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Poems from the Divan of Hafiz

Hafiz (1310 - 1390) Translated by Gertrude Bell

Read by: Kevin W. Davidson
 Length: 1 hour 28 minutes
 Genre(s): Classics, Poetry

Language: English
 Style: Solo

Format	Package	SKU	EAN/UPC	MSLP
MP3 CD	CD Jacket	CJ-6005	0687700170297	\$9.99
MP3 CD	DVD Case	DB-6005	0687700170280	\$9.99
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The forty-three poems contained in this collection include some of the best-known work of Hafiz and serve as an excellent introduction to the writer who continues to be the most popular poet in Iran. Hafiz was a Sufi and wrote primarily lyric poetry, or ghazals, a style well suited for expressing the ecstasy of divine inspiration, often called “the beloved.” His themes include love, faith, and protest, and he employs irony and satire to treat topics such as hypocrisy. His settings often include wine and taverns, which portray the pursuit of ecstasy and freedom in the physical world as a metaphor for the realm of divine love. The first English translation of his work appeared in 1771 and influenced writers such as Thoreau, Goethe, and Emerson, who called him “a poet’s poet”. There is no definitive version of his collected works (or Divan). Published editions range from to 573 to 994 poems. His poems are found in the homes of most Persian-speaking people and are often committed to memory and used as proverbs and sayings.

Hafiz is the pen name of a Persian poet, **Xaja Shams-ud-Din Mohammed Hafez-e Shirazi**, whose works are regarded by many Iranians as the finest in Persian literature. He is considered the most important influence on post-14th century Persian writing. Although his poems are the subject of much analysis and commentary, little is known about the details of his life. He was born in Shiraz, Iran in 1315. He memorized the Quran at an early age and was given the title of Hafiz, which means “guardian” or “one who has memorized the Quran”. After the death of his father, he left school and worked as a baker before becoming a poet at the court of Abu Ishak. Throughout his life He was supported in his work by patronage from several local regimes. He seems to have fallen out of favor with Shar Shuja for mocking inferior poets and was forced to flee Shiraz. (The shah, himself a poet, and may have taken personal offense). His work was widely acclaimed throughout the Islamic world in his lifetime, spawning imitators, and he received offer of patronage from Baghdad to India. Twenty years after his death in 1390 a tomb was erected in his honor in the Musalla Gardens in Shiraz. Upgraded in the 1930s, it is set on a dais and surrounded by rose gardens and is usually crowded with visitors who sing and recite their favorite Hafiz poems in a festive manner. To this day Hafiz remains the most popular Persian poet.