

Name _____

Recognizing Rumi and Saadi: Sufi Poets

Sufism is difficult to define, but it is frequently described as “the mystical side of Islam.”

Use <http://dictionary.reference.com/> to define “mystical” (definition **three**): _____

Rumi and Saadi stand as two famous Sufi poets. The questions below will guide you through background on both men.

Please use <http://www.beliefnet.com/Holistic-Living/2001/05/Rumi-A-Passionate-Heart-Still-Beats.aspx> to answer these questions about Rumi:

1. Rumi’s full name is: _____
2. *Publishers Weekly* magazine called Rumi: _____
3. According to the article, “America...has a bad case of _____.”
4. Rumi was born in _____ (year) in _____ (place).
5. In 1244, in Konya, Rumi met a mystic named _____, who “became a kind of spiritual _____ to Rumi.”
6. Who wrote down Rumi’s poems and copied his turning and turning movements? _____
7. Rumi became popular in the United States in the _____ (time period) when individuals were looking for “spiritual sustenance.”
8. Rumi’s “high emotion” poems can also be described as a “passionate _____.”

(NOTE: In this case, “divine love” means love of God and all of his creations.)

9. Dr. James Fadiman, co-author of *The Essential Sufism*, says that “Rumi is one of the great poets of the world, as _____ is one of the great playwrights....”
10. Circle → TRUE or FALSE: One reason Rumi is so popular is because people can interpret his poems according to what’s important to them, whether of earthly life and love, or of God.
11. One of the most popular translators of Rumi’s works is _____, who is, himself, a renowned poet.
12. Circle → TRUE or FALSE: For his well-received interpretations, this poet-translator (named above) begins with Rumi’s poems written in their original Persian.

13. Rumi's poems are "universal," perhaps, in that they transcend religion, thus uniting people. "Where they [people] meet is where the _____ is."

14. Rumi writes: "My place is _____, a trace of the _____."

15. "Rumi is all about the opening of the _____ Rumi says the sacred space is everywhere and the _____ is your own life...."

Please watch this video of Rumi: http://www.metacafe.com/watch/1174502/introduction_to_rumi/

16. Rumi quote from the opening slide: "The minute I heard my first love story I started looking for you, not knowing how _____ that was. Lovers don't finally meet somewhere. They're in each other _____."

17. Rumi was born in the year 1207 AD in the city of _____.

18. His family later moved to the cities of: N _____, B _____, M _____, D _____, K _____, K _____.

19. In the 20th century, it is believed that Rumi's friend Sham vanished because he was _____.

20. In 1273 AD, at the age of 68, Rumi passed away and was buried in a place called _____.

21. An order of "Whirling Dervishes" was formed to preserve _____.

22. UNESCO, an agency of the United Nations, hopes that Rumi's ideals of _____, _____, and _____ have a positive effect around the world.

Please use this link for the next question: <http://www.environmentalgraffiti.com/news-whirling-dervishes-istanbul-0>

23. A Whirling Dervish is a "mystical _____ who stands between the material and cosmic worlds. His dance is part of a _____ in which the Dervish rotates in a precise rhythm. He represents the _____ revolving on its axis while _____ the sun. The purpose of the ritual whirling is for the Dervish to _____ himself of all distracting thoughts, placing him in a trance; released from the body he conquers _____."

NOTE: "You might run across a Whirling Dervish performance anywhere in the world, but your chances of doing so vastly improve in Egypt....But most people have little idea of the nature of this dance, which is called the sema. It is a rare occurrence of religious ceremony transcending into performing art....Traditional Sufi Dervish may be seen chanting 'Allah' because they know man can die at any moment, and they want only the name of God on their lips and in their hearts." (from <http://www.touregypt.net/featurestories/dervish.htm>)

Please watch the following brief video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GJlofU-OjCO>

