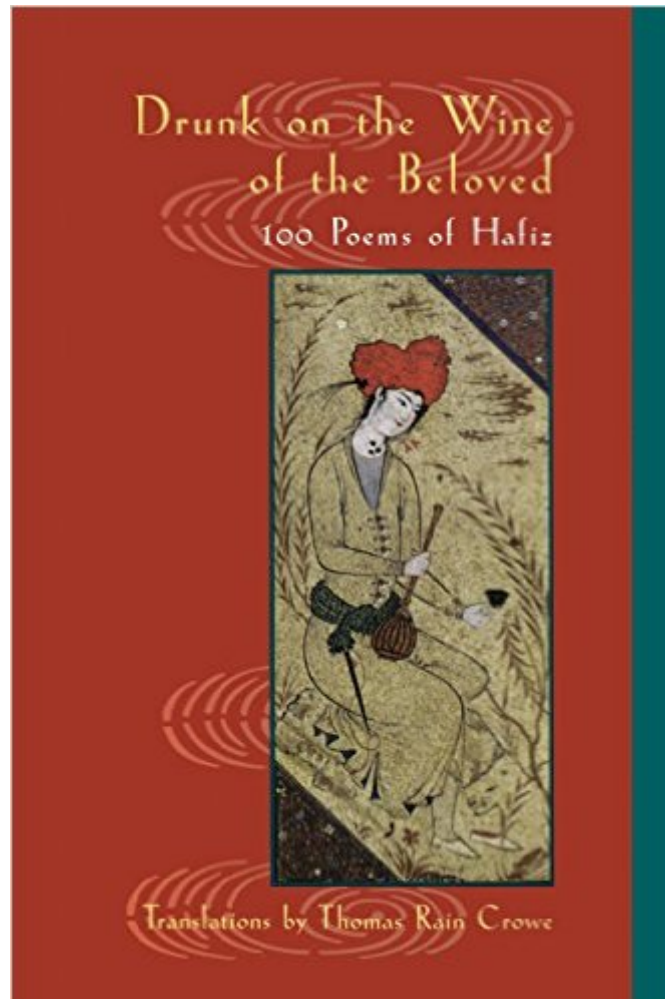


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Drunk On The Wine Of The Beloved: Poems Of Hafiz



Synopsis

The Persian Sufi poet Hafiz (1326-1390) is a towering figure in Islamic literature-and in spiritual attainment as well. Known for his profound mystical wisdom combined with a sublime sensuousness, Hafiz was the supreme master of a poetic form known as the ghazal (pronounced "guzzle"), an ode or song consisting of rhymed couplets celebrating divine love. In this selection of his poems, wine and the intoxication it brings are the image that expresses this love in all its joyful abandon, painful longing, bewilderment, and surrender. Through ninety-five free-verse renditions, we gain entry into the mystical world of Hafiz's Winehouse, with its happy minstrels, its bewitching Winebringer, and its companions in drunken longing whose hearts cry out, "More wine!" Thomas Rain Crowe brings a new dimension to our growing appreciation of Hafiz and his wise drunkard's advice to the seekers of God: In this world of illusion, take nothing other than this cup of wine; In this playhouse, don't play any games but love.

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Customer Reviews

Thomas Rain Crowe's renderings of Hafiz are worth reading. They seem to be fairly close to the original, unlike some Coleman Barks mockeries I've read. (Barks is well-reputed. I am only speaking of his Hafiz renderings.) Rain Crowe does not translate from the original Persian, however, so its to be kept in mind that one is reading an American interpretation of the meaning of Hafiz' words. I'm wary of renderers who do not translate. I would recommend this book as an addition to one's Hafiz collection, but perhaps not as one's sole reference. For a very good original translation, I recommend The Green Sea of Heaven by Elizabeth T. Gray. In addition to excellent translations, it

also has extensive notes on the text. Hafiz of Shiraz by Peter Avery and John Heath Stubbs is also an original translation and good, but I prefer Ms. Gray's. Beware of Daniel Ladinsky. You could read his books for hours and never read a Hafiz poem. Ladinsky writes his own poems and sells them as Hafiz poems. Whether you call that "forgery" or "smart-marketing", either way it is dishonest, but I suppose we'll all reap what we sow eventually.

Drunk on the Wine of the Beloved is a collection of 100 Poems by the Persian Sufi poet Hafiz. Hafiz, properly Shamsuddin Muhammad-i-Hafiz-i-Shiraz, lived in the 14th century and is generally acknowledged to be the greatest poet of the Persian culture. Hafiz writes in a form known as the Ghazal, which is a short poem of 8 or so rhyming couplets, which was often set to music. The translations in this work are by Thomas Rain Crowe, who has many credentials as a translator of Eastern poetry. Hafiz's poems are beautiful and have an enchanting cadence. They are full of hope, faith and conviction. He writes movingly of down-to-earth topics, but his underlying message is ever-present and positive. In one poem he writes: "If your life has hit hard times, go to the Winehouse and enjoy some Wine." Wine and drinking are Hafiz's metaphor for overwhelming love of God. The image of drunkenness suggests both reckless abandon and a frustrating and intoxicating lack of control over human life. Whether you choose to embrace or pass over his symbolic message, you will enjoy the poetry. It's language is as simple as it is powerful and compelling. This is a splendid book of poems, and I highly recommend it. Enjoy.

Sufi poetry in English can be too abstract; one wonders if this is the fault of the poet or the translator. This version suggests that translation can be transparent. I was pleased. Some favorite poems were missing, but others were welcome though new to me. Highly recommended.

This is a great, beautiful and not so easy to find book from one of my favorite authors, Hafiz. Fast delivery in wrapping paper and a personally signed shipment statement. What's not to like?!?!

IT IS A WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE TO GO BACK SO FAR IN THE PAST AND FIND LOVE. THE BOOK CREATES A PERSIAN PAST FULL OF BEAUTIFUL POETRY DEDICATED TO LOVE. IT GIVES ONE HOPE FOR THE FUTURE.

thank you, just as described.

There is a reason Coleman Barks's free "renderings" of Rumi (and of other medieval mystic poets, including Hafiz) sell so well: they're often witty, poetic, even sexy. Whereas there is none of that in THIS collection by Crowe. Instead, you get at least 30 repetitive pieces (I lost count) out of 100 that all begin or contain minimal variations on the line "Winebringer! Bring me more Wine!" What this collection is I don't know, but it's neither scholarship nor poetry. "Poor Hafiz!" (as the Persian sometimes refers to himself) has taken on a new meaning indeed in the hands of someone like Crowe.

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