

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>

24. Please list two thoughtful adjectives to describe your impression of the whirling dervishes:

25. Many individuals use a Rumi verse as their “personal quote” on social web pages. For example:

1. “We are born with wings. Why prefer to crawl through life?”
2. “Let the beauty of what you love be what you do.”
3. “Out beyond ideas of wrongdoing and rightdoing, there is a field. I’ll meet you there.”
4. “Let yourself be silently drawn by the stronger pull of what you really love.”
5. “Don’t grieve. Anything you lose comes around in another form.”
6. “Everyone has been made for some particular work and the desire for that work has been put in every heart.”
7. “Only from the heart can you touch the sky.”
8. “Everything in the universe is a pitcher brimming with wisdom and beauty.”
9. “If you are irritated by every rub, how will you be polished?”
10. “Every object, every being, is a jar full of delight.”

Which quote, above, speaks to you the most? # _____

Why? What do you think it means? (Please write at least three full sentences.)

Moving on to Saadi...

Please use this link to answer the following questions about Saadi: <http://www.poetry-chaikhana.com/S/Saadi/>

1. Saadi was born and died in the city of _____ .

2. Historians consider Saadi’s life in three parts:

Part I: _____ in various countries; going to university at _____

Part II: traveling widely, east to _____ and west as far as _____

Part III: devoting himself to _____ and _____

3. Saadi made a pilgrimage to Mecca _____ times.

4. Saadi's two best known works are:

* the Bustan: _____ ← in English (in verse)

* the Gulistan: _____ ← in English (in prose and verse)

5. Circle → TRUE or FALSE: Saadi's works weren't translated into European languages until after many others' works.

6. These words by Persian poet Saadi grace the entrance to the *Hall of Nations* of the UN building in New York.

Human beings are members of a whole,
In creation of one essence and soul.
If one member is afflicted with pain,
Other members uneasy will remain.
If you have no sympathy for human pain,
The name of human you cannot retain.

What is your interpretation of these lines? In what way are they appropriately placed at the United Nations Headquarters? (Please write at least three full sentences in response.)

7. Please peruse the following website and copy one saying of Saadi that speaks to you. Please note that there are many pages of quotes to choose from: <http://www.quotesandpoem.com/quotes/listquotes/author/saadi>

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