

TAKE YOUR POET TO WORK DAY

July 17, 2013



Rumi

*"This is love: to fly toward a secret sky,
to cause a hundred veils to fall each moment.
First to let go of life.
Finally, to take a step without feet."*

Jalāl ad-Dīn Muhammad Rūmī (known to English speakers most commonly as Rumi) was born in 1207 in what is now part of Afghanistan. Rumi later took his father's place as a Muslim teacher, and was a follower of Shams al-Din of Tabriz, a dervish (Sufi ascetic). He is associated with the order of the Mevlevi, founded by his son. The Mevlevi, known as the whirling dervishes, are famous for their circling movements in pursuit of spiritual ecstasy.

Rumi saw poetry, music and dance as the path to god. He is known for his religious-theme poetry and prose, as well as his very popular romantic poetry. He is one of the top-selling and most popular poets in the U.S.

His poetic works have been categorized into the Quatrains, the Odes of the Divan and the Six Books of the Masnavi. His major works include *Maṭnawīye Ma'nawī* (Spiritual Couplets) and *Dīwān-e Kabīr* (Great Work).

Rumi fell ill and died in 1273. His epitaph reads, "When we are dead, seek not our tomb in the earth, but find it in the hearts of men."



Want to take your favorite poet to work
for Take Your Poet to Work Day?

Here's how:

1. Color your poet
2. Cut out your poet along dotted lines
3. Attach a popsicle stick to the back of your poet with tape or glue
4. Take your poet to work as shown



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