

Rumi:
Quotations from the Mathnáví of Rúmí
in the Bahá'í Writings
by [Bahá'u'lláh](#) and [Abdu'l-Bahá](#)

Compiled by [Arjen Bolhuis](#).
2001 (updated April 2015)

For the sections Seven Valleys and Four Valleys, the cross-references to the Mathnavi were taken from: Julio Savi (2008). [*Towards the Summit of Reality: An introduction to Bahá'u'lláh's Seven Valleys and Four Valleys*](#). Oxford, UK: George Ronald.

Edition used: *The Mathnawí of Jalálu'ddín Rúmí*, with critical notes, translation and commentary by [Reynold A. Nicholson](#).

From the [Seven Valleys](#) by Bahá'u'lláh

Paragraph	Quotation	Verse in Mathnavi
<u>§20</u>	Love's a stranger to earth and heaven too; In him are lunacies seventy-and two.	3:4719
<u>§23-25</u>	The episode of the lover and the watchman.	3:4749-4811 and 4:40-80
<u>§31</u>	Love is a veil betwixt the lover and the loved one; More than this I am not permitted to tell.	1:3810
<u>§32</u>	Veiled from this was Moses Though all strength and light; Then thou who hast no wings at all, Attempt not flight.	1:237
<u>§34</u>	...all songs are from the King.	1:1936
<u>§39</u>	Cleanse thou the rheum from out thy head And breathe the breath of God instead.	2:1945
<u>§52</u>	If <u>K</u> hidr did wreck the vessel on the sea, Yet in this wrong there are a thousand rights.	1:236

§55	In thy soul of love build thou a fire And burn all thoughts and words entire.	2:1763
§58	If I speak forth, many a mind will shatter, And if I write, many a pen will break.	2:1776
§74	The tale is still unfinished and I have no heart for it – Then pray forgive me.	2:1705
§77	When the qualities of the Ancient of Days stood revealed, Then the qualities of earthly things did Moses burn away.	3:1391
§83	Even as the sun, bright hath He shined, But alas, he hath come to the town of the blind!	Not located yet

From the [Four Valleys](#) by Bahá'u'lláh

Paragraph	Quotation	Verse in Mathnavi
§1	O light of truth, Hisám-i-Dín, the bounteous, No prince hath the world begot like unto Thee!	3:2110
§6	Each moon, O my beloved, for three days I go mad; Today's the first of these--'Tis why thou seest me glad.	5:1888-1889
§10	O Abraham of this day, O Friend Abraham of the Spirit! Kill these four birds of prey.	5:31
§14	The death of self is needed here, not rhetoric: Be nothing then, and walk upon the waves.	1:2841
§23	Love shunneth this world and that world too, In him are lunacies seventy-and-two. The minstrel of love harpeth this lay: Servitude enslaveth, kingship doth betray.	3:4719 and 3:4722
§28	The lover's teacher is the Loved One's beauty, His face their lesson and their only book. Learning of wonderment, of longing love their duty, Not on learned chapters and dull themes they look. The chain that binds them is His musky hair, The Cyclic Scheme, to them, is but to Him a stair.	3:3847-3850

§29	O Lord! O thou Whose bounty granteth wishes! I stand before Thee, all save Thee forgetting. Grant that the mote of knowledge in my spirit Escape desire and the lowly clay; Grant that Thine ancient gift, this drop of wisdom, Merge with Thy mighty sea.	1:1880-82
§34	Speak in the Persian tongue, though the Arab please thee more; A lover hath many a tongue at his command.	3:3842
§36	My soul doth smell the perfume shed by the Beloved One; My sense is filled with the fragrance of My dear Companion. The duty of long years of love obey And tell the tale of happy days gone by, That land and sky may laugh aloud today, And it may gladden mind and heart and eye.	1:125-27
§41	It is not fitting that I tell thee more, For the stream's bed cannot hold the sea.	1:3810
§49	Let us tell, some other day This parting hurt and woe; Let us write, some other way, Love's secrets – better so. Leave blood and noise and all of these, And say no more of <u>Shams-i-Tabríz</u> .	1:131, 1:136, 1:142

From the [Kitáb-i-Iqán](#) by Bahá'u'lláh

Paragraph Quotation

[§204](#) Flingest thou calumnies unto the face of Them Whom the one true God hath made the Trustees of the treasures of the seventh sphere?

[§204](#) All human attainment moveth upon a lame ass,
Whilst Truth, riding upon the wind, darteth across space.

**From the *Fire and Light* by Bahá'u'lláh
([The Bahá'í World](#) Volume 18, p. 12)**

Paragraph	Quotation	Verse in Mathnavi
VII	The moon sheddeth light while the dog howleth.	6:14, Proem

From [The Secret of Divine Civilization](#) by 'Abdu'l-Bahá

Page	Quotation	
34	The flower-faced may sulk or play the flirt, The cruel fair may bridle and coquet; But coyness in the ugly is ill-met, And pain in a blind eye's a double hurt.	1:1906-1907
73	The Sage of Ghazná told the mystic story To his veiled hearers, in an allegory: If those who err see naught in the Qur'án But only words, it's not to wonder on; Of all the sun's fire, lighting up the sky Only the warmth can reach a blind man's eye.	3:4229-4231
74	Once they were as the waves of the sea That the wind made many out of one. Then God shed down on them His sun, And His sun but one can never be. Souls of dogs and wolves go separately, But the soul of the lions of God is one.	2:185 and 2:189
110	Thou, Brother, art thy thought alone, The rest is only thew and bone.	2:277

From [Mahmúd's Diary](#) by 'Abdu'l-Bahá and Mírzá Mahmúd-i-Zarqání

Page	Quotation
133	The father makes gurgling sounds for the newborn infant, although his wisdom can measure the universe.