



## Rumi: The Big Red Book: The Great Masterpiece Celebrating Mystical Love and Friendship

By Coleman Barks

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“Really, what other book would anyone ever need?” —Naomi Shihab Nye, author of *Honeybee*

“Elegant and exquisite.” —Deepak Chopra, author of *Muhammad, Jesus, and Buddha*

*The Big Red Book* is a poetic masterpiece from Jalaluddin Rumi, the medieval Sufi mystic whom *Time* magazine calls “the most popular poet in America.” Readers continue to be awed and inspired by Rumi’s masterfully lyrical, deeply expressive poems, collected in volumes such as *The Illustrated Rumi*, *The Soul of Rumi*, and the bestselling *The Essential Rumi*. With *The Big Red Book*, acclaimed poet and Rumi interpreter Coleman Barks offers a never-before-published translation of a crucial anthology of poems widely considered to be one of Persian literature’s greatest treasures.

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### Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

**\*Starred Review\*** Without question, we can credit Coleman Barks with making Rumi accessible to American readers through his modernized renditions of the best-known poems of the great Islamic mystic (The Essential Rumi, 1995; Rumi: The Book of Love, 2003). This is the capstone of Barks' life's work, a vast collection centering on Shams Tabrizi, a wandering mystic who transformed Rumi's life. Rumi was already renowned when Shams arrived in Konya, in today's Turkey, having wandered for years searching for someone with a soul as profound as his own with whom to share "sobbet," a mystical conversation about God and love. Rumi and Shams inspired each other for several years, until Shams mysteriously disappeared. He lives on in Rumi's searching poems. Most of the hundreds of poems collected here are short: "Take someone who does not keep score, / who is not looking to be richer, or afraid of losing, / who has not the slightest interest even / in his own personality. He is free." Even the longer ones have the same intimate tone. Richly sensual yet never flowery, Barks' language emphasizes Rumi's embodied spirituality in a book to savor. --Patricia Monaghan

Review

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From the Back Cover

Considered one of the masterpieces of world literature, *The Big Red Book* is perhaps the greatest work of Rumi, the medieval Sufi mystic who also happens to be the bestselling poet in America.

Rumi was born in 1207 to a long line of Islamic theologians and lawyers on the eastern edge of the Persian Empire in what is now Afghanistan. In order to escape the invading Mongol armies of Genghis Khan, his family moved west to a town now found in Turkey, where he eventually became the leader of a school of whirling dervishes. It was a fateful day in 1244 when he met Shams Tabriz, a wild mystic with rare gifts and insight. The renowned scholar Rumi had found a soul mate and friend who would become his spiritual mentor and literary muse. "What I had thought of before as God," Rumi said, "I met today in a human being."

Out of their friendship, Rumi wrote thousands of lyric poems and short quatrains in honor of his friend Shams Tabriz. They are poems of divine epiphany, spiritual awakening, friendship, and love. For centuries, Rumi's collection of these verses has traditionally been bound in a red cover, hence the title of this inspired classic of spiritual literature.

### Users Review

**From reader reviews:**

**Maria Abel:**

Here thing why this particular Rumi: The Big Red Book: The Great Masterpiece Celebrating Mystical Love

and Friendship are different and trustworthy to be yours. First of all examining a book is good but it really depends in the content than it which is the content is as tasty as food or not. Rumi: The Big Red Book: The Great Masterpiece Celebrating Mystical Love and Friendship giving you information deeper and different ways, you can find any e-book out there but there is no book that similar with Rumi: The Big Red Book: The Great Masterpiece Celebrating Mystical Love and Friendship. It gives you thrill reading journey, its open up your own personal eyes about the thing that happened in the world which is perhaps can be happened around you. You can bring everywhere like in park, café, or even in your means home by train. For anyone who is having difficulties in bringing the paper book maybe the form of Rumi: The Big Red Book: The Great Masterpiece Celebrating Mystical Love and Friendship in e-book can be your option.

### **Michele Reynolds:**

Spent a free time to be fun activity to complete! A lot of people spent their down time with their family, or their particular friends. Usually they performing activity like watching television, likely to beach, or picnic within the park. They actually doing same every week. Do you feel it? Do you wish to something different to fill your personal free time/ holiday? Can be reading a book may be option to fill your totally free time/ holiday. The first thing you will ask may be what kinds of reserve that you should read. If you want to try out look for book, may be the publication untitled Rumi: The Big Red Book: The Great Masterpiece Celebrating Mystical Love and Friendship can be excellent book to read. May be it could be best activity to you.

### **Todd Voss:**

Playing with family in a very park, coming to see the ocean world or hanging out with close friends is thing that usually you could have done when you have spare time, and then why you don't try thing that really opposite from that. 1 activity that make you not sensation tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you already been ride on and with addition of knowledge. Even you love Rumi: The Big Red Book: The Great Masterpiece Celebrating Mystical Love and Friendship, you could enjoy both. It is good combination right, you still wish to miss it? What kind of hang-out type is it? Oh can happen its mind hangout men. What? Still don't understand it, oh come on its referred to as reading friends.

### **Richard Dean:**

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