

Wine of the Mystic : The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam (Self-Realization Fellowship)

By Paramahansa Yogananda

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The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam as translated by Edward FitzGerald has long been one of the most beloved, and least understood, poems in the English language. In an illuminating new interpretation, Paramahansa Yogananda, author of *Autobiography of a Yogi*, reveals the mystical essence of this enigmatic masterpiece, bringing to light the deeper truth and beauty behind its veil of metaphor. Commonly thought to be a celebration of wine and other worldly pleasures, these lyrical Persian quatrains find their true voice when read as a hymn to the transcendent joys of Spirit.

This beautifully illustrated edition of *Wine of the Mystic* introduces for the first time in book form Paramahansa Yogananda's complete commentaries on an enduring treasure of world literature. Yogananda said: "One day as I was deeply concentrated on the pages of Omar Khayyam's *Rubaiyat*, I suddenly beheld the walls of its outer meanings crumble away, and the vast inner fortress of golden spiritual treasures stood open to my gaze. Ever since, I have admired the beauty of the previously invisible castle of inner wisdom in the *Rubaiyat.* I have felt that this dream-castle of truth, which can be seen by any penetrating eye, would be a haven for many shelter-seeking souls invaded by enemy armies of ignorance. Profound spiritual treatises by some mysterious divine law do not disappear from the earth even after centuries of misunderstanding, as in the case of the *Rubaiyat.* Not even in Persia is all of Omar Khayyam's deep philosophy understood in its entirety, as I have tried to present it."

Winner of the 1995 Benjamin Franklin Award for Best Book in the Field of Religion, this edition features 50 beautiful original color illustrations and includes Persian text and spiritual commentary to each quatrain.

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal
The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam, an 11th-century Persian astronomer-mathematician, has entranced English readers since Edward FitzGerald (1809-83) trans-mogrified a 15th-century version into a hedonistic paean to wine. Some scholars disputed Khayyam's belonging to the ancient Islamic order of Sufism, but in 1967 Robert Graves and Sufi poet Omar Ali-Shah proved the Sufi mystical symbolism in Khayyam's verse. Yogananda (1893- 1952), well known for his Autobiography of a Yogi, employs FitzGerald's fiery first edition of 1859, transforming it into a profound devotional treasure. The wisdom of Khayyam's verses is revealed via a glossary, a glowing spiritual interpretation, and practical application. The quatrains are beautifully illustrated with full-page color plates and Persian calligraphy. It compares well to the 1946 edition's romantic recreations of Isfahan's palace frescoes by Sarkis Katchadourian. Highly recommended. *Dara Eklund, Los Angeles P.L.*
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Review
A glowing spiritual interpretationâ€¦Highly recommended. --- Library Journal

All seekers will appreciate Yogananda's clear discussion on such topics as karma, reincarnation, destiny and free will, maya, meditation, perfecting love, life's problems, true security, the cosmic drama, and more. Yogananda's spiritually illuminating commentary...is a living treasure which can be read and reread, for each reading will unveil another truth in the infinite mystery of life. --- Yoga International

This literary contribution enhances the enormous achievements and innumerable accomplishments that distinguish Paramahansa Yogananda as among the world's great spiritual geniuses. - --Daniel Ross Chandler, Ph.D., Coordinator, The Academy 1993 Parliament of the World's Religions

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About the Author

Born in India on January 5, 1893, Paramahansa Yogananda devoted his life to helping people of all races and creeds to realize and express more fully in their lives the true beauty, nobility, and divinity of the human spirit. After graduating from Calcutta University in 1915, Sri Yogananda took formal vows as a monk of India's venerable monastic Swami Order. Two years later, he began his life's work with the founding of a how-to-live school since grown to twenty-one educational institutions throughout India where traditional academic subjects were offered together with yoga training and instruction in spiritual ideals. In 1920, he was invited to serve as India's delegate to an International Congress of Religious Liberals in Boston. His address to the Congress and subsequent lectures on the East Coast were enthusiastically received, and in 1924 he embarked on a cross-continental speaking tour. Over the next three decades, Paramahansa Yogananda contributed in far-reaching ways to a greater awareness and appreciation in the West of the spiritual wisdom of the East. In Los Angeles, he established an international headquarters for **Self-Realization Fellowship,** the nonsectarian religious society he had founded in 1920. Through his writings, extensive lecture tours, and the creation of Self-Realization Fellowship temples and meditation centers, he introduced hundreds of thousands of truth-seekers to the ancient science and philosophy of Yoga and its universally applicable methods of meditation. Today, the spiritual and humanitarian work begun by Paramahansa Yogananda continues under the direction of Sri Mrinalni Mata, one of his closest disciples and president of Self-Realization Fellowship/Yogoda Satsanga Society of India since 2011. In addition to publishing his writings, lectures and informal talks (including a comprehensive series of Self-Realization Fellowship Lessons for home study), the society also oversees temples, retreats, and centers around the world.

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