



The Value of Your Soul

Rumi Verse for Life's Annoying Moments

by S.A. Snyder; illustrated by Simon Blackwood

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Description

Have you ever felt exasperated when children use your grain bucket to collect frog spawn? How about peeved when you volunteer to plant trees but end up mucking out chicken coops instead? Even if you can't relate directly to these incidents, you've probably experienced their underlying annoyances as *others don't respect your rules and plans change without warning*.

Showcasing vignettes from her witty memoir of living abroad (*Plant Trees, Carry Sheep: A Woman's Spiritual Journey Among the Sufis of Scotland*), S.A. Snyder's **new book** identifies 38 peculiar "annoyances," each with conventional translations that most of us can relate to. With the help of select verses from the Persian poet Jalal ad-Din Rumi, Snyder teases out some lessons learned from her vexing experiences as an American living in Scotland and offers a soupçon of homespun wisdom for coping.

Told with delightful self-deprecating humor, ***The Value of Your Soul: Rumi Verse for Life's Annoying Moments*** is a collection of short tales and whimsical illustrations you can dip in and out of, or whenever you need a little reminder that we are more than the sum of that which annoys us. We are human, and that's just Divine!

Excerpt

Annoyance

When moles make mounds on your perfect lawn

Translation

You worry about little things that probably don't matter in the grander scheme

Unpacking It

There were two of us on the Braemar estate team, and one of us cared *way* more than the other about an alleged mole "problem." The "problem" consisted of a few resident moles and their unobtrusive dirt hills on an otherwise croquet-perfect lawn, complete with diagonal stripes. Had Braemar been a gentile British manor with a huge budget to support staff solely dedicated to landscaping—thus with the luxury of perfect lawns (maybe even a single person dedicated to mole control)—we wouldn't have had a mole "problem."

... We all have pet peeves and we all know people who are bothered by things that seem trivial to us. Is it our place to tell them their pet peeves are trivial?

... In what ways are you tying yourself in knots to perfect something of little value, just to say *See how much better this is now that I've futzed with it?* Or maybe you gripe about things you have no control over. ...