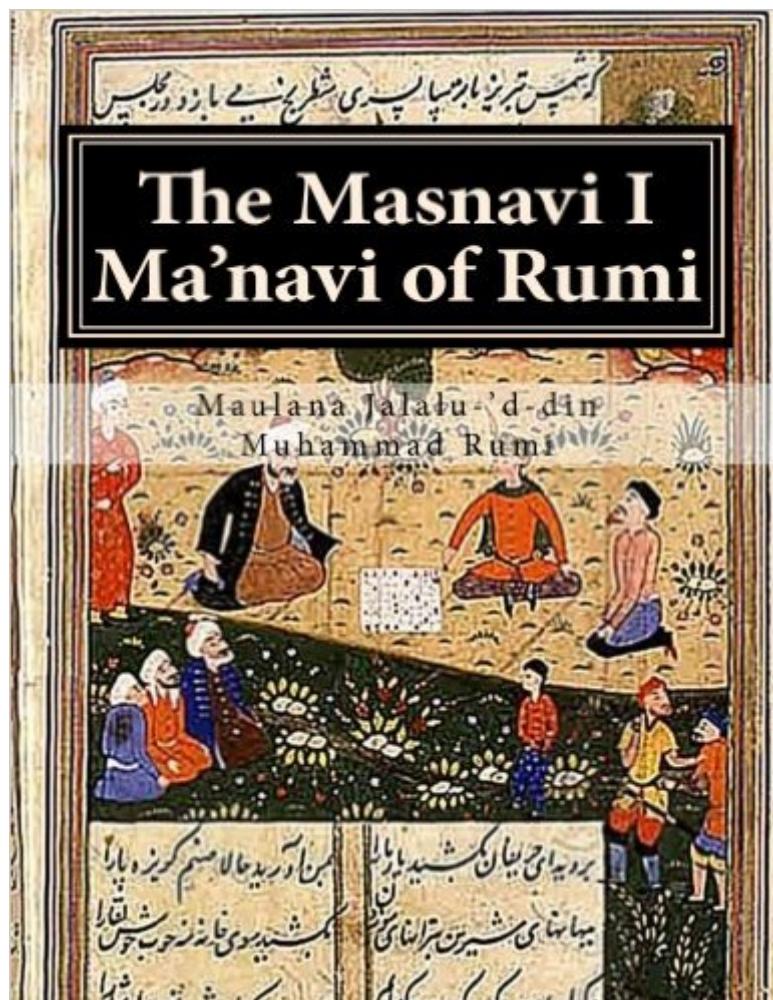


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The Masnavi I Ma'navi Of Rumi: Complete 6 Books



Synopsis

The general theme of Rumi's thought, like that of other mystic and Sufi poets of Persian literature, is essentially that of the concept of tawhid – "union with his beloved (the primal root) from which whom he has been cut off and become aloof" – and his longing and desire to restore it. The *Masnavi* weaves fables, scenes from everyday life, Quranic revelations and exegesis, and metaphysics into a vast and intricate tapestry. In the East, it is said of him that he was "not a prophet" but surely, he has brought a scripture". Rumi believed passionately in the use of music, poetry, and dance as a path for reaching God. For Rumi, music helped devotees to focus their whole being on the divine, and to do this so intensely that the soul was both destroyed and resurrected. It was from these ideas that the practice of "whirling" dervishes developed into a ritual form. His teachings became the base for the order of the *Mawlawi* which his son Sultan Walad organized. Rumi encouraged *sama* listening to music and turning or doing the sacred dance. In the Mevlevi tradition, *sama* represents a mystical journey of spiritual ascent through mind and love to the Perfect One. In this journey, the seeker symbolically turns towards the truth, grows through love, abandons the ego, finds the truth, and arrives at the Perfect. The seeker then returns from this spiritual journey, with greater maturity, to love and to be of service to the whole of creation without discrimination with regard to beliefs, races, classes, and nations. In other verses in the *Masnavi*, Rumi describes in detail the universal message of love: The lover's cause is separate from all other causes. Love is the astrolabe of God's mysteries. Rumi was an evolutionary thinker in the sense that he believed that the spirit after devolution from the divine Ego undergoes an evolutionary process by which it comes nearer and nearer to the same divine Ego. All matter in the universe obeys this law and this movement is due to an inbuilt urge (which Rumi calls "love") to evolve and seek enjoyment with the divinity from which it has emerged. Evolution into a human being from an animal is only one stage in this process. The doctrine of the Fall of Adam is reinterpreted as the devolution of the Ego from the universal ground of divinity and is a universal, cosmic phenomenon. The French philosopher Henri Bergson's idea of life being creative and evolutionary is similar, though unlike Bergson, Rumi believes that there is a specific goal to the process: the attainment of God. For Rumi, God is the ground as well as the goal of all existence. However Rumi need not be considered a biological evolutionary creationist. In view of the fact that Rumi lived hundreds of years before Darwin, and was least interested in scientific theories, it is probable to conclude that he does not deal with biological evolution at all. Rather he is concerned with the spiritual evolution of a human being: Man not conscious of God is akin to an animal and true consciousness makes him divine. Nicholson has seen this as a Neo-Platonic doctrine: the universal soul working through the

various spheres of being, a doctrine introduced into Islam by Muslim philosophers like Al Farabi and being related at the same time to Ibn Sina's idea of love as the magnetically working power by which life is driven into an upward trend.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Friends: This entry is mis-titled. This is not the complete first book on Rumi'Masnavi but an abridgment. Please find a translation that is in deed complete, so as to better learn the message of Rumi.

I can't go more than two pages without something striking deep. There are many one-liners in the Mathnawi that say more than entire volumes of lesser works. Rumi has a particular way of shocking and humbling you at the same time.

This is one of Rumi's finest work. Rumi is a Persian poet who lived over 1000 years ago. His work is as relevant now as it is then. This book is a collection of witty and insightful short stories, followed by Rumi's thoughts and feelings based on that story. This book helped me reconnect with my Higher Power- God. The stories contained in this book have had more of an impact on me than most of the books I have read combined. Whether you believe in God or you just love poetry and short stories, this book is worth its weight in gold.

The best English translation of the Masnavi by far is by Reynold Nicholson's though it is not available on the Kindle (Hard copy only on). To get a good taste of Rumi and the source (Quran)

that inspired him, see the Kindle book: A Perspective on the Signs of Al-Quran: through the prism of the heart

I have read book one and book two of The Masnavi by Oxford World Classics and found the poem format beautiful. I am very disappointed that these six books have been written in a different format - I would have preferred them to be in the same format as the first two books. I wonder if Oxford World Classics will be bringing out books three to six and if these exact books will be available in Kindle format??

So, why am I adding my voice to the innumerable voices praising this incredible historical, literary figure? Because, as a follower of Avatar Meher Baba it is my belief that this person, at the time of writing this and other of the extant works attributed to Him, was a Perfect Master. So There! Not much to back up my personal claim of knowing too much about what that implies aside from 'God Speaks', 'Stay With God', 'In Dust I Sing' and the several biographies on the life of Meher Baba. The Mathnawi, in its English translation, is a rambling, delightful, inspiring, sometimes disconcerting, masterpiece of spiritual instruction. One could do much worse than pick up a copy and become absorbed in the interweaving tales and lessons. By Perfect Master, His name is numbered among the ranks of St. Francis of Assisi, St. Catherine of Sienna, St. Theresa of Avila, St. Augustine of Hippo, Mirabai of Rajputana, Tukaram, Ramdas, Kabir, the Guru Nanak, founder of the Sikhs and all the successors found in the Guru Granth Sahib, Sai Baba of Shirdi, Hazrat Babajan, Upasni Maharaj, Tajuddin Baba, Narayan Maharaj and of course Hafiz of Shiraz. There are five Perfect Masters known to the world at any one time, so the list is much larger but these have left sayings, books, poems, songs, and indelible memories after their passing. (are any who are living known? Beware of imitations!).

a good read...i love the insightful short stories and the way it was followed by Rumi's thoughts and feelings based on that story..i would definitely recommend this to anyone who looking for something to read that is uplifting.

It's Rumi, the poet of love and divinity. You can't go wrong. Each time I read Rumi, something new strikes me that makes me think about my life and what I am doing with it. I think that's the point.

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