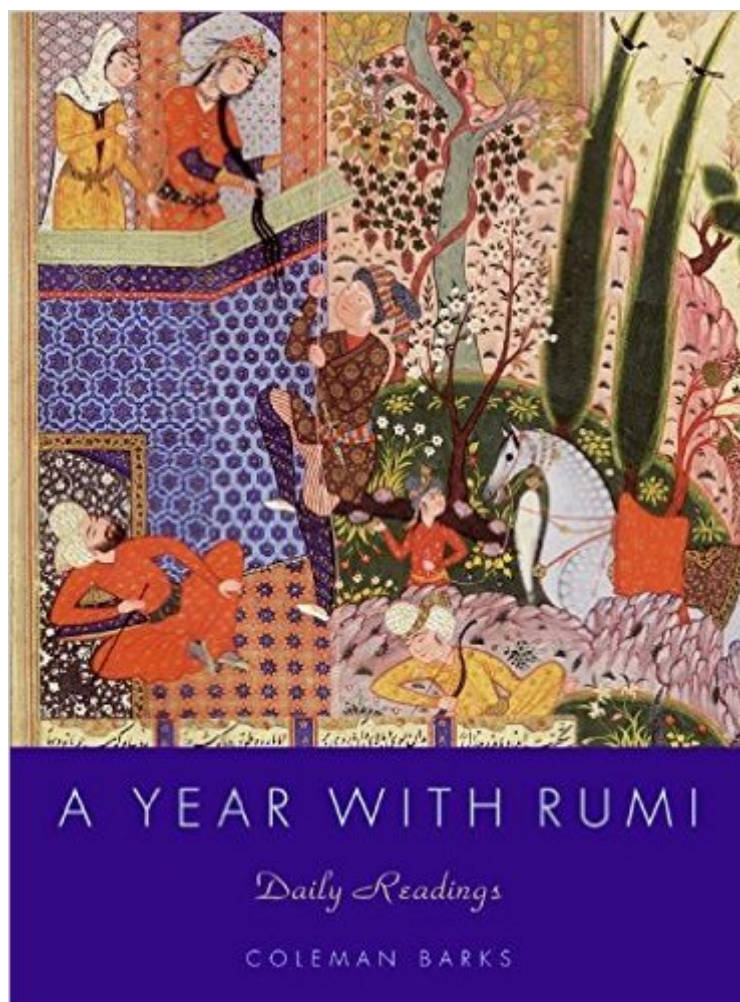


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A Year With Rumi: Daily Readings



Synopsis

Coleman Barks has played a central role in making the Sufi mystic Rumi the most popular poet in the world. *A Year with Rumi* brings together 365 of Barks's elegant and beautiful translations of Rumi's greatest poems, including fifteen never-before-published poems. Barks includes an Introduction that sets Rumi in his context and an Afterword musing on poetry of the mysterious and the sacred. Join Coleman Barks and Rumi for a year-long journey into the mystical and sacred within and without. Join them in recognizing and embracing the divine in the sublime, in the ordinary, and in us all.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviews Â (102 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

Coleman Barks is a poet, and his treatments of Rumi bring that poetry into a contemporary context. Like everything that is not pure science, these things are, of course, matters of taste. I am not a Farsi scholar or speaker, but as I understand it - and this is fairly often discussed/hotly debated - the complexities of Sufi poetry in the original languages make it pretty much untranslatable. Here is part of Robert Bly's excellent review of Barks' work, he expresses it so well: "Rumi has, to the recent amazement of many people in the Western culture as well as the Islamic culture, been able to speak directly to contemporary readers. One of the greatest pieces of good luck that has happened recently in American poetry is Coleman Barks's agreement to translate poem after poem of Rumi. Rumi, like Kabir, is able to contain and continue intricate theological arguments and at the same time speak directly from the heart or to the heart. Coleman's exquisite sensitivity to the flavor and

turns of ordinary American speech has produced marvelous lines, full of flavor and Sufi humor, as well as the intimacy that is carried inside American speech at its best."--Robert Bly
If the Barks translations speak to you, you'll likely love having a daily meditation book, which this is.

Each day's reading has multiple levels to try to comprehend. Lots of fodder for thought and discussion. It would be fun to sit down at dinner each night and have a family discussion about that day's poem.

I really wanted to like this book; I purchased it after reading most of the reviews here. Now I have to agree with those here who complain that Barks' translations are far from the true Rumi. I have read through the majority of these poems and while some are very pleasing, I do not sense they are at all Rumi's own words or even intended meanings, but those of Barks. After reading the extensive introduction by Barks, one easily recognizes how heavily Barks' own ego comes into play in translating these poems. That said, there are many enjoyable pages to be read, if one accepts them on face value as simply inspirational pieces originally written by the beloved Rumi and presented here as the interpretations by a modern Western mind. In that regard, they even may be more accessible, and certainly the popularity of Barks' other books on Rumi would support that. I wouldn't discard this book simply for the reason that the translations may not be as pure as one might wish but it's not a presentation I am inclined to rave about either.

A little Rumi every day is very good for the soul. This English version of Rumi's poetry captures the essence of the original Farsi text.

I love reading a passage every day. The only thing is, sometimes there are references to people I've never heard of and probably never will. Nevertheless, it is beautiful poetry that softens your heart and makes you think. If you love love, this book will add to your life. It makes a great gift.

I love this book - Coleman Barks does a wonderful job of translating Rumi's poems. I am enjoying working my way through the year!

These poems are way different from anything I've read before. Some are very meaningful to me, some leave me scratching my head. But they always make me think. Don't get it unless your mind is open to something new.

Honoring the great Sufi tradition, Coleman Barks translates Rumi in a way that anyone with a spiritual side can appreciate. I particularly appreciate this edition for Barks' editorial comments and for the volume of poetry. A great introduction to Rumi and Sufism.

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