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The Masnavi I Manavi Of Rumi
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MAULANA JALALU-'D-DIN
MUHAMMAD RUMI

Abridged and Translated by E.H. Whinfield

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Synopsis

Also known as THE SPIRITUAL COUPLETS OF MAULANA JALALU-'D-DIN MUHAMMAD RUMI with active Table of Contents for easy Kindle navigation. The Masnavi, Masnavi-I Ma'navi or Mesnevi (Turkish), also written Mathnawi, Ma'nawi, or Mathnawi, is an extensive poem written in Persian by Jalal al-Din Muhammad Rumi, the celebrated Persian Sufi saint and poet. It is one of the best known and most influential works of both Sufism and Persian literature. The Masnavi is a series of six books of poetry that amount to about 25,000 verses or 50,000 lines. It is a spiritual writing that teaches Sufis how to reach their goal of being in true love with God. The title Masnavi-I Ma'navi means "Rhyming Couplets of Profound Spiritual Meaning." Rumi himself referred to the Masnavi as "the roots of the roots of the roots of the (Islamic) Religion.". The Masnavi is a poetic collection of rambling anecdotes and stories derived from the Quran, hadith sources, and everyday tales. Stories are told to illustrate a point and each moral is discussed in detail. It incorporates a variety of Islamic wisdom but primarily focuses on emphasizing inward personal Sufi interpretation. This work by Rumi is referred to as a "sober" Sufi text. It reasonably presents the various dimensions of Sufi spiritual life and advises disciples on their spiritual paths. More generally, it is aimed at anyone who has time to sit down and ponder the meaning of life and existence.

The Masnavi was a Sufi masterpiece started during the final years of Rumi's life. He began dictating the first book around the age of 54 around the year 1258 and continued composing verses until his death in 1273. The sixth and final book would remain incomplete. Each book consists of about 4,000 verses and contains its own prose introduction and prologue. Considering there are no epilogues, one must read the proceeding volumes to fully benefit from the wisdom presented by Rumi. Some scholars suggest that in addition to the incomplete work of Book 6, there might be a seventh volume. The six books of the Masnavi can be divided into three groups of two because each pair is linked by a common theme: Books 1 and 2: They are principally concerned with the nafs, the lower carnal self, and its self-deception and evil tendencies. Books 3 and 4: These books share the principal themes of Reason and Knowledge. These two themes are personified by Rumi in the Biblical and Quranic figure of the Prophet Moses. Books 5 and 6: These last two books are joined by the universal ideal that man must deny his physical earthly existence to understand God's existence.

About the Publisher
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Book Information
Friends: This entry is mis-titled. This is not the complete first book on Rumi’s 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 dissapointed 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 Avater 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. Cathering 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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