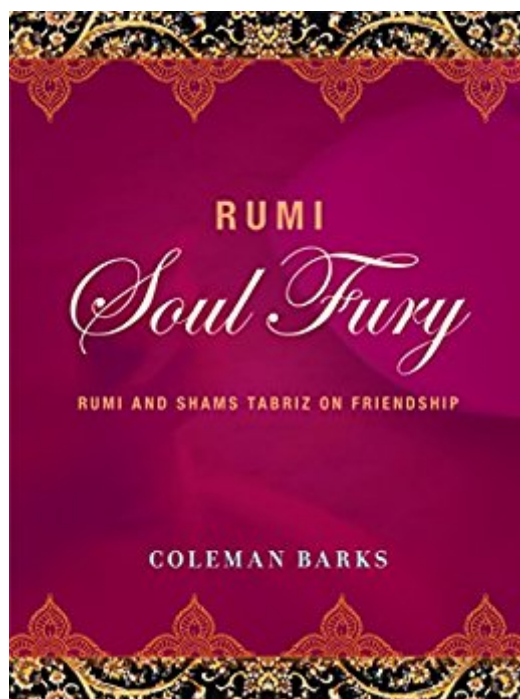


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Rumi: Soul Fury: Rumi And Shams Tabriz On Friendship



Synopsis

A seminal collection of poetry from the medieval Sufi mystic—the most popular poet in America—and his soul friend, Shams Tabriz, which illuminate the evocative and deeply spiritual dimensions of friendship and love, compiled by the foremost Rumi translator and author of *The Essential Rumi*, Coleman Barks. In this stunning translation, Coleman Barks brings to light Rumi's theme of love as religion—that to reach its most profound depths requires mindful practice—as well as love in its most meaningful form: soul friendship. These short poems by both Rumi and Shams Tabriz, rich in beauty and spiritual insight, capture the delight and the impermanence of these bonds that pierce deep into the human mind, heart, and soul. Rumi's poetry is honored and enjoyed by many traditions and cultures. Today, many people from all walks of life have moved beyond traditional notions of spirituality, embracing a sense of the sacred that transcends a singular religion, belief, or text. Rumi's poetry speaks to them and nourishes their divine yearnings. Joyous and contemplative, provocative and playful, *Rumi: Soul Fury* is a sterling addition to the modern Rumi oeuvre, and is sure to be embraced by his wide and devoted readership.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Rumi is widely described as the most popular poet in the English language and that may be true, although no one seems to have definitive data to prove that claim. In any case, there are well over 100 Rumi titles available on . Here's why this particular volume is worth buying: Coleman Barks is the noted American poet who has devoted decades of his life to interpreting Rumi's work for modern English-language readers. He's not a scholar of Rumi's own original language, but Barks works with leading scholars and translators to come up with the best translations of the original Rumi texts, then Coleman interprets these verses in poetry that is accurate to the original -- and brings fresh poetic insight to today's readers. Among other things, this massive book is Barks' own selection of what he sees as the best of Rumi's body of work that sometimes is referred to as "The Works of Shams Tabriz." That's right: The actual body of Rumi's work is far larger. Rumi's work also isn't as well organized as this volume -- at least to contemporary eyes. Barks does a whole lot to help us enter this mysterious world full of astonishing lines, images and thoughts. Who was Shams Tabriz? You'll learn in the book that he is a mysterious figure. He was Rumi's mentor and friend, but far more than that. He was Rumi's gateway really into spiritual and creative transformation. Shams soon vanished. The book's introduction explains theories on what happened to Shams. But Rumi felt a great and lingering grief and longing after Shams disappeared. This led to these epic reflections on the nature of daily life, the universe, our quest to raise our awareness of the world's daily wonders--and the profound nature of friendship.

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