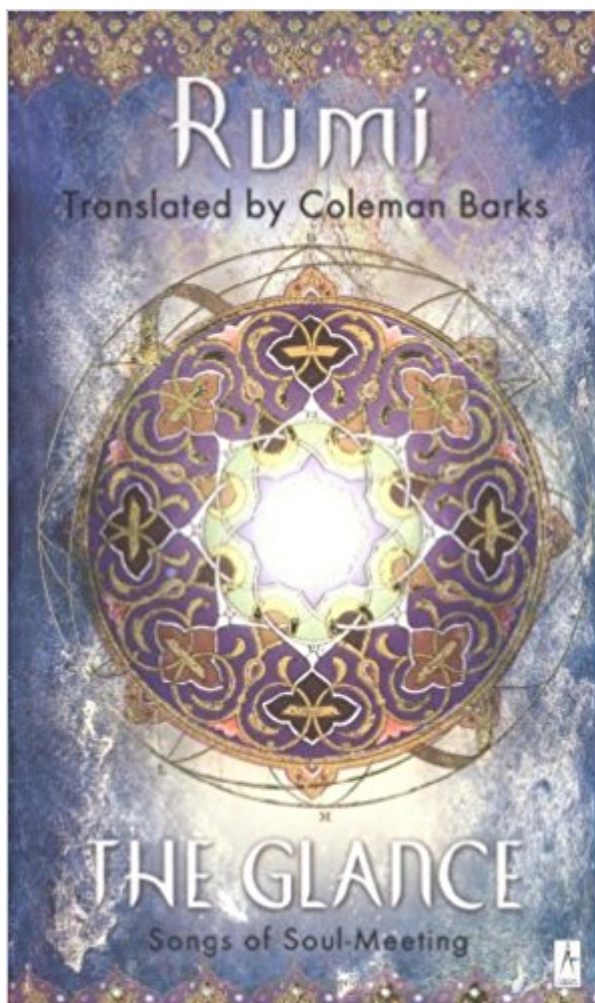


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The Glance: Songs Of Soul-Meeting (Compass)



Synopsis

In 1244, the brilliant poet Rumi and the wandering dervish Shams of Tabriz met and immediately fell into a deep spiritual connection. The Glance taps a major, yet little explored theme in Rumi's poetry-the mystical experience that occurs in the meeting of the eyes of the lover and the beloved, parent and child, friend and soul mate. Coleman Barks's new translations of these powerful and complex poems capture Rumi's range from the ethereal to the everyday. They reveal the unique place of human desire, love, and ecstasy, where there exists not just the union of two souls, but the crux of the universe. Here is a new kind of love lyric for our time-one of longing, connection, and wholeness.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

When the great Persian poet Rumi met Shams, his spiritual teacher, the soul-shattering and soul-making encounter and the friendship and ultimate loss that followed became the stuff of poetic legend. In this collection of work culled from the much longer book colloquially referred to as "The Shams," popular Rumi translator Barks focuses on ravishing poems of love and loss that can be read as sexual, relational, spiritual, or all three, for in the context of Rumi's embracing philosophy, soul and body and emotion are not separate but parts of the great mystery of earthly life, a question whose answer is love. Here are some of the most beautiful love lyrics ever spoken (Rumi composed orally rather than in writing), direct and passionate and profound: "out of eternity / I turned my face

to you, and into / eternity / we have been in / love that long." Barks' translations are justly famous for their bell-like clarity and sharp simplicity. A highly desirable book, in all senses of desire. Patricia Monaghan --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The Glance (\$18.00; Oct.; 112 pp.; 0-670-88755-2): A new translation of a cycle of ancient poems written by the great 13th-century Sufi scholar. Rumi is most widely known in the West for his love poetry, which has enjoyed a tremendous popular revival in the last few years. Here, he works within the framework of the ghazal, a Persian poem closest in form to the English sonnet, and attempts to convey some sense of the wonder he felt at his friendship with Shams of Tabriz, an itinerant dervish he met in 1244. Almost at first sight, an intense bond sprang up between the two, each acknowledging the other as soulmate and guide, in the tradition of Dante and Beatrice. Their relations centered in the spiritual life, with Tabriz introducing Rumi to ecstatic dancing and meditations of the dervishes, though Rumi described the friendship in almost erotic terms: I see my beauty in you. I become / a mirror that cannot close its eyes / to your longing...that convey the intensity of his feeling. Barks's translation is fluid and clear, further strengthening his reputation as one of the foremost Rumi experts writing in English today. (Viking also plans to offer a CD version in October that will feature 12 of Rumi's poems enhanced with music.) -- Copyright ©1999, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Some years ago, a friend recommended that I read Rumi, and finally I have. So this is what all the fuss is about. This short book contains only a fraction of Rumi's literary work, but in every line, Rumi's poetry challenges the reader to stop and think, to see, taste, and smell -- and, most of all, feel. From tambourine feet to talking pomegranates and from human activity as the work of a silkworm to the soul as an invisible bee, Rumi's rapturous poetry engages our imagination. This translation by Coleman Barks captures a wealth of sensations in modern-day English. One must wonder how accurately the translations carry the original meaning, since Barks has retranslated an English translation by Nevit Ergin from a Turkish translation of the original Persian. Nevertheless, it is easy to forget such questions as one is drawn into a world where human sensations and brotherly love merge with the mystery of a divine universe.

Arrived in perfect condition, easy to read and in a handy portable size.

And who does better translations than Coleman Barks ? That's really the secret. I write about love everyday, in poetical form too. When I read Rumi, I find a kindred soul. And that's comforting in this modern world. Many thanks to Coleman Barks for his exceptional work !

This was a gift for my daughter as she hadn't read any of Rumi's poetry. She loved it.

A beautiful book

I may not know a cake from a cow-pie, but if Coleman is cooking I'll take two helpings please! And serve it up on audio...straight from the lover's lips is best...images clear as mountain air, accent thick as pine tar, and voice sweet as peach nectar. YUM...YUM That's the way I like it. During my first listen, I felt the music on this audio to be a little too over-powering for some of the readings, but it has grown on me. Now I love even the quirkiest of the pieces. He may not be the chef for you, but he is the word gourmet for me.

most beautiful descriptions of the many faces of love!

I found this little jewel quite by surprise and have since shared it both as readings and as gifts. I really appreciate Coleman Barks' translations of Rumi. Enjoy and share!

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