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The Prophet

Kahlil Gibran (1883–1931)

Read by: Michelle Fry Length: 1 hour and 32 minutes
 Language: English Style: Solo
 Genre (s): Fiction, Poetry

Format	Package	SKU	EAN/UPC	MSLP
MP3 CD	CD jacket	CJ-1298	0682550991504	\$9.99
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The Prophet is a highly original book of 26 fables written in prose poetry by Lebanese-American author and poet Kahlil Gibran. The prophet is Al Mustafa, who is about to board a ship to return home after a 12-year stay in the city of Orphalese when he is stopped by a group of people. They begin to discuss life and the human condition. The prophet is questioned by members of his audience on specific topics of general interest, and each prompts a discourse in which Al Mustafa delivers his thoughts in a mixture of vivid imagery, moving allegories, and philosophical insight. By the time they have finished they have covered just about every topic of importance in a deeply moving narrative that reveals mankind's deepest longings, fears and

motivations. *The Prophet* is one of the first examples in the genre of inspirational literature and has been immensely popular since publication, selling over nine million copies and being translated into over 100 languages.

Kahlil Gibran (January 6, 1883 – April 10, 1931) was a Lebanese-American poet, writer and visual artist best known as the author of *The Prophet*. He was born in Bisharri, Lebanon and emigrated to the United States in 1895 with his mother and three siblings, settling in the South End of Boston. He was enrolled in a class for immigrants to learn English and enrolled in art school as well, where he came to the attention of avant-garde artist and publisher Fred Holland Day. He returned to Lebanon three years later to study Arabic, returning to Boston in 1902. Shortly thereafter after he suffered the deaths of his mother and two siblings. He began publishing his work in 1904 in the *Mirror of the West*, an Arabic newspaper, and began exhibiting his art. During his first exhibition he met Mary Elizabeth Haskell, an educator and philanthropist who became an intimate lifelong friend and benefactor. Within ten years he had become well-known in the Arab-American community, publishing many original literary works and drawings in the journal *al-Funun*. *The Prophet* was published in 1923 and sold well, gaining popularity in the 1930's and becoming a staple of the 1960's counterculture. Its success made Gibran the third-best-selling poet of all time, behind Shakespeare and Lao-Tzu. He drank heavily in the years following *The Prophet* and succumbed to cirrhosis and tuberculosis at age 48. He was buried in Lebanon at Mar Sarkis Monastery, now the Gibran Museum. Kahlil Gibran Memorials have been established in Boston and Washington, D.C.