambhala Sun)

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:

Shawn Hunter:

What do you about book? It is not important along with you? Or just adding material when you really need something to explain what the one you have problem? How about your spare time? Or are you busy individual? If you don't have spare time to try and do others business, it is make one feel bored faster. And you have extra time? What did you do? Everyone has many questions above. They must answer that question because just their can do in which. It said that about guide. Book is familiar on every person. Yes, it is correct. Because start from on guardería until university need this specific Rumi: The Big Red Book: The Great Masterpiece Celebrating Mystical Love and Friendship to read.

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Jordan Moore:

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new dimensions that you ever know just before. The author explained their thought in the simple way, thus all of people can easily to comprehend the core of this publication. This book will give you a large amount of information about this world now. So that you can see the represented of the world with this book.

Carolyn Alcantara:

This Rumi: The Big Red Book: The Great Masterpiece Celebrating Mystical Love and Friendship is great book for you because the content which is full of information for you who all always deal with world and still have to make decision every minute. This particular book reveal it information accurately using great manage word or we can point out no rambling sentences in it. So if you are read the idea hurriedly you can have whole details in it. Doesn't mean it only gives you straight forward sentences but difficult core information with lovely delivering sentences. Having Rumi: The Big Red Book: The Great Masterpiece Celebrating Mystical Love and Friendship in your hand like finding the world in your arm, information in it is not ridiculous just one. We can say that no publication that offer you world in ten or fifteen second right but this publication already do that. So , this can be good reading book. Hello Mr. and Mrs. occupied do you still doubt in which?

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