

Beyond Windows



Shaykh Fadhlalla Haeri





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Table of Contents

Table of Contents.....	i
Book Description	iv
About the Author	v
Acknowledgments.....	vii
Foreword.....	viii
Introduction.....	x
Transitions.....	1
Wake up Call.....	1
Lover’s Abode.....	2
Natural Willfulness	3
On time in No Time	4
Order of Disorder.....	5
Original Peace	7
Reality of Illusions	9
Actor’s Shadow	10
Father to Son	12
India	13
Flow of Time.....	15
Roman House in Byblos.....	16
Wedding Photo.....	18
Death of the Governor.....	19
Gypsies of Andalusia	20
Transformations	22
Twinkle of an Eye	22
Noah’s Transit.....	23
My Existence.....	24
All Perfections.....	26
River of Seasons.....	27
Birthday Party	28
Father’s Tomb	30

Journey's End.....	32
Longing and Belonging.....	34
Rivers of Love.....	35
Sacred Time	36
The Recollection	37
The Last Will.....	38
Silent Mother.....	39
Simple Truth.....	41
Flowing Beingness	42
Whispers of Delight	43
Crowded Loneliness.....	44
Guidance	46
Jihad	48
Enlightenment.....	49
Carrying On.....	49
Love Me Forever.....	51
Floating Cradle.....	52
From Sight to Insight	53
Fulfilled Loneliness.....	54
Grace Beyond Space	56
Sacred Stillness	57
Timelessness	58
Truth	59
Allah	61
Everything from Nothing.....	64
Burst of Silence	66
Generosity	67
Heart of Hearts	68
Oh My Beloved.....	69
Wholeness – That is All	71
eBooks By Zahra Publications.....	72
General eBooks on Islam	72
The Qur'an & Its Teachings.....	72

Sufism & Islamic Psychology and Philosophy	73
Practices & Teachings of Islam.....	75
Talks & Courses.....	76
Poetry, Aphorisms & Inspirational	77
Autobiography.....	78
Health Sciences and Islamic History.....	78

Book Description

Beyond Windows offers moving and profound insights into the thoughts and murmurings of the eminent Shaykh Fadhlalla Haeri, whose touching compassion and giving spirituality shines through every poem in this anthology of concinnity between the slave-self and the Eternal Lord.

The collection is a finely woven quilt of deep expression in which the yearning of the soul's quest to live (and die) in the aura and divine sheen of the Creator permeates every line and stanza, bringing the reader closer to that soul's striving for spiritual relevance and meaning.

These poems are a portal to an essentially private spiritual journey, beyond the windows of our ordinary, erroneous perceptions of the self – yet they bind us and take us along to this erudite sage's deep thirst for the Love, Mercy and Presence of our Inimitable and infinite Lord.

– From the Book's Foreword

About the Author

Acknowledged as a master of self-knowledge and a spiritual philosopher, Shaykh Fadhlalla Haeri's role as a teacher grew naturally out of his own quest for self-fulfillment.

He travelled extensively on a spiritual quest which led to his eventual rediscovery of the pure and original Islamic heritage of his birth, and the discovery of the truth that reconciles the past with the present, the East with the West, the worldly with the spiritual – a link between the ancient wisdom teachings and our present time.

A descendant of five generations of well-known and revered spiritual leaders, Shaykh Fadhlalla Haeri has taught students throughout the world for over 30 years.

He is a gifted exponent of how the self relates to the soul, humankind's link with the Divine, and how consciousness can be groomed to reflect our higher nature.

The unifying scope of his perspective emphasizes practical, actionable knowledge that leads to self-transformation, and provides a natural bridge between seemingly different Eastern and Western approaches to spirituality, as well as offering a common ground of higher knowledge for various religions, sects and secular outlooks.

He is a prolific author of more than thirty books relating to the universal principles of Islam, the Qur'an, and its core purpose of enlightenment.

His Light is beyond sights
But within all time and space
And Beyond
His presence is His Distance
Enough, more than enough
Is His Light
The Ever Living Delight
This is none other than

Allah's Light upon Lights

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Foreword

Beyond Windows offers moving and profound insights into the thoughts and murmurings of the eminent Shaykh Fadhlalla Haeri, whose touching compassion and giving spirituality shines through every poem in this anthology of concinnity between the slave–self and the Eternal Lord.

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The lines are crafted in eloquent language... 'oceans of shores'... 'where lovers are in permanent grace'... 'quarrelsome sparrows'... 'the swallows had left'... 'empty cups of emotions'... 'lost in the mists of today.'

There are a multitude of such images: the spiritual and the eloquent juxtaposed against the pedestrian and the mundane – moving evocations human dissidence and the misuse of power... 'when the unseasonal dust-storm' and the 'earth is surrogate mother'... and 'its womb, occupied...' These glimpses are 'far from being voyeuristic,' as critic and scholar, Stephen Laufer states on the jacket of another anthology of poems.

To me this work is an important discourse on the duality of being – flesh and spirit intertwined, created but for sole worship and undivided adulation of Almighty Allah. The poem 'Weep not, my son' is an enduring and poignant injunction to the inevitable consequences of life 'where the seer is seen and the seeker is sought.'

Moving stuff and the ingredient of profound Sufi evocation which is resident in every vein and vessel of Shaykh Fadhlalla's beautiful offering in the entire collection.

In the pieces titled, 'India', the poet again demonstrates his pedestrian concern with the common dilemma of a country and its people, which other scribes may dismiss as not being worthy of notice. 'The Sands of Time', the only clichéd titled in the anthology, is a sensitive investigation into change and movement, stitched to the past and future with the threads of Time. It is indeed lovely conjecture encased in astounding imagery which is not encoded but easily yields to human scrutiny.

The poet unobtrusively reminds us that submission, compassion and humility are the keys to the kingdoms of heaven; that the weight and value of all cultures of the world combined do not exceed, and are not more precious, than the life of one human being.

And so, this humble scribe – moved by the deep and yet untouchable wisdom, generosity compassion, and binding emotional quality and essence of Shaykh Fadhlalla Haeri's poetic evocation and humble supplication to the Lord of the Worlds – commits this anthology to the shelves of posterity for the service of humankind. May Almighty Allah's *Noor* (Light) shine perpetually on Shaykh Fadhlalla's beautiful life.

Don Matera

June 2009

Introduction

Poetry has traditionally been used by numerous spiritual masters to indicate the various aspects of the human journey to the inner sanctum and Light. In Islam and particularly Sufism, which is the heart of the *Deen*, we have a very rich tradition of poetic discourse, metaphorical guidelines and golden threads. In fact this means of communication has been used by most wisdom traditions, starting with normal reason and leading to beyond mind and intellect to heart and soul.

Arab and Persian Sufi masters and enlightened beings, as well as Indians, Turks and others, have excelled in revealing, through the medium of poetry, states and openings that are not possible to convey in prose. Rumi is only one of a cluster of stars which includes Attar, Ibn Arabi, Shabistari and others.

The reflections of poems in this book were written over a period of several years; they thus reflect different moods or states, illustrating what had moved me at the time. The golden thread throughout these verses is the One Source and Essence of Creation, and human striving to be in Unity with this Light.

I hope the reader will enjoy the message behind and within these lines, as I enjoyed the flow of inspiration in writing them.

Shaykh Fadhlalla Haeri

South Africa, January 2008

Transitions

Wake up Call

The small island
awakens to the caress
of velvet soft breeze
ushering a new day
fresh and ageless
known but shy.

The ever changing sameness
contained in vast boundlessness
where the safety of shores is lost
and all reason vanishes
where only soaring spirits
wink at the island
as it awakens to the
sparkling rising sun
to remind the sleepy hearts
to respond and reflect upon
the eternal bond
of the One Caller
to wake up
and fly past all lands
and every ocean and island.

Lover's Abode

The unknown lovers have died
adrift in their dream boat
far from land, mountains and sand
arm in arm, sailing in hope
chased by the dancing clouds
on the ocean of no shores
no harbor or beach
no rocks or docks
no storms or wind
not even water or vapor.

The Ocean of Tranquility
is distant and beyond all stillness
so distant that measurements cease
on the far side of the sun
or further than the most distant galaxy
where there is no fear, discord, cry or hope.

The Ocean of Boundless Bliss
is where lovers are in permanent embrace
ever living in Grace
Unified at heart
with no identity or face.

Natural Willfulness

Quarrelsome sparrows
chasing, diving and rise again
in defense or offence
full of determination
subtle attractions
noisy and silent transactions
playfully fulfilling
self assertion.

protection determination
direction destination
attraction repulsion
deception presumption
compulsion assumption.

All of these
and other motives
perfectly governing
quarrelsome sparrows
who are only racing towards
a perfectly clear destination.

The same as
all other creation.

On time in No Time

Getting there in late summer
we were too late
the swallows had left
the lovers had parted
and the blue sea was agitating
the time had passed
and the season had changed
and empty cups of emotions
were bereft of illusory fulfillment
crying for a deaf beloved
with unconditional devotion.

Getting there too late
but earlier than yesterday
lost in the mists of today
complaining everyday
obsessed with searching
for the intimate nearness
the boundless joy of nowness
where all cups are full
overflowing with beingness
with or without lovers
before and after all summers
where time and no time
are now the same
as ever.

Order of Disorder

We try and be organized
civilized and compartmentalized
we name every insect and germ
and dissect bees and blossoms
resurrect dead leaders
reincarnate heroes as airports
or renamed boulevards
change codes and standards
hold meetings short and long
local or international
with emotions and democratic votes
arguments, suspicions and hypocrisies with notes.

Attempts to reduce anxieties and fear
all caught in our memory nests
a life buried under the debris of hazy past
yet we strive to be more secure
less obscure
or fall into a destructive detour
or a disastrous holiday
when the unseasonal dust storm
ravaged the beachfront
and the angry sea shattered comfort and ease
cancelling games and noise
days wiped out
long life short lived
a biography of confusion within illusion
deceptive mirrors
reflecting denials

Beyond Windows *by* Shaykh Fadhlalla Haeri
Transitions

pursuing mirages of life styles.

Wrapped in hard cash
with dead hearts
trying ceaselessly to organize
without knowledge or awareness
of the Eternal Thread of Divine Light
connecting in perfect order
what is known, unknown, accidents and pains.

Yet within the human space
lies the Eternal Presence
of the perfect moment
ever constant in its oneness
by divine grace and order
eternally.

Original Peace

Is permanent peace an illusion?

Is it ever attainable?

if not, then why the yearning?

Life on earth

began with agitation

and then sliced from eternity

divided and then again subdivided

whilst all in cosmos rotated

and surrogate mother earth

occupied, invaded, colonized

providing the seeds of birth and death

in cradles of sorrow and laughter

whilst anything that ever appears

will surely disappear

everything that is here

is on its way back there

will surely disappear

is on its way back there.

So how can there be permanence

in the battlefield of make-believe

where the quest for peace

is often the cause of conflict

whilst Eternal Peace

the first and all-Pervading Peace

is ever there smiling

in the illumined heart.

Reality of Illusions

Time
is the lens
through which you
read space
and what appears
from the web
of creational veils
layer upon layer
change after exchange
in perpetual flux
with an Illuminating Core
the Constant Source
invisible indivisible
permeating time and space
announcing
the Only Real which Creates
all illusions within time and space.

eBooks By Zahra Publications

General eBooks on Islam

Living Islam – East and West

Shaykh Fadhlalla Haeri

Ageless and universal wisdom set against the backdrop of a changing world: application of this knowledge to one's own life is most appropriate.

The Elements of Islam

Shaykh Fadhlalla Haeri

An introduction to Islam through an overview of the universality and light of the prophetic message.

The Qur'an & Its Teachings

Beams of Illumination from the Divine Revelations

Shaykh Fadhlalla Haeri

A collection of teachings and talks with the objective of exploring deeper meanings of Qur'anic Revelations.

Commentary on Chapters One and Two of the Holy Qur'an

Shaykh Fadhlalla Haeri

The first two chapters of the Qur'an give guidance regarding inner and outer struggle. Emphasis is on understanding key Qur'anic terms.

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Shaykh Fadhlalla Haeri

The Shaykh uncovers inner meanings, roots and subtleties of the Qur'anic Arabic terminology.

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Shaykh Fadhlalla Haeri

The Qur'an traces the journey of all creation, seeing the physical, biological and geological voyage of life as paralleled by the inner spiritual evolution of woman/man.

The Essential Message of the Qur'an

Shaykh Fadhlalla Haeri

Teachings from the Qur'an such as purpose of creation, Attributes of the Creator, nature of human beings, decrees governing the laws of the universe, life and death.

The Family of `Imran

Shaykh Fadhlalla Haeri

This book is a commentary on the third chapter of the Qur'an, the family of `Imran which includes the story of Mary, mother of `Isa (Jesus).

The Heart of Qur'an

Shaykh Fadhlalla Haeri

Commentary on chapter *Yasin*. This is traditionally read over the dead person: if we want to know the meaning of life, we have to learn about death.

The Qur'an in Islam: Its Impact & Influence on the Life of Muslims

`Allamah Sayyid M. H. Tabataba`i

`Allamah Sayyid M. H. Tabataba`i shows in this gem how the Qur'an contains the fundamental roots of Islam and the proof of prophethood as the Word of God.

The Qur'anic Prescription for Life

Shaykh Fadhlalla Haeri

Understanding of the Qur'an is made accessible with easy reference to key issues concerning life, and the path of Islam.

The Story of Creation in the Qur'an

Shaykh Fadhlalla Haeri

An exposition of the Qur'anic verses relating to the nature of physical phenomena, including the origins of the universe, the nature of light, matter, space and time, and the evolution of biological and sentient beings.

Sufism & Islamic Psychology and Philosophy

Beginning's End

Shaykh Fadhlalla Haeri

This is a contemporary outlook on Sufi sciences of self knowledge, exposing the challenge of our modern lifestyle that is out of balance.

Cosmology of the Self

Shaykh Fadhlalla Haeri

Islamic teachings of *Tawheed* (Unity) with insights into the human self: understanding the inner landscape is essential foundation for progress on the path of knowledge.

Decree and Destiny (Original and a Revised Version)

Shaykh Fadhlalla Haeri

A lucid exposition of the extensive body of Islamic thought on the issue of free will and determinism.

Happiness in Life and After Death – An Islamic Sufi View

Shaykh Fadhlalla Haeri

This book offers revelations and spiritual teachings that map a basic path towards wholesome living without forgetting death: cultivating a constant awareness of one's dual nature.

Leaves from a Sufi Journal

Shaykh Fadhlalla Haeri

A unique collection of articles presenting an outstanding introduction to the areas of Sufism and original Islamic teachings.

The Elements of Sufism

Shaykh Fadhlalla Haeri

Sufism is the heart of Islam. This introduction describes its origins, practices, historical background and its spread throughout the world.

The Journey of the Self

Shaykh Fadhlalla Haeri

After introducing the basic model of the self, there follows a simple yet complete outline of the self's emergence, development, sustenance, and growth toward its highest potential.

The Sufi Way to Self-Unfoldment

Shaykh Fadhlalla Haeri

Unfolding inner meanings of the Islamic ritual practices towards the intended ultimate purpose to live a life honorable and fearless, with no darkness, ignorance or abuse.

Witnessing Perfection

Shaykh Fadhlalla Haeri

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Practices & Teachings of Islam

Calling Allah by His Most Beautiful Names

Shaykh Fadhlalla Haeri

Attributes or Qualities resonate from their Majestic and Beautiful Higher Realm into the heart of the active seeker, and through it back into the world.

Fasting in Islam

Shaykh Fadhlalla Haeri

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Shaykh Fadhlalla Haeri

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The Wisdom (Hikam) of Ibn `Ata'allah: Translation and Commentary

Translation & Commentary by Shaykh Fadhlalla Haeri

These aphorisms of Ibn `Ata'Allah, a Shadili Shaykh, reveal the breadth and depth of an enlightened being who reflects divine unity and inner transformation through worship.

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Shaykh Fadhlalla Haeri

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The Lantern of The Path

Imam Ja'far Al-Sadiq (Translated By Shaykh Fadhlalla Haeri)

Each one of the ninety-nine chapter of this book is a threshold to the next, guiding the reader through the broad spectrum of ageless wisdom, like a lantern along the path of reality.

The Pilgrimage of Islam

Shaykh Fadhlalla Haeri

This is a specialized book on spiritual journeying, offering the sincere seeker keys to inner transformation.

The Sayings & Wisdom of Imam `Ali

Compiled By: Shaykh Fadhlalla Haeri

Translated By: Asadullah ad-Dhaakir Yate

A selection of this great man's sayings gathered together from authentic and reliable sources. They have been carefully translated into modern English.

Transformative Worship in Islam: Experiencing Perfection

Shaykh Fadhlalla Haeri with Muna H. Bilgrami

This book uniquely bridges the traditional practices and beliefs, culture and language of Islam with the transformative spiritual states described by the Sufis and Gnostics.

Talks & Courses

Ask Course ONE: The Sufi Map of the Self

Shaykh Fadhlalla Haeri

This workbook explores the entire cosmology of the self through time, and maps the evolution of the self from before birth through life, death and beyond.

Ask Course TWO: The Prophetic Way of Life

Shaykh Fadhlalla Haeri

This workbook explores how the code of ethics that govern religious practice and the Prophetic ways are in fact transformational tools to enlightened awakening.

Friday Discourses: Volume 1

Shaykh Fadhlalla Haeri

The Shaykh addresses many topics that influence Muslims at the core of what it means to be a Muslim in today's global village.

Songs of Iman on the Roads of Pakistan

Shaykh Fadhlalla Haeri

A series of talks given on the divergence between 'faith' and 'unbelief' during a tour of the country in 1982 which becomes a reflection of the condition occurring in the rest of the world today.

Poetry, Aphorisms & Inspirational

101 Helpful Illusions

Shaykh Fadhlalla Haeri

Everything in creation has a purpose relevant to ultimate spiritual Truth. This book highlights natural veils to be transcended by disciplined courage, wisdom and insight.

Beyond Windows

Shaykh Fadhlalla Haeri

Offering moving and profound insights of compassion and spirituality through these anthologies of connections between slave self and Eternal Lord.

Bursts of Silence

Shaykh Fadhlalla Haeri

Inspired aphorisms provide keys to doors of inner knowledge, as well as antidotes to distraction and confusion.

Pointers to Presence

Shaykh Fadhlalla Haeri

A collection of aphorisms providing insights into consciousness and are pointers to spiritual awakening.

Ripples of Light

Shaykh Fadhlalla Haeri

Inspired aphorisms which become remedies for hearts that seek the truth.

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Shaykh Fadhlalla Haeri

A collection of aphorisms that help us reflect and discover the intricate connection between self and soul.

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Shaykh Abd al-Qadir al-Jilani

A collection of extracted spiritual nourishment from Shaykh Abd al-Qadir al-Jilani's existing works.

Autobiography

Son of Karbala

Shaykh Fadhlalla Haeri

The atmosphere of an Iraq in transition is brought to life and used as a backdrop for the Shaykh's own personal quest for self-discovery and spiritual truth.

Health Sciences and Islamic History

Health Sciences in Early Islam – Volumes 1 & 2

Collected Papers By: Sami K. Hamarneh

Edited By: Munawar A. Anees

Foreword By: Shaykh Fadhlalla Haeri

Health Sciences in Early Islam is a pioneering study of Islamic medicine that opens up new chapters of knowledge in the history of the healing sciences. This two volume work covers the development of Islamic medicine between the 6th and 12th centuries A.D.