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## Soofi RUMI (Jalal ud Din)

Posted by admin - 2007/10/01 21:47

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The roar of Rumi - 800 years on  
By Charles Haviland  
BBC News, Balkh, northern Afghanistan

A painting of Rumi by Haydar Hatemi (Copyright: Haydar Hatemi)  
Rumi made Sufi mysticism popular (Courtesy: Haydar Hatemi)

For many years now, the most popular poet in America has been a 13th-century mystical Muslim scholar.

Translations of Mawlana Jalaluddin Rumi's - better known as Rumi - verse are hugely popular and have been used by Western pop stars such as Madonna.

They are attracted by his tributes to the power of love and his belief in the spiritual use of music and dancing - although scholars stress that he was talking about spiritual love between people and God, not earthly love.

Rumi, whose 800th birth anniversary falls on Sunday, was born in 1207 in Balkh in Central Asia, now part of Afghanistan.

I came here to see whether he has much resonance in his native country which, under the Taleban, went so far as to ban music.

Still standing

A young Afghan archaeologist, Reza Hosseini, took me to the ruins of the mud-and-brick-built khanaqa - a kind of madrassa or religious school - where Rumi's father taught and the young boy is believed to have studied, lying just outside the old mud city walls and probably within yards of his birthplace.

It is a quiet and melancholy place, the structure eroded and encroached on by shrubs and bushes.

Khanaqa - a kind of madrassa or religious school - where Rumi studied  
An amazing amount of the madrassa is still surprisingly intact

But an amazing amount of it is still standing - the square structure, its four arches with pointed tops, in the Islamic style, and half of the graceful dome.

Mr Hosseini says the floor was originally constructed of baked bricks and lined with carpets donated by those who came to share the learning.

Sufism - or Islamic mysticism - was already enshrined here before Rumi's time and Mr Hosseini imagines that this corner of the town, by the madrassa, would have echoed to the sound of Sufi singing and prayer.

But, he says, it is unclear how widespread, or acceptable, practices such as music and dance were in the wider population.

When Rumi was barely out of his teens, Balkh was reduced to rubble by Genghis Khan's marauding Mongol invaders.

Rumi had fled in advance with his family and settled in Konya, now in Turkey.

After the murder of his close friend, a Persian wandering dervish called Shams-i-Tabriz, he was depressed for years but later wrote his greatest poetic work, the Mathnawi.

It describes the soul's separation from God and the mutual yearning to reunite.

With his injunctions of tolerance and love, he has universal appeal, says Abdul Qadir Misbah, a culture specialist in the Balkh provincial government.

"Whether a person is from East or West, he can feel the roar of Rumi," he says.

Great love

"When a religious scholar reads the Mathnawi, he interprets it religiously. And when sociologists study it, they say how powerful a sociologist Rumi was. When people in the West study it, they see that it's full of emotions of humanity."

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The Sufi mystical tradition is not immediately apparent in modern Afghanistan.

But with Mr Hosseini's help, I traced a small group of eight Sufi musicians in the city of Mazar-e-Sharif whose great love is Rumi's poetry.

First there is a solo from Rumi's favoured instrument, the reed flute.

Afghan archaeologist, Reza Hosseini  
Mr Hosseini says Sufism was enshrined in Balkh before Rumi

Then the flute player is joined by Mohammed Zakir, usually a shopkeeper, who fills the room with his powerful voice in interpreting the words "I'm a man who's not afraid of love; I'm a moth who's not afraid of burning".

In the third song, all the men join in with an extraordinary, percussive vocal sound which, Mr Zakir says, comes straight from the heart. It continues for nearly 10 intense minutes.

I meet Professor Abdulah Rohen, a local expert on the poet, who says that, regrettably, knowledge of Rumi - also known as Mawlana - has declined recently.

"Forty years ago the economic situation of the people was good. People would work in the summer time collecting food and would eat it in winter. In winter they were free. They would gather in mosques and sing Mawlana's poems.

'Disfavour'

"But in the past 10 or 15 years people's economic situation has deteriorated, so they are far from Mawlana."

He says the advent of communism in Afghanistan brought poetry into disfavour because it was seen as backward-looking.

Afghan reed flute player  
The reed flute was Rumi's favourite instrument

Then the Taleban attempted to crush Sufism and outlawed all music, but Prof Rohen says it has since regained huge popularity.

According to him, Rumi brought Sufi mysticism away from asceticism and into the heart of the people.

Many western fans of Rumi have secularised his message.

It was in fact a religious one; and, says Prof Rohen, Christians and Jews as well as Muslims flocked to his funeral.

I ask him to sum up the poet's message and he offers a quote.

"Mawlana says - if the sky is not in love, then it will not be so clear. If the sun is not in love, then it will not be giving any light. If the river is not in love, then it will be in silence, it will not be moving. If the mountains, the earth are not in love, then there will be nothing growing."

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Post edited by: admin, at: 2007/10/31 12:03

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**Re:Soofi RUMI (BBC)**

Posted by admin - 2007/10/07 02:19

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Banday da Dil na Dhahien [http://www.wasaib.com/components/com\\_fireboard/uploaded/images/uan.JPG](http://www.wasaib.com/components/com_fireboard/uploaded/images/uan.JPG)

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**Re:Soofi RUMI (BBC)**

Posted by Gee Raza - 2007/10/07 10:01

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Maulvi di masnavi, pehlvi zaban wich Quran hey.  
Good Tribute of Iqbal to Rumi.

(Kahein bunde da) dil khush ker jo ae kum karun wadda haj hey.  
Hazaran Kaab-e-aan kinoon hik dil chungu hey.  
Kioon jo Kaaba Ibrahim Alaihissalam di-----hey.  
Te dil wich Wada Rab rehnde.  
Excellent.

Better was to translate the persian verses in Seraiki-arabic script.  
The last verses you written, I think originally are in Punjabi.  
G. Raza

Post edited by: Gee Raza, at: 2007/10/07 12:39

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### Re:Soofi RUMI (BBC)

Posted by admin - 2007/10/07 14:45

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Short life history of Maulvi Jalal ud Din Rumi.  
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### Re:Soofi RUMI (BBC)

Posted by Gee Raza - 2007/10/08 12:17

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moulvi jab tak shams tabrezi da ghulam na buRn wanje, moulana Rom nain thee sangda.

When farsi verse in one color and its translation in seraiki are in other color, then that would surely be nice for many viewers.

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### Re:Soofi RUMI (BBC)

Posted by admin - 2007/10/08 16:15

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Tomb of Rumi Konya, TURKEY [http://www.wasaib.com/components/com\\_fireboard/uploaded/images/tomb\\_of-7ec05bb7c65b5638991b3f19bd4611ab.JPG](http://www.wasaib.com/components/com_fireboard/uploaded/images/tomb_of-7ec05bb7c65b5638991b3f19bd4611ab.JPG)

Post edited by: admin, at: 2007/10/08 16:18

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### Re:Soofi RUMI (BBC)

Posted by admin - 2007/10/10 13:28

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This World Which Is Made of Our Love for Emptiness  
Praise to the emptiness that blanks out existence. Existence:  
This place made from our love for that emptiness!  
Yet somehow comes emptiness,  
this existence goes.  
Praise to that happening, over and over!  
For years I pulled my own existence out of emptiness.  
Then one swoop, one swing of the arm,  
that work is over.  
Free of who I was, free of presence, free of dangerous fear, hope,  
free of mountainous wanting.

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The here-and-now mountain is a tiny piece of a piece of straw  
blown off into emptiness.

These words I'm saying so much begin to lose meaning:

Existence, emptiness, mountain, straw:

Words and what they try to say swept  
out the window, down the slant of the roof.

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## Re:Soofi RUMI (BBC)

Posted by Gee Raza - 2007/10/10 13:58

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Is that translation of some verses my Maulvi?

G. Raza

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## Re:Soofi RUMI

Posted by admin - 2007/10/21 07:58

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oh, if a tree could wander  
and move with foot and wings!  
It would not suffer the axe blows  
and not the pain of saws!  
For would the sun not wander  
away in every night ?  
How could at every morning  
the world be lighted up?  
And if the ocean's water  
would not rise to the sky,  
How would the plants be quickened  
by streams and gentle rain?  
The drop that left its homeland,  
the sea, and then returned ?  
It found an oyster waiting  
and grew into a pearl.  
Did Yusuf not leave his father,  
in grief and tears and despair?  
Did he not, by such a journey,  
gain kingdom and fortune wide?  
Did not the Prophet travel  
to far Medina, friend?  
And there he found a new kingdom  
and ruled a hundred lands.  
You lack a foot to travel?  
Then journey into yourself!  
And like a mine of rubies  
receive the sunbeams? print!  
Out of yourself ? such a journey  
will lead you to your self,  
It leads to transformation  
of dust into pure gold!

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## Re:Soofi RUMI

Posted by admin - 2007/10/31 11:41

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God has given us a dark wine so potent that,

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drinking it, we leave the two worlds.  
God has made sleep so  
that it erases every thought  
God made Majnun love Layla so much that  
just her dog would cause confusion in him.  
There are thousands of wines  
that can take over our minds.  
Don't think all ecstasies  
are the same!  
Jesus was lost in his love for God.  
His donkey was drunk with barley  
Drink from the presence of saints,  
not from those other jars.  
Every object, every being,  
is a jar full of delight.  
Be a connoisseur,  
and taste with caution.  
Any wine will get you high.  
Judge like a king, and choose the purest,  
The ones unadulterated with fear,  
or some urgency about "what's needed."  
Drink the wine that moves you  
as a camel moves when it's been untied,  
And is just ambling about.

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Post edited by: admin, at: 2007/10/31 11:44

Post edited by: admin, at: 2007/10/31 12:05

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### Re:Soofi RUMI (Jalal ud Din)

Posted by admin - 2007/11/17 13:26

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An unjust king asked a devotee what kind of worship is best? He  
replied: 'For thee the best is to sleep one half of the day so as  
not to injure the people for a while.'

I saw a tyrant sleeping half the day.  
I said: 'This confusion, if sleep removes it, so much the better;  
But he whose sleep is better than his wakefulness  
Is better dead than leading such a bad life.'

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### Re:Soofi RUMI (Jalal ud Din)

Posted by GEO - 2008/04/02 14:47

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THANKS

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