

place [of freedom]. The wicked is delivered from his wickedness; the prisoner escapes the sorrow of his confinement. The world appears wide, but in truth is very narrow. Its laughter lamentation, its glory shame.

-Rumi, "Mathnawi"

The best charity is followed by contentment so begin with those related to you.

-The Prophet Muhammad, as reported by Abu Hurairah

Blessed was the hour that You saw me. I was dead and You gave me a new life. You sought me like a mother; I shunned you like a fool. Happy is he who espies Your face, O You whom pure spirits praise. How I reproached You with many silly words.

-Rumi, "Mathnawi"

With the divine solace "Be not afraid" all fear of oceans or waves or foam should be gone. Rejoice in Him and nothing else. He is the spring; everything else is desolate ice.

-Rumi, "Mathnawi"

Your power comes from the power of God, not from the veins or the beating heart. The power of the saints comes from God, not from feasts and trays of provisions. They were created from the light that transcends the angel and the Spirit alike.

-Rumi, "Mathnawi"

When the ocean of Mercy begins to foam, even stones drink the water of life. The face of earth becomes lush green, the dead wood springs to life, the lamb and the wolf together play, the despairing becomes valiant and strong.

-Rumi, "Mathnawi"

Glorified by heaven, O radiant Sun, illumine the earth forever and more that the hearts of its inhabitants unite and ascend and become one with the exalted Divine.

-Rumi, "Mathnawi"

Give your life for that cup of divine wisdom. How can you succeed without endurance and patience? To wait for the sake of that cup is no hardship. Show patience, for patience is the key to joy.

-Rumi, "Mathnawi"

The falcon made the king's hand his joy, and because indifferent to the search for carrion. All animals from the gnat to the elephant are of the family of God and depend on Him for sustenance. What a sustainer is God!

-Rumi, "Mathnawi"

Sometimes in order to help He makes us cry. Happy the eye that sheds tears for His sake. Fortunate the heart that burns for His sake. Laughter always follows tears. Blessed are those who understand. Life blossoms wherever water flows. Where tears are shed divine mercy is shown.

-Rumi, "Mathnawi"

God calls himself "Baseer" [Observant], so that the knowledge that He is watching you may keep you from sinning.

-Rumi, "The Life and Thought of Rumi"

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God made the illusion look real and the real an illusion. He concealed the sea and made the foam visible, the wind invisible, and the dust manifest. You see the dust whirling, but how can the dust rise by itself? You see the foam, but not the ocean. Invoke Him with deeds, not words, for deeds are real and will save you in the afterlife.

-Rumi, "Mathnawi"

The servile earth and the lofty sky: without this opposite the sky would not be so high. The low and high of the earth are winter and spring. The low and high of time are night and day. The low and high of the body are sickness and health. By means of these opposites the world is kept alive; by means of these doubles souls feel fear and hope.

-Rumi, "Mathnawi"

When you resolve to become pious, the devil in your nature cries out at you, "Tread not those paths, O confused one; distress and poverty will overcome you. You will be despised, let down by friends, you will regret it." Dread of the devil has bound their souls; the cries of the devil are the drover of the damned; the call of the Lord is a guardian of the saints.

-Rumi, "Mathnawi"

Had the world been conceived just to praise God, there would be no fervor in glorifying God. Equip man with a sword, remove his infirmities, and see what he will be: a brave knight or a devious thief?

-Rumi, "Mathnawi"

Seek self-discipline with all your soul. Devote yourself to worship and save your soul. Be grateful that God gave you the gift of self-discipline, for you had no power over it. He inspired it within you with the command, "Be!"

-Rumi, "Mathnawi"

During sleep the spirit is set free. Behold how it rejoices in the place [of freedom]. The wicked is delivered from his wickedness; the prisoner escapes the sorrow of his confinement. The world appears wide, but in truth is very narrow. Its laughter lamentation, its glory shame.

-Rumi, "Mathnawi"

Knowledge is light; avarice ice. Knowledge is water; this world dirt. A trickle of wisdom appears from beyond to check the vices of this world. Should the trickle become abundant, none would endure, be it virtue or vice.

-Rumi, "Mathnawi"

Hundreds of thousands of inner eyes were opened and through Your breath made ready to reflect upon the unseen.

-Rumi, "Mathnawi"

The saints are My children in exile, torn away from My dominion and glory. Despised and alone they endure their trials; in secret I am their intimate friend.

-Rumi, "Mathnawi"

The wisdom of this world brings doubt. The wisdom of religion soars above the skies. Reflection on Truth opens the way to the kingdom. Treasures and armies do not make a king. A true king is a king within himself.

-Rumi, "Mathnawi"

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Human beings are created from the dust of the earth; but do they resemble dust? Grapes come from vines; but do grapes look like vines? Does theft have the same shape as gallows? Does piety resemble eternal life? Nothing resembles its consequences. So the root of pain and torment is not evil.

-Rumi, "Masnavi"

There may be sweet pleasures for the body in this world. But anything other than love for God, whose beauty is unmatched, is agony to the soul. What is agony of the soul? It is to advance towards death without being sustained by the water of life.

-Rumi, "Masnavi"

The outward form of things passes away, but the essence remains for ever. How long will you be besotted with the shape of the jug? Cast aside the jug, and seek the water. If you look too closely at the form, you miss the essence. If you are wise, you will always pick out the pearl from the shell.

-Rumi, "Masnavi"

Everyone can see the effects of God's mercy. But who, except God himself, understands the essence of his mercy? Most people cannot understand the essence of any of God's attributes; they only know his attributes through their effects - and also through analogy. Only mystics have eyes to see the essence of God's attributes.

-Rumi, "Masnavi"

God created suffering and heartache, so that joy might be known as their opposite. Hidden things become manifest through their opposites. But God has no opposite; so he remains hidden. Light is known as the opposite of darkness. But God's light has no opposite. Thus we cannot know him through our eyes.

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-Rumi, "Masnavi"

Since you are not a prophet, follow the way taught by prophets. Since you are not a king, be a loyal subject to the king. Since you are not a captain, do not take the helm of the ship. Since you do not possess every skill, have partners in your business. Be as pliant as dough in the hands of others, that you may rise well.

-Rumi, "Masnavi"

You must turn your intelligence into ignorance; you must become mad. Whenever you see something that may yield material profit, flee from it. Curse anyone who praises you. Lend your wealth to the poor and the feckless. Abandon the security of your home, and live in places of danger. Throw away your reputation, and embrace dishonor and disgrace. I shall test my intellect to the limit; and then I shall make myself mad.

-Rumi, "Mathnawi"

A basket full of bread sits on your head; yet you go from door to door begging for crusts. Attend to your own head. Knock on your heart's door.

-Rumi, "Mathnawi"

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Do not look at your own form, be it beautiful or ugly; look at the true object of your love, and the goal of your search. Do not look at your own state, which is feeble and vile; look at the true object of your hopes and aspirations. In whatever state you are, seek God. Seek God as if your lips were dry and you were seeking water. Dry lips are a sign that you will eventually reach a spring. Dry lips are a message from the water: 'If you keep searching, you will find me.' To seek is a blessed activity; it destroys the obstacles on the path to God. If you seek, you will find.

-Rumi, "Mathnawi"

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-Rumi, "Masnavi"

If you want to sit with God, sit with saints. If you do not consort with saints, you will be lost; you will be separated from the whole.

-Rumi, "Masnavi"

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