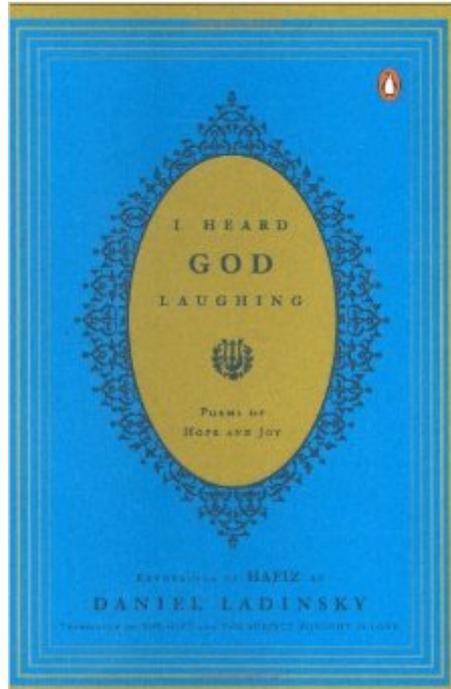


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# I Heard God Laughing: Poems Of Hope And Joy



## Synopsis

From the renowned translator of *The Gift*, a rich collection that brings the great Sufi poet to Western readers. To Persians, the poems of Hafiz are not "classical literature" from a remote past but cherished wisdom from a dear and intimate friend that continue to be quoted in daily life. With uncanny insight, Hafiz captures the many forms and stages of love. His poetry outlines the stages of the mystic's "path of love"-a journey in which love dissolves personal boundaries and limitations to join larger processes of growth and transformation. With this stunning collection, Ladinsky has succeeded brilliantly in translating the essence of one of Islam's greatest poetic and spiritual voices.

BACKCOVER: "If you haven't yet had the delight of dining with Daniel Ladinsky's sweet, playful renderings of the musings of the great saints, *I Heard God Laughing* is a perfect appetizer. . . . This newly released edition of his first playful foray into Hafiz's divinely inspired poetry is essential reading. . . . Ladinsky is a master who will be remembered for finally bringing Hafiz alive in the West." -Alexandra Marks, *The Christian Science Monitor*

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

So much Beauty! Hafiz is pure joy and a perfect friend. For Hafiz, Only Love is Real. *I Heard God Laughing*, in continuous print for the past eleven years, serves as a beacon of pure light, trueing our compass on our journey to God. In these brilliant, deeply tender, witty, and full hearted renderings, Ladinsky releases the true spirit of this most beloved Persian poet and spiritual teacher and makes him fully accessible to our times. Hafiz has influenced and nourished many writers, poets and

scholars through the centuries, including Nietzsche, Byron, Hugo, Lorca, Goethe and Emerson. If you're interested in knowing more about some of these eminent poets own words about translations/renderings read on, below, following these gems....

Your Beautiful Parched Holy Mouth  
A poet is someone  
Who can pour Light into a cup,  
Then raise it  
To nourish  
Your beautiful, parched, holy  
mouth.  
an excerpt from " A Golden Compass"  
Forget every idea of right and wrong  
Any classroom  
ever taught you,  
Because  
An empty heart, a tormented mind,  
Unkindness, jealousy and fear  
Are  
always the testimony  
You have been completely fooled!  
Turn your back on those  
Who would imprison  
your wondrous spirit  
With deceit and lies.  
Come, join the honest company  
Of the King's  
beggars--  
Those gamblers, scoundrels and divine clowns  
And those astonishing fair courtesans  
Who  
need Divine Love every night.  
Come, join the courageous  
Who have no choice  
But to bet their entire  
world  
That indeed,  
Indeed, God is Real.....

Translation is complicated in that the veracity of the work must be taken on faith if one does not know the original language. Thus good translators are careful to account for their approach to the craft and take seriously the need to educate their readership. This is especially the case with languages and traditions that are removed from European cultural experience and when translated for an English speaking public which is often monolingual. Unfortunately, such is not the case with the several publications of Daniel Ladinsky that variously purport to be either translations or versions of the great and inimitable Hafez of Shiraz. Hafez is treasured by Persian speakers as the greatest poet of what is perhaps the world's greatest poetic tradition. To misrepresent him so blatantly, thoroughly and consistently over time as Ladinsky has done, is breathtaking. His work in "translation" does not represent the ghazal form, is not based on the Persian text and can not be referred to extant English translations and versions. The ghazal in Persian commonly has anywhere from seven to fourteen couplets with an aa, ba, ca, da etc rhyme scheme. The poet "signs" his ghazal with a pen name. Each Persian line in English translation has, on average, about fourteen syllables. The following is my translation of a Hafezian ghazal to illustrate structure, rhyme and typical themes:

Ghazal #332, Khanlari  
Although I see  
the like a vat of wine from love's ferment,  
I drink  
blood with sealed lips that keep me silent.  
It is the soul's resolve to possess the beloved's lips;  
Look  
at me, whose struggle with soul has left me spent!

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