

Become This Human Consciousness

Fragments of Rumi

Designed by Brent Payton

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Thank You!

Thanks to the authors of these quotes and the makers of the tools used to create these posters such as MiKTeX, Lua^ATeX, and GNU Make.

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Disclaimer

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Interpretation

The words of which the initial letter is capitalized have meanings defined under the following conditions. The following definitions shall have the same meaning regardless of whether they appear in singular or in plural.

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About Rumi

Born Jalāl al-Dīn Muḥammad Rūmī (Persian: ^۱ی‌م‌و‌ر د‌م‌ح‌م نی‌دل‌ال‌ال‌ح) in the town of Vakhsh (present-day Tajikistan) while his father, the eminent Sufi scholar Baha-ud-Din Walad, was traveling. After his father's death, the family moved westward, eventually settling in Konya, then the capital of the Seljuk Sultanate of Rum (modern-day Turkey). Konya became Rumi's lifelong home and the cultural hub where he taught.

Spiritual turning point

In 1244 - 1247, Rumi encountered the wandering dervish Shams-i-Tabrīzī. Their intense, unconventional friendship sparked a profound inner crisis for Rumi, pushing him beyond scholarly study into ecstatic mysticism. Shams disappeared (likely murdered) in 1247; the loss deepened Rumi's yearning and fueled his poetic outpourings, which he framed as dialogues with the "Beloved" (God).

Teaching and influence

Rumi founded the Mawlānā order (later known as the Mevlevi or "Whirling Dervishes"), institutionalizing his emphasis on music, poetry, and dance as pathways to divine remembrance. His works were originally written in Persian but

¹[Wikipedia](#)

quickly spread across the Islamic world, influencing Turkish, Arabic, Urdu, and later European literature. Western translators (most famously Coleman Barks) popularized Rumi in the 20th century, often emphasizing the universal love aspect while sometimes downplaying the explicitly Islamic context. Recent scholarship urges readers to retain that context to appreciate the full theological depth.

Legacy

Rumi remains a central figure in Sufi mysticism, revered as a saint-poet whose verses bridge the personal and the cosmic. His poetry is quoted in diverse settings, from academic conferences to pop-culture playlists, demonstrating its enduring resonance. Contemporary scholars note both the timeless spiritual insights and the historical particularities (e.g., his reliance on Qur'anic imagery) that make his work a rich site for inter-religious dialogue and literary study.

In sum, Rumi's life was a journey from a scholarly upbringing in Konya to an ecstatic, poetic articulation of divine love, leaving a corpus that continues to inspire seekers across cultures while inviting careful, context-aware reading.

About This Collection

As someone who has created many posters of inspirational quotes and phrases, some of the best being from Rumi, I was inspired to devote an entire collection to this author. To accomplish this, I read “The Essential Rumi” by Coleman Barks (HarperCollins, 2010) and highlighted my favorite passages for inclusion here.

I have chosen to include only fragments of Rumi’s verse in the hopes that you will be enticed to read an entire book of his wisdom. Also, as this is a collection of posters, I had to be selective about what text to include in the interest of readability.

Learn something then from wheat.
How a seed goes down in the
ground,
breaks open, and rises new.

Likewise, sunlight and rain enter us
and become this human
consciousness
that is returning to God.

Rumi, *Town and Country*

Love's secret is always
lifting its head
out from under the covers,
“Here I am!”.

Rumi, *I Have Five Things to
Say*

Be melting snow.
Wash yourself of
yourself.

Rumi, *Be Melting Snow*

There is a light seed
grain inside.
You fill it with
yourself, or it dies.

Rumi, *Where Are We?*

Don't try to put out a fire
by throwing on more fire!
Don't wash a wound with blood!

No matter how fast you run,
your shadow more than keeps up.
Sometimes, it's in front!

Rumi, *Enough Words?*

Become the sky.

Take an axe to the prison wall.

Escape.

Walk out like someone
suddenly born into color.

Do it now.

Rumi, *Quietness*

But don't be satisfied with stories,
how things
have gone with others. Unfold
your own myth, without
complicated explanation,
so everyone will understand the
passage,
We have opened you.

Rumi, *Unfold Your Own Myth*

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The lordly wind loves the
weakness
and the lowness of grasses.
Never brag of being
strong.

Rumi, *The Grasses*

Break your pitcher
against a rock.
We don't need any longer
to haul pieces of the
ocean around.

Rumi, *The Center of the Fire*

Awe is the salve
that will heal our eyes.

Rumi, *Muhammad and
the Huge Eater*

What is the body?

Endurance.

What is love?

Gratitude.

What is hidden in our chests?

Laughter.

What else?

Compassion.

Rumi, *All Rivers at Once*

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To praise is to praise
how one surrenders
to the emptiness.

Rumi, *Buoyancy*

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We are tasting the taste of this
minute
of eternity. We are pain
and what cures pain, both. We
are
the sweet cold water and the
jar that pours.

Rumi, *Music Master*

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This dance is the
joy of existence.

Rumi, *We Three*

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An empty mirror and your worst
destructive habits,
when they are held up to each
other,
that's when the real making
begins.
That's what art and crafting are.

Rumi, *Childhood Friends*

The way you make
love is the way
God will be with
you.

Rumi, *Breadmaking*

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Every object and being
in the universe is
a jar overfilled with
wisdom and beauty.

Rumi, *The Gift of Water*

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The cure for the pain is in
the pain.

Good and bad are mixed.
If you don't have both,
you don't belong with us.

Rumi, *There's Nothing Ahead*

A saint is a theater
where the qualities of
God can be seen.

Rumi, *Sheikh Kharraqani
and His Wretched Wife*

World-power means
nothing. Only the
unsayable,
jeweled inner life
matters.

Rumi, *Polishing the Mirror*

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There are many winds full of
anger,
and lust and greed. They
move the rubbish
around, but the solid
mountain of our true nature
stays where it's always been.

Rumi, *Ali in Battle*

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If you want to expound on
love,
take your intellect out
and let it lie down
in the mud. It's no help.

Rumi, *The King and the Hand-
maiden and the Doctor*

The whole world is
a form for truth.

Rumi, *Green Ears*

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Don't feed both sides of
yourself equally.
The spirit and the body
carry different loads
and require different
attentions.

Rumi, *A Basket of Fresh Bread*

We are the night ocean filled
with glints of light. We
are the space
between the fish and the
moon,
while we sit here together.

Rumi, *The Private Banquet*

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There is no early and late for us.
The only way to measure a
lover
is by the grandeur of the
beloved.

Rumi, *Judge a Moth by the Beauty
of its Candle*

Something opens our wings.

Something
makes boredom and hurt
disappear.

Someone fills the cup in front
of us.

We taste only sacredness.

Rumi, *On the Turn*

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Dance, when you're broken open.
Dance, if you've torn the bandage off.
Dance in the middle of the fighting.
Dance in your blood.
Dance when you're perfectly free.

Rumi, *On the Turn*

You have escaped the
cage. Your wings
are stretched out. Now,
fly.

Rumi, *An Understanding of
the Question*

All beauty is
God's beauty.

Rumi, *Shuttles*

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I make medicine
out of your pain.

Rumi, *Drum*

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Never think that you are
worthless.

God has paid an enormous
amount for you,
and the gifts keep arriving.

Rumi, *A Two-Headed Thing*

This body-existence is a jug.
Understanding is the
water.

The five senses are cracks
Where water drains out.

Rumi, *We Leave off the Endings*

Give me your demons.
I'll take them to the
sea.

Rumi, *How We Move in
Grace*

I pray that I can put
down what I carry.

Rumi, *Through the
Low Gate*

You need not look any
longer.

You have lain down
inside me.

Rumi, *The King's Lead-
Camel*

Tears are worth more
than money.

Tears are blood
distilled into water.

Rumi, *A Dying Dog*

Drunkenly asleep, tenderly
awake,
clouded with grief, laughing
like lightning,
angry at war, quiet with
gratitude, we are nothing.

Rumi, *One Strong Brushstroke*
Down