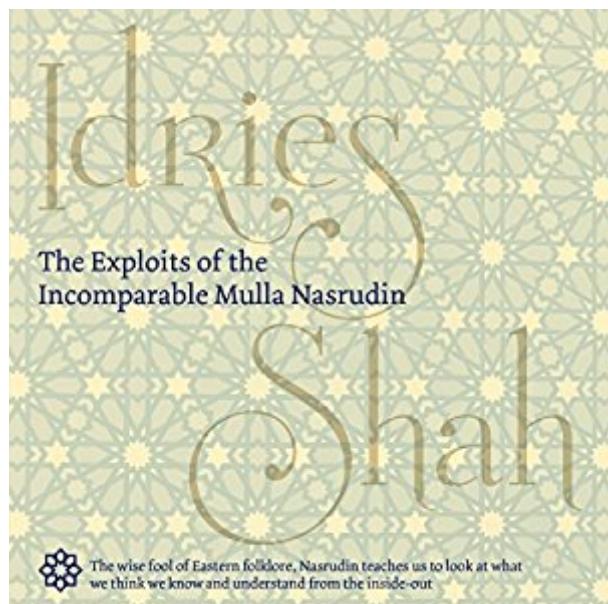


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The Exploits Of The Incomparable Mulla Nasrudin



Synopsis

"Perfectly designed models for isolating and holding distortions of the mind which so often pass for reasonable behavior." (Idries Shah) Today we find Idries Shah in a high-level physics report, illustrating phenomena that can't be described in ordinary technical terms. He appears in psychology textbooks, illuminating the workings of the mind in a way no straightforward explanation can. Here, in three definitive volumes, Shah takes us to the very heart of this mysterious mentor, the Mulla Nasrudin. They're comprised of skillful contemporary retellings of hundreds of collected stories and sayings bringing the unmistakable wisdom, wit, and charm of the timeless jokester to life. The mulla and his stories appear in literature and oral traditions from the Middle East to Greece, Russia, France - even China. Many nations claim Nasrudin as a native son, with the Turks going so far as to exhibit a grave with his date of death as 386. But nobody really knows who he was or where he came from. According to a legend dating from at least the 13th century, Nasrudin was snatched as a schoolboy from the clutches of the "old villain" - the crude system of thought that ensnares man - to carry through the ages the message of how to escape. He was chosen because he could make people laugh, and humor has a way of slipping through the cracks of the most rigid thinking habits. Today - as they have for centuries - the Sufis use these stories as teaching exercises, in part to momentarily freeze situations in which states of mind can be recognized. In these delightful volumes, Shah not only gives the mulla a proper vehicle for our times; he proves that the centuries-old stories and quips of Nasrudin are still some of the funniest jokes in the world.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The first volume of the Mulla Nasrudin Corpus, retold by Afghan author Idries Shah, is a great introduction to the use of humour by the Middle Eastern and Central Asian sages called the Sufis. Nasrudin is a "wise fool" teaching-figure: sometimes acting as a guide, sometimes exhibiting shortcomings in the mind by his hilariously "brain-dead" behaviour. Nasrudin stories have been told and enjoyed across Asia, North Africa, and Southeastern Europe for centuries (and at least one collection was published in Britain in the mid-nineteenth century). The Sufis reportedly use the tales almost as exercises. "They ask people to choose a few which especially appeal to them, and to turn them over in the mind, making them their own. Teaching masters of the dervishes say that in this way a breakthrough into a higher wisdom can be effected." In addition, the stories are vividly and beautifully told. The delightful tale "His Excellency" is alone worth the price of admission. This is a new edition of the tales, released May 1, 2015 by ISF Publishing.

EXTENDED REVIEW: This book presents many comic illustrations to help us see how the mind works, and how it can potentially work. As with other books of Idries Shah's, a review can at best give only a slight indication of the volume's content. Nothing can replace the piquant experience of "tasting" these jokes and tales for yourself. Here are a few:

"See what I mean?" Nasrudin was throwing handfuls of crumbs around his house. 'What are you doing?' someone asked him. 'Keeping the tigers away.' But there are no tigers in these parts. "That's right. Effective, isn't it?

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