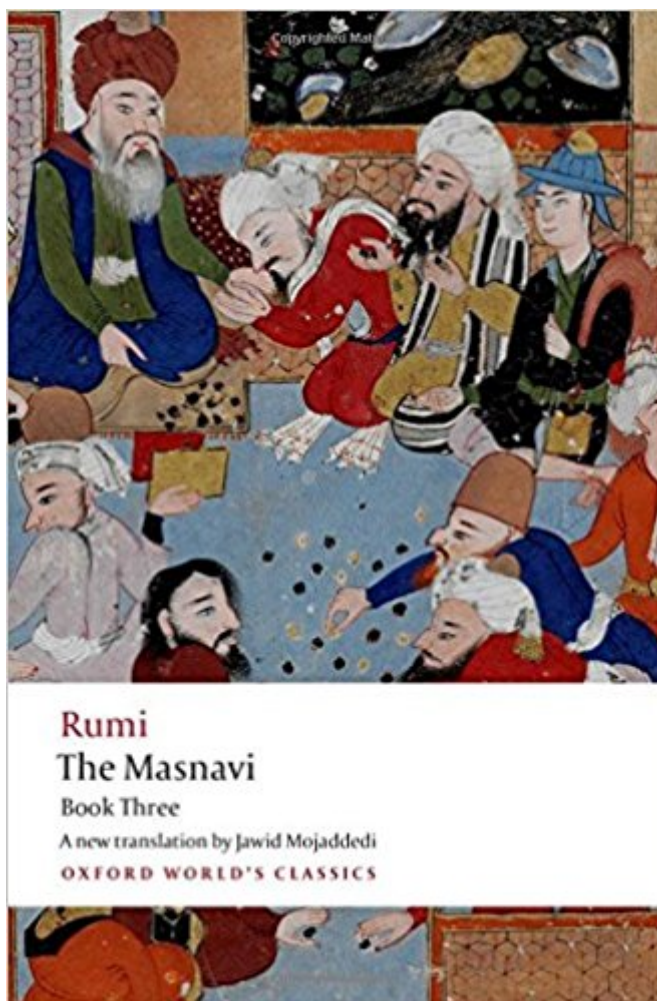


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The Masnavi, Book Three (Oxford World's Classics)



Synopsis

Rumi is the greatest mystic poet to have written in Persian, and the Masnavi is his masterpiece. Divided into six books and consisting of some 26,000 verses, the poem was designed to convey a message of divine love and unity to the disciples of Rumi's Sufi order, known today as the Whirling Dervishes. Like the earlier books, Book Three interweaves amusing stories with homilies to instruct pupils in the understanding of God's meaning. It has a special focus on epistemology, illustrated with narratives that involve the consumption of food. The first ever verse translation of Book Three of the Masnavi, It follows the original by presenting Rumi's most mature mystical teachings in simple and attractive rhyming couplets. 'Our soul each moment struggles hard with death -Think of your faith as though it's your last breath. Your life is like a purse, and night and day Are counters of gold coins you've put away'

Book Information

Series: Oxford World's Classics

Paperback: 352 pages

Publisher: Oxford University Press; 1 edition (January 1, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0199652031

ISBN-13: 978-0199652037

Product Dimensions: 7.7 x 0.7 x 5.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.1 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 4 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #537,994 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #112 in [Books > Religion & Spirituality > Islam > Theology](#) #115 in [Books > Religion & Spirituality > Islam > Rituals & Practice](#) #179 in [Books > Religion & Spirituality > Islam > Sufism](#)

Customer Reviews

Jalal al-Din RumiJawid Mojaddedi is a native of Afghanistan, and read Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Manchester. He has taught Arabic and Islamic Studies at the Universities of Manchester and Exeter, and served as an editor of Encyclopaedia Iranica at the Center for Iranian Studies, Columbia University. His most recent publication is Beyond Dogma: Rumi's Teachings on Friendship with God and Early Sufi Theories (OUP, 2012). Mr. Mojaddedi was also made a National Endowment for the Arts Literature Translation Fellow for 2014-2015.

Imagine! The author, unlike Bly, Barks and the like, actually knows Persian! How boringly academic. How utterly un-fraudulent. Not everyone will go for the rhymed couplets--Lewis makes a case for blank verse. But like it or not, part of the pleasure of the great Persian poets was the hypnotic quality of their couplets--Mesnevis, to use the technical term. Granted the form is more sophisticated in Persian than English, but this, and Davis' translation of Attar are pretty convincing. I hope Mojaddadi will finish this Herculean task.

The prospect of reading The Mathnawi of Jalalu'ddin Rumi in English is exciting. The Luzak version of Nicholson's work was most enjoyable, and it is to be hoped that that, too will sometime be available completely, (right now only seems to offer books 2, 4 and 6 for some strange reason), as well as the completion of this translator's work. Cannot get enough of Rumi, especially the Mathnawi, even if the translator is not, as was Rumi, a Perfect Master, and thus the rendering is limited by the worldly-minded. Still, it is a rare privilege for us to gain a glimpse into this treasure. And, who knows, perhaps a culture that values such treasure may someday nurture a mind worthy of doing justice to such a translation.

Book 3 as translated by Mojadedi is as magnificent as his first 2 translations. This is a line by line translation of the ENTIRE book 3. NOT EXCERPTS. The rhyming couplets truly capture the melodic verse in the Farsi (Persian). I have read this book side by side in the Farsi and it is truly a masterpiece translation. I am eagerly waiting for book 4 to continue. The translation is easy to understand in plain English with none of Nicholson's mumbo jumbo.

an important work which was first translated by a grate man called r.a. Nicholson.

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