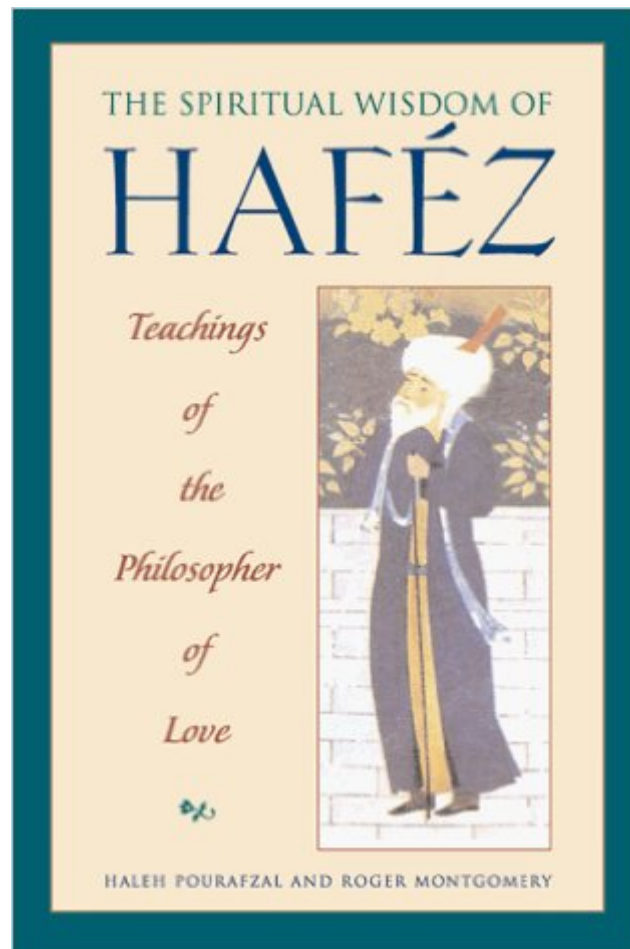


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Spiritual Wisdom Of Haf  z: Teachings Of The Philosopher Of Love



Synopsis

An exploration of the Persian poet's spiritual philosophy, with original translations of his poetry. The perfect introduction to the man known as the philosopher of love. Speaks directly to the cutting edges of philosophy, psychology, social theory, and education, from the wisdom of a mystic and heartfelt poet. For six hundred years the Persian poet Hafez has been read, recited, quoted, and loved by millions of people in his homeland and throughout the world. Like his predecessor Rumi, he is a spiritual guide in our search for life's essence. Hafez is both a mystic philosopher and a heartfelt poet of desires and fears. Haleh Pourafzal and Roger Montgomery invite you to savor the wit and passion of his words. The Spiritual Wisdom of Hafez is the perfect introduction to the man known as the philosopher of love, whose message of spiritual transcendence through rapture and service to others is especially important as our troubled world enters the twenty-first century. His wisdom speaks directly to the cutting edges of philosophy, psychology, social theory, and education, and can serve as a bridge of understanding between the West and the Middle East, two cultures in desperate need of mutual empathy.

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Customer Reviews

This is one of the most unique books about Persian poetry and certainly about the poet Hafez (or Hafiz). It challenges the reader to rise up to a sophisticated level of understanding about poetry and literature and how this understanding fits into everyday life. If you are a lover of Persian poetry, it also challenges many ideas recorded in English about ecstatic poetry and the limitations of thought coming out of ancient Persia and modern Iran. That the book works so well is a surprise to this

reader, who's spent a quarter century with his head aimed in a very different direction about Hafez and the ancient Persians. Having authored a paper about the poet many years ago, it's a pleasure to see with new eyes. The authors have succeeded in creating a beautiful book of unique translations and explanations. Still, the reader's path in this book is not always an easy one, primarily for two reasons. One, the authors have basically ignored the so-called established truths, stereotypes and misperceptions associated with Hafez that have been repeated over and over for more than a century by many academic translators. Secondly, they have also ignored the "New Age" approach of creating weak renditions of the poems or, as some are strangely doing, "channeling" new poems by Hafez, the great poet who passed from the scene about 1390 A.D. Instead, they draw on authentic experience with the poet's work in its original Farsi language and they take word-for-word translations and then extend them in meaningful modern language. Then they explain this work in terms the Perennial Philosophy that runs through virtually every major spiritual tradition and religion. A bit strangely, the best part of this book comes at the very end.

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