

# HAFIZ'S LITTLE BOOK OF LIFE

Translated by Erfan Mojib and Gary Gach

Foreword by Ari Honarvar



The ultimate Persian mystic lyric poet is now made new in an innovative translation

Classics of world literature require fresh versions and Hafiz (aka Hafez – 14th century) is no exception. **Hafiz's Little Book of Life** showcases more than 250 selections from his lifework. Also included is a vivid portrait of his life and times, translators' notes, an extensive glossary, a bibliography, and an appendix on Hafiz as an oracle.

The book's five themes chart a map for the soul: the state of the world, the power of wine, love, in all its forms and phases (and gender fluidities), timeless, ancient, living wisdom, and fruition, opening the eye within the heart. It deepens our understanding of the people of Iran today, and their cultural and historical contexts.

Translators Mojib, a Persian native speaker in Tehran, and Gach, a San Francisco poet, were excited to work from adaptations by filmmaker Abbas Kiarostami. He'd isolated single lines of Hafiz and edited them into brief poems. Each can be savored on their own or enjoyed as units of a book-length poem.

Gach calls Hafiz's poetry "life-changing in the scope and reach of its vision, a gift to the world." Mojib says, "We hope this book will be a source of inspiration for people of all backgrounds."

Experience Hafiz for yourself, and let his words shine through you with their love, simple profundity, and celebration of life.

"Hafiz's poetry aims to close the gap between mortal humans and the divine and this book opens a door to the poet's gardens. From the first page, you are invited to settle into a sublime sanctuary and partake in enchantment until you feel the Beloved inside your beating heart and running through your veins." —From the Foreword by Ari Honarvar, author of *A Girl Called Rumi*

## HAFIZ'S Little Book of Life

ERFAN MOJIB GARY GACH

### BOOK SPECS

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# ABOUT THE AUTHORS

**Hafiz of Shiraz (also known as Hafez)** remains the most beloved name in all of Persian literature. Indeed, his mystic, lyric poetry is cherished as one of the great achievements of world literature, on a par with Dante, Goethe, and Shakespeare. Where Rumi dives deep, Hafiz's vision is as multifaceted as life itself: beyond literature, philosophy, and spirituality, he is truly a force of nature.

**Erfan Mojib** was born in the desert town of Yazd in central Iran. He holds a degree in comparative literature from UM Malaysia and an MFA in creative writing from the University of New Brunswick, Canada. He has published a number of translated works of fiction including Reza Ghassemi's *The Spell Chanted by Lambs*, Simon Van Booy's *Love Begins in Winter* and *The Illusion of Separateness*, Gene Bell-Villada's *García Márquez: The Man and His Work*, Julian Barnes's *Flaubert's Parrot*, and Jeanette Winterson's *The Passion*. He is the recipient of the Tehran School of Art Short Story Award and the David Walker Prize for Creative Writing. Visit [ErfanMojib.com](http://ErfanMojib.com) for more information.

**Gary Gach** has cotranslated three books of poetry from Korean by Ko Un: *Flowers of a Moment*, BOA / Lannan Translation Series (Northern California Book Award for Translation); *Ten Thousand Lives*, and *Songs for Tomorrow*. His anthology *What Book!?!—Buddha Poems from Beat to Hip-hop*, (Parallax Press) received an American Book Award from Before Columbus Foundation. He's also author of *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Buddhism* and *Pause, Breathe, Smile*. Visit [GaryGach.com](http://GaryGach.com) for more information.

"A radical collaboration between a Persian and American, this is a breakthrough version of the most untranslatable classical Sufi poet. Gach and Mojib have carved genuine gems from Hafiz's Persian and set them in a bezel composed of space, time, and the reader's own openness to wisdom. This is translation as a real 'carrying-across,' as art not artifact. While previous translations attempted to be reenactments (like reenacting an old battle in faux costumes), this one drops the reader/listener directly into their own soul-struggle. Immerse yourself and be transformed!" —**Neil Douglas-Klotz**, author of *The Sufi Book of Life* and *A Little Book of Sufi Stories*

