

# MEVLANA (MAULANA) JALALUDDIN RUMI

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## Mevlana's Life

Mevlana was born in the city of Belkh of the Horasan (Khurasan) country in Iran, which falls within the boundaries of current Afghanistan on September 30, 1207.

His father, Bahaeddin Veled, was also known as the "Sultanu'l – Ulema" (Sultan of the Scholars). His mother's name was Miimine Hatun (Khatun). Bahaeddin Veled left Belkh with his family and close friends in 1212. The migrating caravan including Mevlana moved through Nishabur, Baghdad and Qufe and to Mecca for pilgrimage. Finally Caravan reached Karaman. After staying in Karaman for 7 years the family came to settle at Konya on 1st of May 1228 upon the insistent invitation of Alaeddin Keykubad, Seljuk Emperor.

Mevlana got married to Gevher Hatun in Karaman in 1225 and had two sons, Sultan Veled and Alaeddin Qelebi. After her death Mevlana got married second time and had a son, Emir Alim Qelebi, and a daughter, Melike Hatun.

After his father's death, Mevlana, who inherited his father's position, started giving sermons in the Medresseh, now known as "Iphkgi Mosque" and sometimes some members of different religions also participated in those teachings and sermons.

Mevlana, who considered human's understanding and be tolerant to each other as the fundamental of his vast intellectual and often emphasized his philosophy to be on the holy Kor'an and Prophet Mohammed (Peace be upon Him), passed away on December 17, 1273 in Konya while he was 66.

As Mevlana believed the day of death to be a day of the reunification to his beloved, that is, the God, he was referring to that day as "*Sheb-I Arus*" which means the bridal night.

Mevlana's mystic philosophy is not an imaginary idealism. He always sees the realities of the life and not secluded himself from it like some others do. According to his mentality, mystic philosophy is the way of the worship, and only reached by desires. Consequently, Hazrat (Exalted) Mevlana is known as a real guide and perfect sheikh.

## His work

1. **Masnawi:** Mystic feelings and ideas are narrated in story forms.
2. **Diavani – Kebir:** Poems on various themes.
3. **Fihi Ma Fih:** It contains talks he gave at various gatherings.
4. **Mektubat (Letters):** A book containing the letters he wrote to his close friends and answers to questions he was asked.
5. **Mecalis-I Seb'a (Seven Courts):** A book compiled by taking notes from his teachings and sermons.
6. **Divan-i Shams:** It is a masterpiece of wisdom and eloquence

## Mevlana Museum

This place which is presently used as museum was formerly the Rose Garden of the Seljuks Palace. It was given as a gift to Mevlana's father by Sultan Alaeddin Keykubad and when Sultan of Scholars died, he was buried in here on January 21, 1231. When he died on December 17, 1273, he was also buried here. Upon his son Sultan Veled's acceptance, "Kubbe-I Hadra" (Green Tomb) was built over Mevlana's grave. The construction works, which were carried on with various additions until 1854, ceased by completing the Dervish cells and opened to the service as the Dergah (Dervish Lodge). Dergah started functioning as a museum in 1926 and its name has been renamed as "Mevlana Museum" in 1954. Mevlana Museum contains most of the original work of Mevlana (1207-1273 CE). On the other hand, no original work of Guru Nanak (1469-1539 CE), who appeared 262 years after Mevlana, is available anywhere in India. Similarly, no prose or poems written by Guru Nanak during his stay in Middle East is available. Is it not strange?

I noticed the Model of kitchen of Mevlana in the museum where two persons were shown cooking and the others were eating and discussing in groups. Was the Langar system of Guru Nanak similar to this one at Kartarpur?

## Some quotes of Mevlana (Maulana) Jalaluddin Rumi

*"Come, Come who or whatever you are.*

*Should you be an unbeliever or a person or a pagan still come.*

*Our lodge is not a lodge of despair.*

*With hundred repentances unheeded you may be, still come."*

*"One candle loses nothing of its light, kindling another."*

*"I have searched all over the world but failed to see a virtue better than being well-behaved."*

*"Three things are needed to become prosperous in life: Attention, order, and hard work."*

*"Man is the most honorable of all creation."*

*"To love human beings is to love God"*

*\*What is to be done, O Moslems? for I do not recognize myself.*

*I am neither Christian, nor Jew, nor Gabr, nor Moslem. I am not of the East, nor of the West, nor of the land, nor of the sea;*

*I am not of Nature's mint, nor of the circling' heaven.*

*I am not of earth, nor of water, nor of air, nor of fire;*

*I am not of the empyrean, nor of the dust, nor of existence, nor of entity.*

*I am not of India, nor of China, nor of Bulgaria, nor of Saqsin*

*I am not of the kingdom of 'Iraqian, nor of the country of Khorasan*

*I am not of the this world, nor of the next, nor of Paradise, nor of Hell*

*I am not of Adam, nor of Eve, nor of Eden and Rizwan.*

*My place is the Placeless, my trace is the Traceless ; 'Tis neither body nor soul, for I belong to the soul of the Beloved.*

*I have put duality away, I have seen that the two worlds are one;*

*One I seek, One I know, One I see, One I call.*

*He is the first, He is the last, He is the outward, He is the inward;*

*I know none other except 'Ya Hu' and 'Ya man Hu.'*

*I am intoxicated with Love's cup, the two worlds have passed out of my ken;*

*I have no business save carouse and revelry.*

*If once in my life I spent a moment without thee,*

*From that time and from that hour I repent of my life.*

*If once in this world I win a moment with thee,*

*I will trample on both worlds, I will dance in triumph forever.*

*O Shamsi Tabriz, I am so drunken in this world,*

*That except of drunkenness and revelry I have no tale to tell.*

*\*From Divan-i Shams*

*UNESCO has designated 2007 "Year of Rumi" with the celebration of 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Mevlana Jaleluddin Rumi.*

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## SOME QUOTES FROM RABINDRA NATH TAGORE'S GEETANJLI

**Contributed by:**

**Tej Thind, Montreal, Quebec,  
Canada**

*"Do not go to the temple to light candles  
before the altar of God.*

*First remove the darkness of sin from your  
heart.*

*Do not go to the temple to bow down your head  
in prayer.*

*First learn to bow in humility before your  
fellow men.*

*Do not go to the temple to pray on bended  
knees.*

*First bend down to lift someone who is  
downtrodden.*

*Do not go to the temple to ask for forgiveness  
for your sins.*

*First forgive from your heart those who have  
sinned against you."*

**Contributed by:**

**Dr Teja Singh, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada**

*"Leave this chanting and singing and telling of beads!*

*Whom dost thou worship in this lonely dark corner of a temple with  
doors all shut?*

*Open thine eyes and see thy God is not before thee!*

*He is there where the tiller is tilling the hard ground and where the  
path maker is breaking stones.*

*He is with them in sun and in shower, and his garment is covered  
with dust.*

*Put off thy holy mantle and even like him come down on the dusty  
soil!*

*Deliverance? Where is this deliverance to be found?*

*Our master himself has joyfully taken upon him the bonds of  
creation;*

*he is bound with us all forever.*

*Come out of thy meditations and leave aside thy flowers and  
incense!*

*What harm is there if thy clothes become tattered and stained?*

*Meet him and stand by him in toil and in sweat of thy brow. "*

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