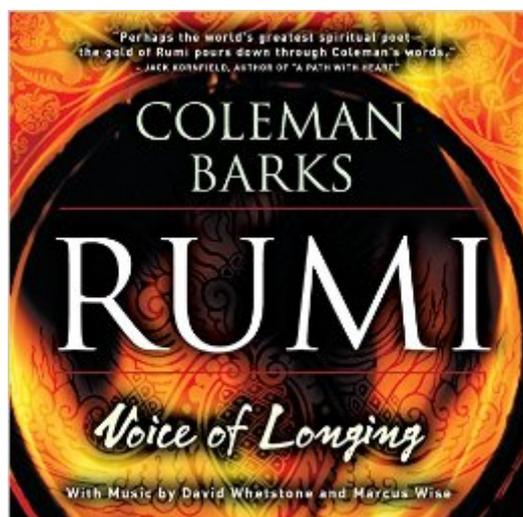


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Rumi: Voice Of Longing



Synopsis

For seven centuries the world has thrilled to the sacred poetry of Sufi mystic Jelaluddin Rumi. Here are nearly 100 of his most memorable quatrains - translated and performed by celebrated Rumi scholar Coleman Barks - capturing the silence, the love, and the playfulness that make each encounter with Rumi one of sacred wonder. With sitar and tabla accompaniment. coleman barks ... has translated and published more than 15 collections of ecstatic Sufi poetry, including The Illuminated Rumi and The Essential Rumi. He was a featured poet on Bill Moyers' public television special "Love's Confusing Joy."

Book Information

Series: Voice of Longing

Audio CD

Publisher: Sounds True, Incorporated; Unabridged edition (October 2001)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1564558320

ISBN-13: 978-1564558329

Product Dimensions: 5.7 x 5 x 0.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (25 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #671,243 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #59 in [Books > Books on CD > Poetry & Drama](#) #65 in [Books > Books on CD > Literature & Fiction > Drama](#) #67 in [Books > Books on CD > Literature & Fiction > Poetry](#)

Customer Reviews

On this lovely recital of Jelaludin Rumi's poetry, the voice of Coleman Barks is accompanied by Marcus Wise on sitar and David Whetstone on sitar. There is a flute too, but nobody is credited. The 2-CD set contains translations of poems from the following books of translations by Barks: Birdsong, Say I Am You, One-Handed, Open Secret, We Are Three, This Longing, These Branching Moments and Delicious Laughter. The insert lists the first lines of the all the poems recited. Disc One: 1. Birdsong brings relief 2. This is how I would die 3. Soul of the world 4. Again, the violet bows to the lily 5. Intricate sounds, not words, I catch 6. You said, "Who's at the door?" 7. The soul must suffer secrets 8. I saw grief drinking a cup of sorrow 9. In this river the soul is a waterwheel. Disc Two: A sufi was wandering the world 2. Love comes with a knife, not some shy question 3. Someone may be clairvoyant, able to see 4. Last night my teacher told me the lesson of poverty 5. On Resurrection

Day your body testifies against you 6. Someone says, sanai is dead 7. Those full of fear are not really on the way 8. We tremble, thinking we're about to dissolve 9. Before Muhammed appeared in physical form 10. I, you, he, she, we 11. There is no prison so dark and small 12. Moses heard a shepherd on the road praying. The combination of devotional playing and the deep voice of Barks create a type of spiritual ambience that is more earthy than ethereal. I find the sound most relaxing and enjoyable, a fitting vehicle for the inspiring words of Rumi. Total running time for Disc 1 is 70:08 and for Disc 2, 77:33.

This collaboration of Coleman Barks reading Rumi, the tabla drum, the flute and sitar is such a perfect marriage of expressive music and delicious Rumi. It brings Rumi's words to life so well, I get levels of understanding and joy from the spoken words that reading them on the printed page alone seldom delivered.

Coleman Barks is my favorite translator of Rumi but this CD is not. Maybe it will work for the seasoned Rumi lover but for a new person I found Coleman having to rush to speak over the music. I couldn't enjoy the poetry because of the drums and fast paced music. I have no relationship yet with Rumi's poetry and just could not enjoy all the distractions. If you already know the poems the loud music may suit you. I was glad when it ended which is not what I was looking for. It didn't let me pace through the poetry, the loud drums and sitar were too forceful.

These songs are not for the quick, the ephemeral, the here and now. Lay back. You're in a hurry, but there is time. There is distance between what you think you have to do, and what needs to be done. There is distance between you. And you. Lay back and come together. Listen . . . Hear it? You can hear yourself coming together. Like a suture. If you don't have time for this book, let it bleed.

at first, I was put off by coleman barks' gruff voice, didn't seem appropriate to the words. but then it grew on me and now it seems like I can hear his love of the subject. all in all, pretty good.

Though I agree Coleman Barks Southern accent and voice are a out of place for me when reading Rumi myself, his passion for Rumi more than makes up for it. I am in my car a lot, so this set allows me to enjoy the poetry. It's relaxing, the music is perfect.

I love the contrast between Coleman's southern accent and the fact that he is translating Rumi. It feels like the two shouldn't go together coupled with this type of music, yet it does in an awesome and soothing way. It's perfect each day while I do yoga and meditate. I love every single thing about these. .

I have read Coleman Barks' interpretations of scholar translations of Rumi before and enjoyed them, despite the fact that one can't help but lose something of the original. When I saw that Coleman Barks was giving the reading, I gave the almost-five-minute-long audio sample a reading because I was curious to hear the voice of Coleman Barks. After some seconds of listening to sitar and a percussion instrument, I heard what sounded like a "good ol' boy" reciting Rumi. I almost busted my gut! It took me awhile to stop giggling, but I listened to the whole sample and decided that it actually works for me. I grew up in Minneapolis and so I stereotype American scholars as either having an urban Midwestern accent, or an Eastern Seaboard accent. Shame on me! I'm eventually going to buy this recording to go along with the book by Coleman Barks that I own. Hats off to Coleman Barks for helping to popularize Rumi in America!

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