

RUMI 

LOVE

*“Be A Lover, A Lover.  
Choose Love That You Might Be A Chosen One.”*



*“There is no salvation for the soul  
but to fall in Love.*

*Only Lovers can escape  
out of these two worlds.*

*This was ordained in creation.*

*Only from the heart  
can you reach the sky;*

*The Rose of Glory  
can grow only from the heart.”*



*“If You Knew the Secret of Life, You Too Would Choose No Other  
Companion, but LOVE...”*



*“Know that it is the waves of Love  
that turn the wheels of Heaven.”*



*“If you want to live, die in Love;  
Die in Love if you want to remain alive!”*



*“On the day of resurrection  
the heart devoid of love will not pass  
through the gate.”*



*“A Lover doesn't figure the odds.*

*He figures he came clean from God  
as a gift without a reason,  
so he gives without cause  
or calculation or limit.*

*A conventionally religious person  
behaves a certain way  
to achieve salvation.*

*A lover gambles everything, the self,  
the circle around the zero!  
He or she cuts and throws it all away.*

*This is beyond any religion.*

*Lovers do not require from God any proof,  
or any text,  
nor do they knock on a door  
to make sure this is the right street.*

*They run,  
and they run.”*

*-Mathnawi VI: 1967-1974  
Translation by Coleman Barks  
"Feeling the Shoulder of the Lion"  
Threshold Books, 1991*



*“When Love awakens in your life,  
in the night of your heart,  
it is like the dawn breaking within you.*

*Where before there was anonymity, now there is intimacy;  
where before there was fear, now there is courage;  
where before in your life there was awkwardness,  
now there is a rhythm of grace and gracefulness;  
where before you used to be jagged,  
now you are elegant and in rhythm with your self.  
When love awakens in your life,  
it is like a rebirth, a new beginning.”*

— John O'Donohue, *Anam Cara: A Book of Celtic Wisdom*



*“Although I may try to describe Love, when I experience it I am speechless.”*



*“The Way You Make Love  
is the Way God Will Be With You.”*



*"The Time Has Come to Turn Your Heart into a Temple of Fire.  
Your Essence is Gold Hidden in Dust.  
To Reveal its Splendor,  
YOU NEED TO BURN IN THE FIRE OF LOVE..."*



*"Come on Sweetheart,  
Let's adore one another,  
before there is no more of you and me...  
Once you think of me, dead and gone,  
...you will make up with me,  
you will miss me,  
you may even adore me.  
Why be a worshiper of the dead?  
Come. Come and make up now.  
Since you will come and throw kisses at my tombstone later,  
Why not give them to me now?  
Come. Come and make up now."*



*“Love’s nationality is separate from all other religions,  
The lover’s religion and nationality is the Beloved (God).”*



*“To those who asked what love was he answered thus:  
“Be like me and know; whether in light or darkness, until you have been like this  
you can't completely know love.”*



*“Love is the Reality, and poetry is the drum  
that calls us to that.*

*Don't keep complaining about loneliness!  
Let the fear-language of that theme crack open  
and float away.*

*Let the priest come down from his tower,  
and not go back up!”*

*-- Version by Coleman Barks  
"The Essential Rumi"*



*“I love my friends neither with  
my heart nor with my mind.  
Just in case heart might stop, Mind can forget.  
I love them with my soul.  
Soul never stops or forgets.”*



*“At night, I open the window and ask the moon to come and press its face against  
mine. Breathe intome. Close the language-door and open the love-window.  
The moon won't use the door, only the window.”*



THE HEART

*“Tend to Your Vital Heart,  
And All that You Worry About Will Be Solved.”*



*“...That which seems worthless - the Heart in  
ruins - is the most precious thing.*

*Do not debase It - even though distressed,  
the Heart Is Most Precious In Distress.*

*The ruined Heart attracts God's attention.  
How happy is the soul that practices caring for it!*

*Comforting the wretched Heart  
in its time of need and pain  
is more valuable to the Creator  
than performing the outer pilgrimage.*

*The ruined Heart are God's stores of treasure;  
great treasures are buried in these ruins...”*

- Divani Shamsi Tabrizi 3104



*“Fools venerate the mosque and endeavor to destroy them  
that have the Heart in which God dwells.  
That mosque is phenomenal; this Heart is Real, O asses!  
The true mosque is naught but the Hearts of the spiritual captains.  
The mosque that is the inward consciousness of the saints is the place of worship for all:  
God is there.”*

- Mathnawi, II/3139-41



*“It's no good giving my heart and my soul because you already have these.  
So I've brought you a mirror...  
Look at yourself and remember me.”*



*"In fact, God does not regard your outward form and wealth,  
but does regard your heart and good deeds." - (A Prophetic Saying)*

*He (the Prophet) said,  
"He (God) does not regard your (outward) form:  
therefore in your devising, seek you the owner of the Heart."*

*(God says),  
"I regard you through the owner of the Heart,  
not because of the (external) marks of prostration (in prayer)  
and the giving away of gold (in charities).*

*Since you have deemed your heart to be the Heart,  
you have abandoned the search after those who possess the Heart.*

*The heart into which if seven hundred heavens, like these Seven Heavens,  
should enter, they would be lost and hidden from view.  
Do not call such fragments of heart as these "the Heart."*

- Mathnawi, V/874-78



*"The Heart leads you into the neighborhood of the men of  
Heart (the saints);  
the body leads you into the prison of water and earth."*

- Mathnawi, I/753



*"Which Heart does not contain your Love?  
It is an infidel; it cannot be a Muslim."*

- Rubais, 96



THE SOUL

*“In this world, there is nothing so wondrous as the Sun.  
But the Sun of the Soul sets not and has no yesterday.*

*Though the material Sun is unique, we can conceive of other suns like it.  
But the Sun of the Soul, transcending these heavens,  
has nothing like It that exists, in the physical or in the subtle...”*



*“If the beautiful one is not inside you,  
Then what is that light hidden under your cloak.”*



*“The senses are the tools of the mind  
and the mind is the tool of the Spirit  
When the mind becomes confused, it is  
Spirit that brings back clarity and harmony  
Our desires and thoughts spread over the soul  
as weeds spread over the surface of a pond  
The ego thrives in muddy water while  
the mind needs clarity and transparency  
Let the mind become the master  
and the senses its obedient servants  
A master who puts his senses to sleep is able  
to perceive the unseen emerging from Spirit  
Even in his waking state he dreams  
dreams that open the gates to Divine Truth.”*



*“I will find new meaning in every joy and sorrow  
In that silence, I will hear the...voice of spirit,  
and freed from this world, I will see another world  
where the end is another beginning.”*



*“Do you know why the mirror of your soul reflects nothing?  
Because the rust is not cleared from its face.”*

- Mathnawi, 1/35



## THE CREATOR

*“The Prophets have wondered to themselves,  
‘How long should we keep pounding this cold iron?  
How long do we have to whisper into an empty cage?’*

*Every motion of created beings comes from the creator.  
The first Soul pushes, and your second soul responds.*

*So don't be timid.  
Load the ship and set out!  
No one knows for certain whether the ship will sink or reach harbor.  
Just don't be one of those merchants who are afraid to risk the ocean.*

*This is much more important than losing or making money!*

*This is your connection to God.*

*Think of the fear and the hope that you have about your livelihood.  
They make you go to work diligently every day.*

*Now consider what the Prophets have done:*

*Abraham wore fire for an anklet.  
Moses spoke to the sea.  
David moulded iron.  
Solomon rode the wind.*

*Work in the invisible world at least as hard as you do in the visible.*

*Be companions with the Prophets, even though no one here knows that you are.  
Not even the helpers of the qutb, the abdals.  
You can't imagine what profit will come!*

*When one of those generous ones invites you into the fire, go quickly!!!*

*Don't say, ‘will it burn me? will it hurt me?’”*



*“Now be silent.  
Let the One who creates the words speak.  
He made the door.  
He made the lock.  
He also made the key.”*

- Mathnawi VI, 1810-1822





*“O’ You who make demands within me like an embryo,  
since You are the one who makes the demand,  
make its fulfillment easy;  
show the way, help me,  
or else relinquish Your claim  
and take this burden from me!  
Since from a debtor You’re demanding gold,  
give him gold in secret, O King!”*



*“In consequence of a fractured leg,  
God bestows a wing.  
Likewise, from the depths of the pit,  
He opens a door of escape.  
God said, "Don't consider whether  
you're up a tree or in a hole:  
Consider Me, for I am the key of the way.”*

*-Mathnawi III, 4808-4809  
"Rumi: Jewels of Remembrance"  
Version by Camille and Kabir Helminski*



*“A window opens.  
A curtain pulls back.*

*The lamp of lovers connect,  
not at their ceramic bases,  
but in their lightedness.*

*No lover wants union with the Beloved  
without the Beloved also wanting the lover.*

*Love makes the lover weak,  
while the Beloved gets strong.*

*Lightning from here strikes there.  
When you begin to love God, God  
is loving you. A clapping sound  
does not come from one hand.*

*A thirsty man calls out, 'Delicious water,  
where are you?' while the water moans,  
'Where is the water drinker?'*

*The thirst in our souls is the attraction  
put out by the Water itself.*

*We belong to It,  
and It to us.*

*God's wisdom made us lovers of one another.  
In fact, all the particles of the world  
are in love and looking for lovers.*

*Pieces of straw tremble  
in the presence of amber.*

*We tremble like iron filings  
welcoming the magnet.*

*Whatever that Presence gives us  
we take in. Earth signs feed.  
Water signs wash and freshen.  
Air signs clear the atmosphere.  
Fire signs jiggle the skillet,  
so we cook without getting burnt.*

*And the Holy Spirit helps with everything,  
like a young man trying to support a family.  
We, like the man's young wife, stay home,  
taking care of the house, nursing the children.*

*Spirit and matter work together like this,  
in a division of labor.*

*Sweethearts kiss and taste the delight  
before they slip into bed and mate.*

*The desire of each lover is  
that the work of the other be perfected.  
By this man-and-woman cooperation,  
the world gets preserved.  
Generation occurs.*

*Roses and blue arghawan flowers flower.  
Night and day meet in a mutual hug.*

*So different, but they do love each other,  
the day and the night, like family.*

*And without their mutual alternation  
we would have no energy.*

*Every part of the cosmos is drawn toward its mate.  
The ground keeps talking to the body,  
saying, 'Come back! It's better for you  
down here where you came from.'*

*The streamwater calls to the moisture in the body.  
The fiery aether whispers to the body's heat,  
'I am your origin. Come with me.'  
Seventy-two diseases are caused  
by the various elements pulling inside the body.  
Disease comes, and the organs  
fall out of harmony.*

*We're like four different birds,  
that each had one leg tied in  
with the other birds.*

*A flopping bouquet of birds!  
Death releases the binding, and they fly off,  
but before that, their pulling is our pain.*

*Consider how the soul must be,  
in the midst of these tensions,  
feeling its own exalted pull.*

*My longing is more profound.  
The birds want sweet green herbs  
and the water running by.*

*I want the infinite! I want wisdom.  
These birds want orchards and meadows  
and vines with fruit on them.*

*I want a vast expansion.  
They want profit and security  
of having enough food.*

*Remember what the soul wants,  
because in that, eternity  
is wanting our souls!*

*Which is the meaning of the text,  
They love That, and That loves them.*

*If I keep on explaining this,  
the Mathnawi will run to eighty volumes!*

*The gist is: whatever anyone seeks,  
that is seeking the seeker.  
No matter if its animal,  
or vegetable, or mineral.*

*Every bit of the universe  
is filled with wanting,  
and whatever any bit wants,  
wants the wanter!*

*This subject must dissolve again.*

*Back to Sadri Jahan and the uneducated peasant  
who loved him, so that gradually Sadri Jahan  
loved the lowly man. But who really  
attracted who, whom, HUUUU?*

*Don't be presumptuous and say one or the other.  
Close your lips. The mystery of loving  
is God's sweetest secret.*

*Keep it. Bury it. Leave it here  
where I leave it, drawn as I am  
by the pull of the Puller  
to something else.*

*You know how it is. Sometimes  
we plan a trip to one place,  
but something takes us to another.*

*When a horse is being broken, the trainer  
pulls it in many different directions,  
so the horse will come to know  
what it is to be ridden.*

*The most beautiful and alert horse is one  
completely attuned to the rider.*

*God fixes a passionate desire in you,  
and then disappoints you.  
God does that a hundred times!*

*God breaks the wings of one intention  
and then gives you another,  
cuts the rope of contriving,  
so you'll remember your dependence.*

*But sometimes your plans work out!  
You feel fulfilled and in control.*

*That's because, if you were always failing,  
you might give up. But remember,  
it is by failures that lovers  
stay aware of how they are loved.*

*Failure is the key  
to the kingdom within.*

*Your prayer should be, "Break the legs  
of what I want to happen. Humiliate  
my desire. Eat me like candy.  
It's spring and finally  
I have no will."*

- Mathnawi, III, 4391 - 4472  
From 'Feeling the Shoulder of the Lion'



*"You are the explosive Force  
that causes our dammed-up rivers to surge forth."*

- Mathnawi V:3309



*"Be quiet and let the Master of Speech talk.  
Don't try to dress up your own nightingale- song  
to sell to this Rose!  
Be all ear."*

- Mathnawi VI, 1810-1822



*"rebellious i feel again  
i swear i can tear  
every chain  
you wrap around me*

*i'm that crazy  
fastened fellow who  
cages monsters  
by his magical tongue*

*i don't want  
this mortal life  
i don't desire  
this mortal soul  
you my life  
you my soul  
you my love  
that's who i want*

*when you hide away  
i feel darkness in my faith  
and when you appear  
i'm filled with grace*

*if i drank from this jar  
it's because of your reflection  
and if i breathe without you  
i regret it for the rest of my life*

*without you i swear  
even if i fly  
i'm sad  
as a dark cloud*

*without you  
even in a rose garden  
i feel in prison  
i swear again*

*the music to my ear  
is only your name  
the dance of my soul  
is only with your wine*

*please come again  
and reconstruct  
this house of mine  
this is my existence*

*going to an abbey  
or going to a mosque  
i'm only there  
in search of you"*

*-- Ghazal 2162*

Poetic translation by Nader Khalili  
"Rumi, Fountain of Fire"; Cal-Earth Press, 1994



*“The looking itself is a trace  
of what we're looking for,*

*but we've been more like the man who sat on his donkey  
and asked the donkey where to go!*

*Be quiet now and wait.  
It may be that the ocean One, that we desire so to  
move into and become,*

*desires us out here on land a little longer,  
going our sundry roads to the shore.”*

*- Version by Coleman Barks  
"Say I am You"  
Maypop, 1994*



*“You and I have spoken all these words,  
but for the way we have to go,  
words are no preparation.  
There is no getting ready, other than grace.*

*My faults have stayed hidden.  
One might call that a preparation!*

*I have one small drop of knowing in my soul. Let it dissolve in your ocean.  
There are so many threats to it.*

*Inside each of us, there's continual autumn. Our leaves  
fall and are blown out*

*over the water. A crow sits in the blackened limbs and talks  
about what's gone. Then*

*your generosity returns: spring, moisture, intelligence, the  
scent of hyacinth and rose*

*and cypress. Joseph is back! And if you don't feel in  
yourself the freshness of*

*Joseph, be Jacob! Weep and then smile. Don't pretend to know  
something you haven't experienced.*

*There's a necessary dying, and then Jesus is breathing again.  
Very little grows on jagged  
rock. Be ground. Be crumbled, so wildflowers will come up  
where you are. You've been  
stony for too many years. Try something different. Surrender."*

- Mathnawi I: 1878-1912  
Version by Coleman Barks  
"The Soul of Rumi"



*"You're all mixed up.  
For the sake of position,  
you come with reverence before the blind  
and wait in the hall;  
but in the presence of one who can see,  
you behave with disrespect.  
No wonder you've become fuel for the fire of desire."*

- Mathnawi II: 3221-3222  
Version by Camille and Kabir Helminski  
"Rumi: Daylight"  
Threshold Books, 1994





LIGHT

*“If ten lamps are present in one place,  
each differs in form from another;  
yet you can't distinguish whose radiance is whose  
when you focus on the light.  
In the field of spirit there is no division;  
no individuals exist.  
Sweet is the oneness of the Friend with His friends.  
Catch hold of spirit.  
Help this headstrong self disintegrate;  
that beneath it you may discover unity,  
like a buried treasure.”*

- Mathnawi, I:678-683  
Version by Camille and Kabir Helminski  
Rumi: Daylight



*“Sometimes I feel like a king,  
sometimes I moan in my own prison.  
Swaying between these states  
I can't be proud of myself.  
This "I" is a figment of my imagination.”*



*“Out beyond the ideas of wrong doing and right doing,  
there is a field. I'll meet you there.  
When the soul lies down in that grass, the world is too full to  
talk about. Ideas, language, even the phrase "each other"  
doesn't make any sense...”*



*“The sea is calling on you,  
jump off the boat and submerge  
yourself in my fine waters.”*



*“How long will you hide  
your beautiful  
festive smile?”*

*Teach your laughter  
to a flower  
manifest an eternity*

*Why do you think  
the door to the sky  
is closed on your face?”*

*It allures and invites  
your magical touch  
to open and arrive*

*An entire caravan  
is waiting in ecstasy  
for your coming and leading*

*Come on my friend  
use your talisman and  
harness all their souls*

*Today is the day to unite  
with your longing beloved  
wait no more  
for an unknown tomorrow*

*A tambourine is in a corner  
begging your playing hands  
a flute is sitting dormant  
begging your happy lips”*

*- Ode (Ghazal) 253  
Translation by Nader Khalili  
"Rumi, Fountain of Fire"*



*“Instead of looking down at the six  
feet of road immediately*

*ahead, look up: see both worlds, the face of the king, the  
ocean shaping and carrying*

*you along. You've heard descriptions of that sea. Now  
float, trust; enjoy the motion.”*

- Mathnawi VI: 1450-66  
Version by Coleman Barks  
"The Soul of Rumi"



*“Come, Come!  
whoever you are,  
wanderers, idolators,  
worshippers of fire!*

*Even if you have broken your vows a thousand times!  
Come and yet Come Again!*

*Ours is not a caravan of despair.”*



*“Why are you turning round in circles,  
what are you looking for?  
The Beloved is here, why search in the desert?  
If you look deep in your heart  
you will find Him within yourself.*

*You have made the pilgrimage and  
trod the path to Mecca many times.  
You rave about the holy place  
and say you've visited God's garden  
but where is your bunch of flowers?*

*You tell stories about diving deep into the ocean  
but where is your pearl?*

*Your troubles  
may turn to treasures,  
but what a pity you have not discovered  
the Mecca that's inside."*

- Translation by Azima Melita Kolin  
and Maryam Mafi  
"Rumi: Hidden Music"



*"Don't seek the water; increase your thirst,  
so water may gush forth from above and below.  
Until the tender-throated babe is born,  
how should the milk for it  
flow from the mother's breast?"*

- Mathnawi III: 3204; 3208-3213



PAIN & SORROW

*“How does  
a part of the world  
leave the world?”*

*How does wetness  
leave water?*

*Don't try to put out fire  
by throwing on more fire!*

*Don't wash a wound  
with blood.*

*No matter how fast you run,  
your shadow keeps up.*

*Sometimes it's in front!*

*Only full overhead sun  
diminishes your shadow.*

*But that shadow  
has been serving you.*

*What hurts you,  
blesses you.*

*Darkness  
is your candle.*

*Your boundaries  
are your quest.*

*I could explain this,  
but it will break  
the glass cover  
on your heart,  
and there's no fixing that.*

*You must have  
shadow and light source  
both.*

*Listen,  
and lay your head  
under the tree of awe.*

*When from that tree  
feathers and wings  
sprout on you,  
be quieter than a dove.*

*Don't even open your mouth  
for even a coo."*



*"Every midwife knows that not until a mother's womb softens from the pain of labor, will a way unfold and the infant find that opening to be born. Oh friend! There is a treasure in your heart, it is heavy with child.*

*Listen. All the awakened ones, like trusted midwives, are saying, 'welcome this pain', it opens the dark passage of Grace. "*



*"How often you ask,  
What is my path?  
What is my cure?  
He has made you a seeker of Unity,  
isn't that enough?"*

*All your sorrow exists for one reason -  
that you may end sorrow forever.  
The desire to know your own soul  
will end all other desires."*

- Ghazal 406



*"Darling, the body is a guest house;  
every morning someone new arrives.  
Don't say, "O, another weight around my neck!"  
or your guest will fly back to nothingness.  
Whatever enters your heart is a guest  
from the invisible world: entertain it well.*

*Every day, and every moment, a thought comes  
like an honored guest into your heart.  
My soul, regard each thought as a person,  
for every person's value is in the thought they hold.*

*If a sorrowful thought stands in the way,  
it is also preparing the way for joy.  
It furiously sweeps your house clean,  
in order that some new joy may appear from the Source.  
It scatters the withered leaves from the bough of the heart,  
in order that fresh green leaves might grow.  
It uproots the old joy so that  
a new joy may enter from Beyond.*

*Sorrow pulls up the rotten root  
that was veiled from sight.  
Whatever sorrow takes away or causes the heart to shed,  
it puts something better in its place especially  
for one who is certain  
that sorrow is the servant of the intuitive.*

*Without the frown of clouds and lightning,  
the vines would be burned by the smiling sun.  
Both good and bad luck become guests in your heart:  
like planets traveling from sign to sign.  
When something transits your sign, adapt yourself,  
and be as harmonious as its ruling sign,  
so that when it rejoins the Moon,  
it will speak kindly to the Lord of the heart.*

*Whenever sorrow comes again,  
meet it with smiles and laughter,  
saying, "O my Creator, save me from its harm,  
and do not deprive me of its good.  
Lord, remind me to be thankful,  
let me feel no regret if its benefit passes away."  
And if the pearl is not in sorrow's hand,  
let it go and still be pleased.  
Increase your sweet practice.  
Your practice will benefit you at another time;  
someday your need will be suddenly fulfilled."*

- Mathnawi V: 3644-6, 3676-88, 3693-6, 3700-1

Version by Kabir Helminski

"The Rumi Collection"

Threshold Books, 1998

*“I'm Tired Of Living With Cowards,  
I Want To Live With Lions.”*



*“I only speak of the Sun  
because the Sun is my Master  
I worship even the dust at His feet.  
I am not a night-lover and do not praise sleep  
I am the messenger of the Sun!  
Secretly I will ask Him and pass the answers to you.  
Like the Sun I shine on those who are forsaken  
I may look drunk and disheveled but I speak the Truth.  
Tear off the mask, your face is glorious,  
your heart may be cold as stone but  
I will warm it with my raging fire.  
No longer will I speak of sunsets or rising Moons,  
I will bring you love's wine  
for I am born of the Sun  
I am a King!”*

- Ghazal (Ode) 1621  
Translated by Azima Melita Kolin  
and Maryam Mafi  
Rumi: Hidden Music  
HarperCollins Publishers Ltd, 2001



*“To Change, You Must Face the Dragon of Your Appetites  
with Another Dragon:  
The Life-Energy of The Soul.”*



*“Don't Be Satisfied With Stories,  
How Things Have Gone With Others.  
Unfold Your Own Myth.”*





BEAUTY

*"I want to sing like the birds sing,  
not worrying who listens or what they think."*



*"Today, like every other day, we wake up empty  
and frightened. Don't open the door to the study  
and begin reading. Take down a musical instrument.*

*Let the beauty we love be what we do.  
There are hundreds of ways to kneel and kiss the ground."*

- Quatrain 82,  
Version by Coleman Barks  
Open Secret  
Threshold Books, 1984



*"That which God said to the rose,  
and caused it to laugh in full-blown beauty,  
He said to my heart,  
and made it a hundred times more beautiful."*

- Mathnawi III: 4129  
Version by Camille and Kabir Helminski  
"Rumi: Jewels of Remembrance"  
Threshold Books, 1996



*"When I am Silent,  
I fall into the place where Everything is Music."*



*"Feel yourself being silently drawn  
by the stronger pull of what you really love."*

