

Wisdom of
Hafiz

SAMPLE

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Introduction

Hafiz, whose given name was Shams-ud-Dīn Mohammad (c. 1320–1389), is the most beloved poet of Persians. He was born and lived in Shiraz, a beautiful garden city, where he became a famous spiritual teacher. His *Divan* (collected poems) is a classic in the literature of Sufism and mystical verse. The work of Hafiz became known to the West largely through the passion of Goethe. His enthusiasm deeply affected Ralph Waldo Emerson, who then translated Hafiz in the nineteenth century. Emerson said, “Hafiz is a poet for poets,” to which Goethe remarked, “Hafiz has no peer.” Hafiz’s poems were also admired by such diverse notables as Nietzsche and Arthur

Conan Doyle, whose wonderful character Sherlock Holmes quotes Hafiz; Garcia Lorca praised him; the famous composer Johannes Brahms was so touched by his verse he put several lines into his compositions. Even Queen Victoria was said to have consulted the works of Hafiz in times of need.

The range of Hafiz's verse is indeed stunning. He writes, "I am a hole in a flute that the Christ's breath moves through—listen to this music." In another poem Hafiz playfully sings, "Look at the smile on the earth's lips this morning, she lay again with me last night."

Hafiz is rightfully considered one of the seven literary wonders of the world. And there has been no other person in history who is consulted as much as a living oracle.

The Fal-e Hafiz is an ancient tradition in which a person asks Hafiz, via his verse, for advice about any important juncture in their life. I feel it is very important to say, that in using this deck, please re-

member: Hafiz is all about safeguarding and empowering you. If you draw a card that you feel is in any way inappropriate, I suggest you follow Hafiz's advice in a famous poem of his, titled: "Perfect Equanimity," as it appears in my book, *The Gift: Poems by Hafiz*. That playful, but to me, so right-on poem of wisdom goes (paraphrased): "If I ever put too much food on your plate, or not enough, I was just kidding." In other words: draw another card!

I have published around 700 Hafiz renderings/poems in six books. And the impetus behind every single line of Hafiz I ever wrote is to help light a candle in your heart, to assist our perennial need to have fun, laugh and dance, "to lift the corners of your mouth."

The weight that can be on us in an hour or a day, Hafiz is there to lighten. His love for us is time-tested and keeps encouraging and inspiring. He helps us to forgive those we have yet to forgive, and honor those we have yet to honor. His Herculean strength and his enlightenment will

rub off on you so that you too wish (and discover yourself more able) never to harm another via sound or movement. It is said that Hafiz became incapable of an unkind act.

In hundreds of ways Hafiz addresses what impedes us from living a more fulfilled life. With unique, charming metaphors that he seems able to rain from the ground up, he longs to help the highest aspects in us lead all the other parts to a place where we can breathe easier and kick back more and say: “Ahhhh, this world isn’t so bad, as a matter of fact—it is amazing!”

A big hug to all, Daniel Ladinsky





About the creation of

The Wisdom of Hafiz Oracle

My husband Silas, who created the art for this deck, and I have long been compelled by the poets and prophets of old. Their voices sing with a grace and tenderness for the human condition that is often difficult to find in this modern world with its harsh edges. When a popular calendar company asked Silas to create art inspired by Sufi poets, he jumped at the chance. The result is the art you hold in your hands. Though the calendar project came and went, Silas could not stop his passion for blending elements that, to him, represented the

heart of the poet's messages: freedom, expansion, joy, permission, forgiveness, play and ultimately, wholeness.

This deck was created as a fresh spin on the traditional oracle. Using Silas's art as muse, the messages were created solely on the energy of the symbols. These themes were then sent to Mr. Ladinsky, who paired them with inspired poetic renderings based on his study of Hafiz. His renderings are presented in italics in this guidebook.

This project seeks to create messages that are timeless and applicable to all humans on the vulnerable journey toward wholeness. What distinguishes us as humans is our capacity to seek out the soul's directives. As a wise sage once said, "What unites us is bigger than what divides us. We're all just walking each other home." May this deck be your walking companion.

A Note on Using the Deck

As with all oracular encounters, this is an exercise in trust. Trust yourself. Trust your inner guidance. We suggest that, having pulled a card, you allow yourself to respond to the art and symbols first. What does the figure, color palette, and symbols say to you? The theme and message of each card, along with the poetic offerings from Mr. Ladinsky are there as a gentle guiding voice, but no voice trumps your own deep knowing.

Angi Sullins



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