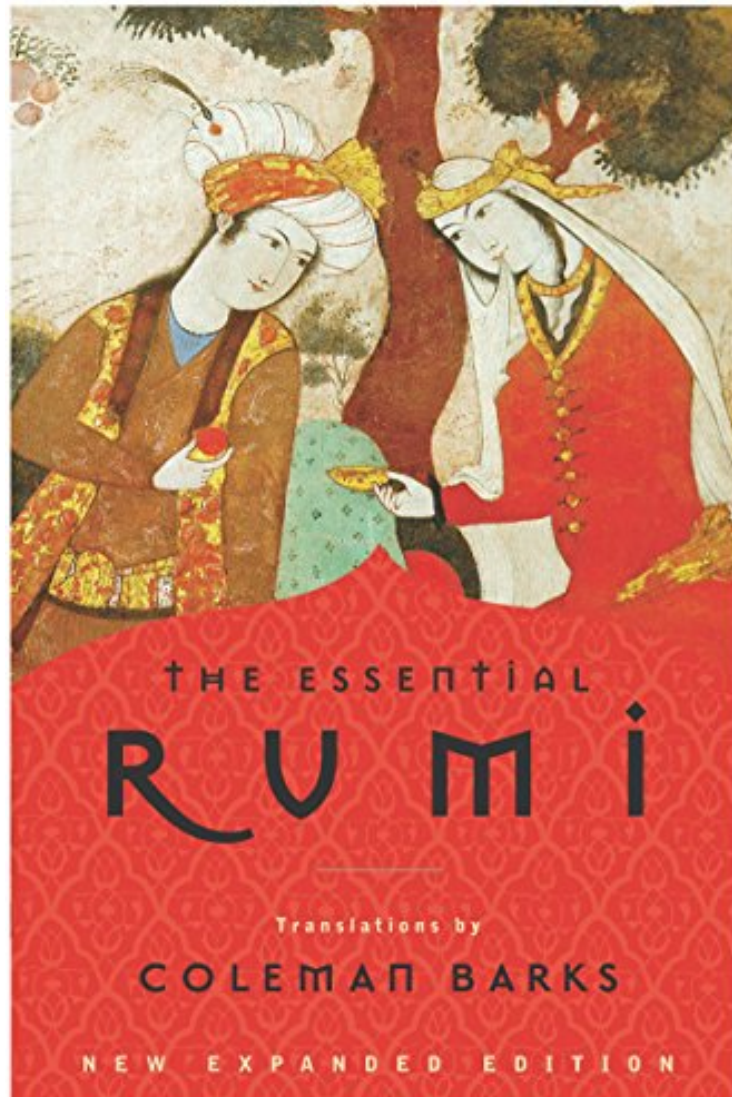


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Von Coleman Barks, Jalal al-Din Rumi
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Von Coleman Barks, Jalal al-Din Rumi : The Essential Rumi - reissue: New Expanded Edition before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Essential Rumi - reissue: New Expanded Edition:

Kundenrezensionen Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen 22 von 23 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Look elsewhere for Rumi's essence. Von Ein Kunde This pretty book of verse calls well-deserved attention to Jalaluddin Rumi, a 13th-century mystic considered by many to be one of the greatest poets the world has ever seen. But while author Coleman Barks's intentions may be the best, it's doubtful that what he serves up here is the essential Rumi, if

only because Barks speaks not a word of Persian, the language in which Rumi wrote. Barks freely admits that he relied entirely on academic translations to concoct his popularized renderings. This would be less of a handicap were Rumi merely trying to entertain or to convey feelings, moods and subjective impressions. But as Barks himself points out, Rumi was a Sufi; and Sufis maintain that, far from being the emotional outpourings appearance might suggest, their poems are actually precise and carefully constructed technical instruments designed to have very specific effects on the reader under the right circumstances. These effects, which depend heavily upon the language in which the poems were written (not to mention the specific audience they were written for, which is another matter entirely), are easily blunted by translation and other forms of tampering. Barks - in translating translations - would seem to be carrying this tampering a step further, despite his skill as a wordsmith. The result, however aesthetically pleasing and emotionally evocative, is unlikely to be what Rumi had in mind - any more than the miming of a surgeon's hand-movements, however gracefully executed, is likely to heal the sick. Those interested in Rumi's essential - and still relevant - message would do better to read *THE SUFIS* by Idries Shah, *THE LIFE WORK OF JALALUDDIN RUMI* by Afzal Iqbal, or E.H. Whinfield's *TEACHINGS OF RUMI*.³ von 3 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Poetic enlightenment Von FrKurt Messick Rumi (as he is known in the West), was known as Jelaluddin Balkhi by the Persians and Afghanis, from where he was born in 1207. Rumi means 'from Roman Anatolia', which is where his family fled to avoid the threat of Mongol armies. Being raised in a theological family, Rumi studied extensively in religion and poetry, until encountering Shams of Tabriz, a wandering mystic, with whom he formed the first of his intense, mystical friendships, so intense that it inspired jealousy among Rumi's students and family. Shams eventually disappeared (most likely murdered because of the jealousy); Rumi formed later more mystical friendships, each with a different quality, which seemed essential for Rumi's creative output. Rumi was involved with the mystical tradition that continues to this day of the dervish (whirling dervishes are best known), and used it as a personal practice and as a teaching tool. This book has a deliberate task: 'The design of this book is meant to confuse scholars who would divide Rumi's poetry into the accepted categories.' Barks and Moyne have endeavoured to put together a unified picture that playfully spans the breadth of Rumi's imagination, without resorting to scholarly pigeon-holes and categorisations.' All of which makes the point that these poems are not monumental in the Western sense of memorialising moments; they are not discrete entities but a fluid, continuously self-revising, self-interrupting medium. 'Rumi created these poems as part of a constant, growing conversation with a dervish learning community. It flows from esoteric to mundane, from ecstatic to banal, incorporating music and movement at some points, and not at others, with the occasional batch of prose.' Some go first, and others come long afterward. God blesses both and all in the line, and replaces what has been consumed, and provides for those who work the soil of helpfulness, and blesses Muhammad and Jesus and every other messenger and prophet. Amen, and may the Lord of all created beings bless you. 'From the lofty sentiments...' There's a strange frenzy in my head, of birds flying, each particle circulating on its own. Is the one I love everywhere? ...to the simple observations... 'Drunks fear the police, but the police are drunks too. People in this town love them both like different chess pieces.' Some poems take very mystic frameworks, such as the *Sohbet*. There is no easy English translation of *Sohbet*, save that it comes close to meaning 'mystical conversation on mystical subjects'. These poems become mystically Socratic, by a series of questions and answers, very simple on the surface, yet leading down to the depths of meaning. In the middle of the night I cried out, "Who lives in this love I have?" You said, "I do, but I'm not here alone. Why are these other images with me?" Rumi also has an elegant series called the *Solomon Poems*, in which King Solomon is the embodiment of luminous divine wisdom, and the Queen of Sheba is the bodily soul. This sets up a dynamic tension that gets played out in the poetry (in extrapolation from the Biblical stories from which they were first derived) Rumi reminds us that, in the face of love and truth, even the wisdom of Plato and Solomon can go blind, but there is vision in this blindness. In the conclusion of this volume, Rumi's poetry of *The Turn* (the dervishes) is presented, as a place of emptiness, where the ego dissolves, and opens a doorway to the divine to enter. The night of Rumi's death in 1273 is considered 'Rumi's Wedding Night', the night he achieved full union with the divine that he had sought so often in poetry and mystical practice. There is much to be gained in the contemplation of this frequently overlooked poet.⁵ von 5 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A Pleasure For All The Senses! Von Melissa I must start off with one word - Wow! I had heard of Rumi for several years but never read his works until just recently. I was totally floored! How can a man who lived over 700 years ago know me so well? I was immediately caught up in the simple wit, humor, and frankness Rumi displayed, and identified with many of his characters. I never knew I was dying of thirst until I drank from this fountain! Anyone who understands metaphysical and New Age principles will find this book to be a delightful journey. Poets and writers who love blending emotions and intellect will be inspired by it. I wish I had discovered Rumi years ago. I will keep this book by my bed for a long, long time!

Kurzbeschreibung This revised and expanded edition of *The Essential Rumi* includes a new introduction by Coleman Barks and more than 80 never-before-published poems. Through his lyrical translations, Coleman Barks has been instrumental in bringing this exquisite literature to a remarkably wide range of readers, making the ecstatic, spiritual

poetry of thirteenth-century Sufi Mystic Rumi more popular than ever. The Essential Rumi continues to be the bestselling of all Rumi books, and the definitive selection of his beautiful, mystical poetry. Pressestimmen "If Rumi is the most-read poet in America today, Coleman Barks is in good part responsible. His ear for the truly divine madness in Rumi's poetry is truly remarkable." -- Huston Smith, author of "The World's Religions" "In this delightful treasury, Barks sparkingly demonstrates once again why his free-form interpretations of [Rumi's] poetry have been a major impetus for the current Rumi vogue." -- "Publishers Weekly" "Perhaps the world's greatest spiritual poet--the gold of Rumi pours down through Coleman's words. The words leap off the page and dance!" -- Jack Kornfield, author of "A Path with Heart" "The Essential Rumi" is a rare and precious book that will stir the hearts of Rumi devotees and win many new converts." -- "Body Mind Spirit" Kurzbeschreibung This revised and expanded edition of The Essential Rumi includes a new introduction by Coleman Barks and more than 80 never-before-published poems. Through his lyrical translations, Coleman Barks has been instrumental in bringing this exquisite literature to a remarkably wide range of readers, making the ecstatic, spiritual poetry of thirteenth-century Sufi Mystic Rumi more popular than ever. The Essential Rumi continues to be the bestselling of all Rumi books, and the definitive selection of his beautiful, mystical poetry.