



A Year With Rumi

Rumi , Coleman Barks

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"The poetry feels like it belongs to all. When Rumi died in 1273, members of all religions came to the funeral. Wherever you stand, his words deepen your connection to the mystery of being alive."

Through Coleman Barks's translations, Rumi is the world's most popular poet. *A YEAR WITH RUMI* brings together 365 of Coleman's mystical, elegant, and beautiful translations of Rumi's poetry, for reading, reflection, and embarking upon your own journey inward.

A Year With Rumi Details

Date : Published (first published October 31st 2006)

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Author : Rumi , Coleman Barks

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From Reader Review A Year With Rumi for online ebook

Erica says

My favorites:

January 11: Backpain

January 17: Love Moves Away

February 25: My Worst Habit

May 4: The Most Alive Moment

July 20: People Want You to Be Happy

August 29: Harsh Evidence

September 11: Dance

October 14: Autumn Rose Elegy

October 31: Undressing

November 6: Unmarked Boxes

November 22: The Guest House

December 23: Cry Easily

Vicky says

My favourite book of poems, I read them 3 years ago and I like to read them again every couple of years.

Regardless that Rumi lived in the 13th century, his poems are modern and relevant to our time, their meaning did not change with time and their beauty speaks with the heart.

Susan says

Born in Afghanistan in the early thirteenth century, Rumi and his family moved to what is now Turkey where he wrote these mystic Sufi poems. Mr. Barks' interpretations present the poems in an accessible, modern format (he provides some background and an explanation of his working methods in the introduction).

The modern poet Robert Bly talks about "leaping" poetry, which is what these poems do -- taking the reader with them in their abrupt but poignant transitions between images and ideas:

"Solomon lifts his morning cup to the mountains./Sit down in this pavilion,/and don't listen to religious bickering./Be silent as we absorb the spring." Dark Sweetness

"The morning wind spreads its fresh smell./We must get up to take that in,/that wind that lets us live./Breathe, before it's gone." Morning Wind

"I swear by the one who never says 'tomorrow',/as the circle of the moon never agrees/to sell installments of light./It gives all it has." The Polisher

"Don't grieve. Anything you lose comes round/in another form. The child weaned from mother's milk/now

drinks wine and honey mixed./God's joy moves from unmarked box to unmarked box,/from cell to cell. As rainwater, down into flowerbed./As roses, up from ground." Unmarked Boxes

"Walk to the well./Turn as the earth and the moon turn,/circling what they love./Whatever circles comes from the center." Whatever Circles

Mike Zone says

A superb introduction to not only the Sufi poet but to Coleman Barks as well. Some of the poems did prompt to reflect and meditate on current scenes in my life, yet not all the poems hit home... which is fine because that is what poetry tends to do.

Jenn says

This was my first introduction to Rumi; life changer. Really beautiful, powerful words.

Karen says

I enjoyed the poems in this book a lot. They are some of the best Rumi poems.

Nick says

I only spent about a half-year with Rumi, but that was because the poetry is so wonderful and Rumi's voice so startlingly fresh that I raced through this splendid volume. If you haven't run across this remarkable 15th Century poet before, this fat volume is a good place to start. You'll find an arresting image, thought, or musing on nearly every page.

Chris Kramolis says

Read this every day along with the Daily Stoic. Nice balancing the pragmatic with the mystic and then realizing that at the core, they are really saying the same thing. Highly recommend.

Karen Hugo says

Rumi is timeless! No matter how many times I read through this day book--there is something new that hits

me. I enjoy spending the year with his beautiful words and elegant thoughts.
Rumi rocks!

Ashley says

I bought and started "A Year with Rumi" on the morning of January 1, 2014 and finished on the evening of December 31, so for me, this truly was a year-long experience. I couldn't be happier that I did it.

Coleman Barks is the preeminent translator of Rumi's texts and has compiled a wonderful collection here. Each piece is thought-provoking; many days are more challenging than they are melodic or calming. Barks very, very loosely organizes poems in accordance with the Northern Hemisphere seasons -- for example, there are poems of rebirth in the spring and of changing colors in autumn -- but it's not rigid. There were times when I wished there'd been a little more logic, or at least readily apparent logic, to the order of the pieces. Overall, however, it was a good flow.

Not all pieces are home runs, and to be honest, there is some filler at times. With 366 days to cover and a relatively small amount of space to give to each, that's to be expected, but it's sometimes disappointing to hit an uninspiring section for a few days. If you stick with it, however, you're quickly rewarded. Of course you are; it's Rumi.

Reviewing Rumi's writing seems ridiculous, so I won't. What I will say is that you have to be someone who can appreciate the beauty in someone else's spirituality in order to experience Rumi, so if you've never read him, look up some of his work to sample before committing to a year-long adventure. If you're one to roll your eyes at declarations of love for God or someone with any Islamophobic leanings, 1) move along and 2) grow up.

Bottom line: I found this to be a very enjoyable, grounding, relaxing yet thoughtful experience for 2014. I recommend it to others with the ability to stick with it and who are willing to put aside ten or fifteen minutes every day for real reflection.

Ivana Cekovic says

Beautiful.
Soul-touching.
Book for every day, for every year, for everyone's life.

Janel says

I start my day with it.

Linda Hollingsworth says

I have been re-reading these short writings of the 13th century poet, Rumi, for three or four years; the length of each one is ideal for a thoughtful drift into sleep each evening. His poetry obliterates all dogma of any one religion in favor of innate wisdom which explains why it is read and quoted the world over.

A quote from May 27

..."At night before sleeping you take off the tight shoes,
and your soul releases into a place it knows.
Dream and glide deeper."

Jen ????? says

What a journey, reading Rumi's beautiful words of wisdom has been a true pleasure.

Cindy says

Everything that is important I learn from this book!
