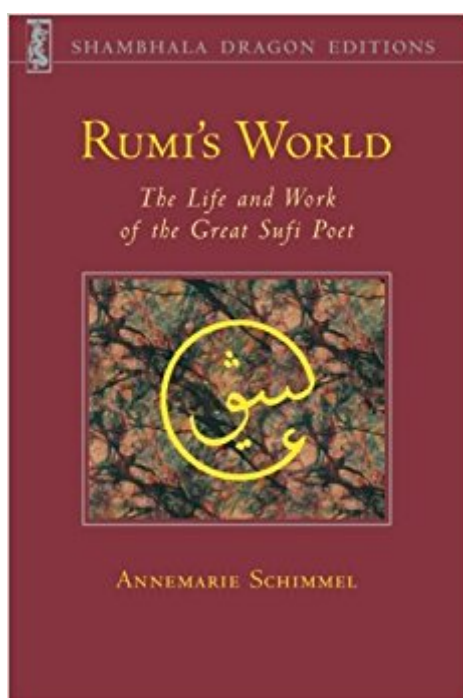


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Rumi's World: The Life And Works Of The Greatest Sufi Poet (Shambhala Dragon Editions)



Synopsis

This book (previously published as *I Am Wind, You Are Fire*) celebrates the extraordinary career of Persia's great mystical poet, Rumi (1207-1273), through the story of his life, along with an enlightening examination of his ecstatic verse. Rumi lived the quiet life of a religious teacher in Anatolia until the age of thirty-seven, when he came under the influence of a whirling dervish, Shams Tabriz, and was moved to a state of mystical ecstasy. One of the results of this ecstasy was a prodigious output of poems about the search for the lost Divine Beloved, whom Rumi identified with Shams. To symbolize this search, Rumi also invented the famous whirling dance of the Melevi dervishes, which are performed accompanied by the chanting of Rumi's poems. Professor Schimmel illuminates the symbolism and significance of Rumi's vast output and offers her own translations of some of his most famous poems.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Annemarie Schimmel has been immersed in Rumi for over forty years. Her scholarship and devotion are magnificent. She has a deep understanding of the poems, the mystical puns, the music, and the dancy inner meanings of Rumi's work." — Coleman Barks, author of *The Essential Rumi*.

Annemarie Schimmel is an international authority on Islamic religion and literature and especially the works of Rumi. The author of over seventy books, she is now retired from Harvard University

and the University of Bonn but continues to lecture worldwide.

Rumi was a Muslim. ..Let's be clear about this. With all the fuss about Rumi and the whole New Age Sufi thing, it is all too easy to forget that Rumi was a Muslim. Rumi was the sort of person he was because he was a Muslim and not in spite of that fact. He founded the Muslim Sufi order that today in the 21st century is the largest Sufi order in the world. . .the Mevlevi (popularly known as the whirling dervishes). We should all remember the fact that we are talking about the impact of a Muslim who led an order of passionate Muslims in the thirteenth century. . .and has a such a following today. The names of extremist terrorists acting in the name of Islam today will not be remembered, let alone have a following. . . a hundred years from now. Professor Schimmel places Rumi squarely in the Islamic perspective, which is where he belongs. This book provides the best short introduction to his life and thought within that context. Teachers and Librarians: Suitable for 9th grade to adult. . . social studies/language arts

I am not sure I should write this review, since I have been unable to finish the book so far. The author's pedigree is also intimidating. Yet this book is a cold emotionless dissection, mostly uninteresting except for an academic who has long lost the sense of who or what he's studying. The book takes Rumi apart like a corpse on a slab. To get through it so far, I've escaped periodically to Coleman Bak's Essential Rumi. His brief introduction and forward alone provides more insight into what Rumi is about than the three-quarters of the book I've managed to struggle through so far. Prodded on by the other reviews to the suspicion that I may have missed something here, I plan to finish the book and reread it again. Yet I should warn others that reading this book as an introduction to Rumi may be like viewing a bearskin rug as an introduction to wildlife. After a reread, I will revisit this review, perhaps reedit it at that time. Sept. 07

I expected to get a transcript of the actual works from Rumi to read and interpret myself. That is not the case with this book. While it does provide the historical context (that's why I gave him 2 stars instead of 1), the author feeds his views and opinions in front of the actual text by Rumi. My opinion of the author's style is poor, at best.

Originally called "I am wind, you are fire" This is perhaps one of the best introductions to the life and works of Rumi around by one of the greatest scholars of Rumi in our modern times (sadly professor Schimmel has now passed away) The book is well documented and easy to read covering

the basics of Rumi's life and teachings both placing them in their correct historical and religious context; none of this modernist revisionist Rumi poetry that is being passed around as the great man's works this is an authentic biography of his life. Excellent read, check out Iqbal, Arberry and Nicholson after this book.

This book is very beautifully written; though a work of prose it reads like poetry--such is the beauty of the language. Indeed, such writing is befitting of the subject: the great Islamic saint and Sufi mystic Mawlana Jalal ud Deen Rumi [may his secret be sanctified!]. In this aspect it too succeeds dealing with all aspects of Mawlana's life in detail and with great love and enthusiasm which shines through in each line. If you are interested in Mawlana Rumi--get this book!

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