



Rabia of Basra Selected Poems

By Rab'ia Of Basra

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Paperback. 148 pages. Dimensions: 8.9in. x 6.0in. x 0.6in. RABIA OF BASRA: SELECTED POEMS Translation by Paul Smith RABIA OF BASRA (717-801). Throughout her life, her Love of God, poverty and self-denial did not waver. She did not possess much other than a broken jug, a rush mat and a brick, which she used as a pillow. She spent nights in prayer and contemplation, chiding herself if she slept because it took her away from her active Love of God. As her fame grew she had many disciples. More interesting than her asceticism is the actual concept of Divine Love that Rabia introduced. She was the first to introduce the idea that God should be loved for Gods own sake, not out of fear -- as earlier Sufis had done. She taught that repentance was a gift from God as none could repent unless God had already accepted him and given this gift of repentance. She had a high ideal, worshipping God neither from fear of Hell nor from hope of Paradise, for she saw such self-interest as unworthy of Gods servants; emotions like fear and hope...



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