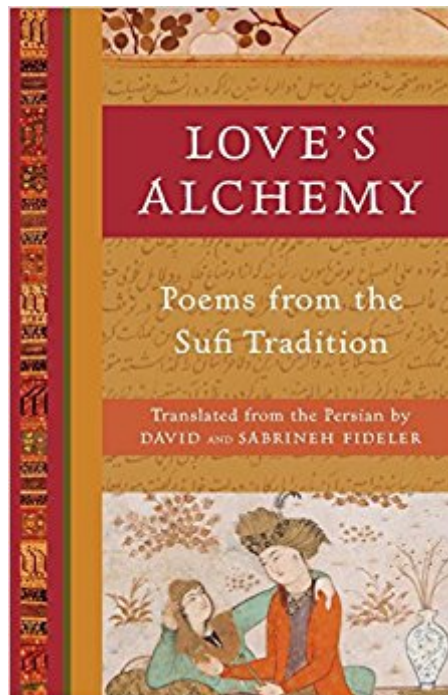




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Love's Alchemy: Poems From The Sufi Tradition



Synopsis

Working from the original Persian sources, translators and scholars David and Sabrineh Fideler offer faithful, elegant translations that represent the full scope of Sufi poetry. These concise, tightly focused meditations span only a few lines but reveal worlds of meaning. The poems explore many aspects of human life and the spiritual path, but they center on the liberating power of love.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"I have appreciated the highly original, solid, and beautiful work of David Fideler for many years. *Love's Alchemy* could come only from his wide knowledge and sense of aesthetics. In its musical words, the Sufi poets paint a delicate word-bridge between the earthly and the spiritual, and they charm us, wakening the human urge to transcend ourselves."

— Thomas Moore, author of *Care of the Soul* and *Dark Nights of the Soul*

"*Love's Alchemy* takes us into the tavern of mystical love, full of intoxicating treasures of Sufi poetry. Here are the masters of love, Rumi among them, whose words speak directly to the soul. With beauty and wisdom they teach us the truth of our eternal nature and how the heart opens to God. Treasure these poems and allow them to nourish the secret and hidden parts of your innermost being."

— Llewellyn Vaughan-Lee, PhD, author of *Sufism: The Transformation of the Heart*

"*Love's Alchemy* is a delightful and absorbing collection of translations from the major Persian Sufi poets. David and Sabrineh Fideler have provided authentic interpretations of these mystical texts in memorable form. Lovers of Rumi will be pleased to find so many other great authors from this tradition."

— Carl W. Ernst, Zachary Smith Professor, Department of

Religious Studies, University of North Carolina“Chapel Hill;This is how Sufis themselves teach Sufism: through poetry as alchemy. And these translations are indeed transmutations, changing the gold of Persian into the gold of English.“• Peter Lamborn Wilson, author of Sacred Drift: Essays on the Margins of Islam

It is quite possible that the translations here are academically sound--but I can discern no poetry in them. Poetry needs poets to bring it to life, and these are more like earnest sentences than poems...

A passionate and romantic collection of poems on earthly love.The Sufi poets offer a rare glimpse into the hearts and minds of the Persian people.

Very nice collection of short Sufi poetry. The verses are rich in colors and images and it is not difficult to picture those in your mind. Try it - it's a beautiful sight...

I delayed picking this book up for awhile after it came out - I'm not usually one for poetry. It was my loss, and a great one at that.This volume of thought-provoking and inspirational writings by many great Sufi poets is of immense value to spiritual folks of any faith as well as those who simply appreciate fine poetry. The translation by David & Sabrineh Fideler is very clean and sparing - spartan while still exhibiting an elegance that only comes from both knowledge of the language as well as the meanings intended by the authors.It's really rare that a compendium of poetry can serve admirably both for leisure reading and academic study, but they've really pulled it off here. The included glossary also helps to explain Sufi symbolism to the reader unacquainted with such things, and thus the work can also serve well as a da'wa tool.To sum it up, I highly recommend this book & thank the translators for the excellent job they have done here.

The translators of Love's Alchemy put it best in the introduction: "...if this volume conveys anything, it is the message that Rumi is not alone." For lovers of the more widely known mystic Persian poets, this book will introduce them to the vast range of other masterful writers of that tradition.The Fidelers have not only recreated the lines in poetically readable English, but they have also provided a valuable appendix on translation issues, and additionally a discussion of the different forms of Persian poetry. Glossary and valuable notes at the end of the book provide further study for those who wish to delve deeper into the mysteries presented within the verses.It makes a great gift as well for those Rumi and Hafez lovers!

This is an exceptional collection of Sufi poetry from a wide range of writers, some well known in the West and some fairly obscure. David and Sabrineh Fideler's translations are lovely and straight forward, and their choice of poems benefit both newcomers to Sufism and those looking for the deepest truths. Highly recommended.

Another very good collection of Persian Sufi poetry. This book focuses on poems and poets that are not as well known in the West. A good place to discover some new names.

This is a very excellent and smooth translation that captures the essence of the sufism and spirituality.

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