

# **Differentiated Sameness**

**A Collection of Sufi Poems**

*By*

**Shaykh Fadhlalla Haeri**



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#### TIMELESS

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Autobiography

Health Sciences and Islamic History

## BOOK DESCRIPTION

“The human journey on earth is from low, basic sentiency towards the highest level of consciousness. From childhood on we are challenged to witness, experience, and choose what is better for our happiness. With awakening you discover that, in truth, there is no differentiation or separation as everything is still contained within absolute, unitive reality. Oneness is the only truth and the process of differentiating between what is good and what is not is like coming across milestones along that path. We differentiate in order to be content with the connectedness that leads to essential original Oneness. Human consciousness links the infinite unseen with finite sensory experiences.

These poems are like flags. The material is a language or brush strokes indicating transitions between the boundless and the limited, within and beyond time and space, like flags on a temple reminding us of our transitory earthly journey and how magnificent it is if we are aware of its timeless grace.”

*From the Introduction by Shaykh Fadhlalla Haeri*

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## **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Born in Karbala, Iraq, Shaykh Fadhlalla Haeri, comes from several generations of religious and spiritual leaders. After several years living and working in the west, he rediscovered the universal relevance of the Qur'an and Islamic teachings for our present day. His emphasis has been on transformative worship and refinement of conduct, as preludes to the realisation of the prevalence of Divine Grace. He considers that the purpose of life is to know and resonate with the eternal essence of the one and only Life-giver – Allah.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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# INTRODUCTION

The human journey on earth is from low, basic sentiency towards the highest level of consciousness. From childhood on we are challenged to witness, experience, and choose what is better for our happiness. With awakening you discover that, in truth, there is no differentiation or separation as everything is still contained within absolute, unitive reality.

Oneness is the only truth and the process of differentiating between what is good and what is not is like coming across milestones along that path. We differentiate in order to be content with the connectedness that leads to essential original Oneness.

Human consciousness links the infinite unseen with finite sensory experiences. These poems are like flags. The material is a language or brush strokes indicating transitions between the boundless and the limited, within and beyond time and space, like flags on a temple reminding us of our transitory earthly journey and how magnificent it is if we are aware of its timeless grace.



**WITHIN SPACE – TIME**

## *Acceptance*

The old man, quarrelsome  
grumpy and depressed  
family and friends avoiding him now  
long suffering wife still caring  
I'm used to it, she said  
I do what I can  
half a century of practice  
she said with a reconciled smile  
I could cope after giving up judgment  
expectations or the idea of happiness and joy  
sometime in the future  
the old man's nastiness has helped me  
no confusion of choice  
just acceptance  
then came trust and love  
then truth showed everywhere  
a wise voice had said  
acceptance, repentance  
and cosmic resonance.

## ***Nationhood***

We were not allowed to be a nation

we screamed

we killed

we escaped

and we wept

we even forgot what it was all about.

We were then allowed to vote

acquire a new tribal identity

and care for personal gains

wealth, status and power

pursue illusions of independence

personal and national

like everyone else

globally confused

but this time

with a flag

and serious financial debts.

## ***Forbidden Land***

Incomplete development

where will it end?

pain accompanies

growth

limited and conditioned

with an end in sight

with the next beginning.

Where is the shore of the promised land?

When do we get there?

Don't tell me after the next war?

But I don't want to die.

Are we all doomed?

Have we fallen into the forbidden land?



## *Pain*

Wherever she turned  
there were doubts and uncertainty:  
what does the future hold?  
It's all about that  
isn't it?  
A good fortune –  
but no one can tell me  
what that really is!  
The sage says 'timelessness'  
the philosopher says 'the real' –  
but I still remain  
in the pain  
of ignorance  
and the darkness of fear and sorrow.

## ***New Home***

She was desperate for a new home  
a better cave  
a happier womb  
motherly phase over  
children grown and gone  
a new house needed  
new friends filled with goodness and light  
friends who travel lightly on the earth  
lugging little physical or mental baggage  
heavenly people on an earthly transit  
like her.  
But where are they?  
Will they take me as they find me?  
Will they accept me?  
Will I recognise them?  
Oh God, I need to know!

## *Unlike Mother*

Don't judge me by my mother

I am not like her

nor my sister

nor brothers

please excuse their crudeness

grossness

rudeness

I am not like them

I can't deny similarities

especially skin colour

and behaviour and culture

but don't judge me by my family

I am not like them

nor am I like me

that changes all the time

that is why

I don't know

who am I.

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*Muneera Haeri*

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### **Seasons of Wisdom**

*Shaykh Fadhlalla Haeri*

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***Edited By: Munawar A. Anees***

***Foreword By: Shaykh Fadhlalla Haeri***

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