



Mystical Poems of Rumi

Jalal al-Din Rumi

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Mystical Poems of Rumi Jalal al-Din Rumi

My verse resembles the bread of Egypt—night passes over it, and you cannot eat it any more.

Devour it the moment it is fresh, before the dust settles upon it.

Its place is the warm climate of the heart; in this world it dies of cold.

Like a fish it quivered for an instant on dry land, another moment and you see it is cold.

Even if you eat it imagining it is fresh, it is necessary to conjure up many images.

What you drink is really your own imagination; it is no old tale, my good man.

Jalal al-Din Rumi (1207–73), legendary Persian Muslim poet, theologian, and mystic, wrote poems acclaimed through the centuries for their powerful spiritual images and provocative content, which often described Rumi's love for God in romantic or erotic terms. His vast body of work includes more than three thousand lyrics and odes. This volume includes four hundred poems selected by renowned Rumi scholar A. J. Arberry, who provides here one of the most comprehensive and adept English translations of this enigmatic genius. *Mystical Poems* is the definitive resource for anyone seeking an introduction to or an enriched understanding of one of the world's greatest poets.

"Rumi is one of the world's greatest lyrical poets in any language—as well as probably the most accessible and approachable representative of Islamic civilization for Western students."—James W. Morris, Oberlin College



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