

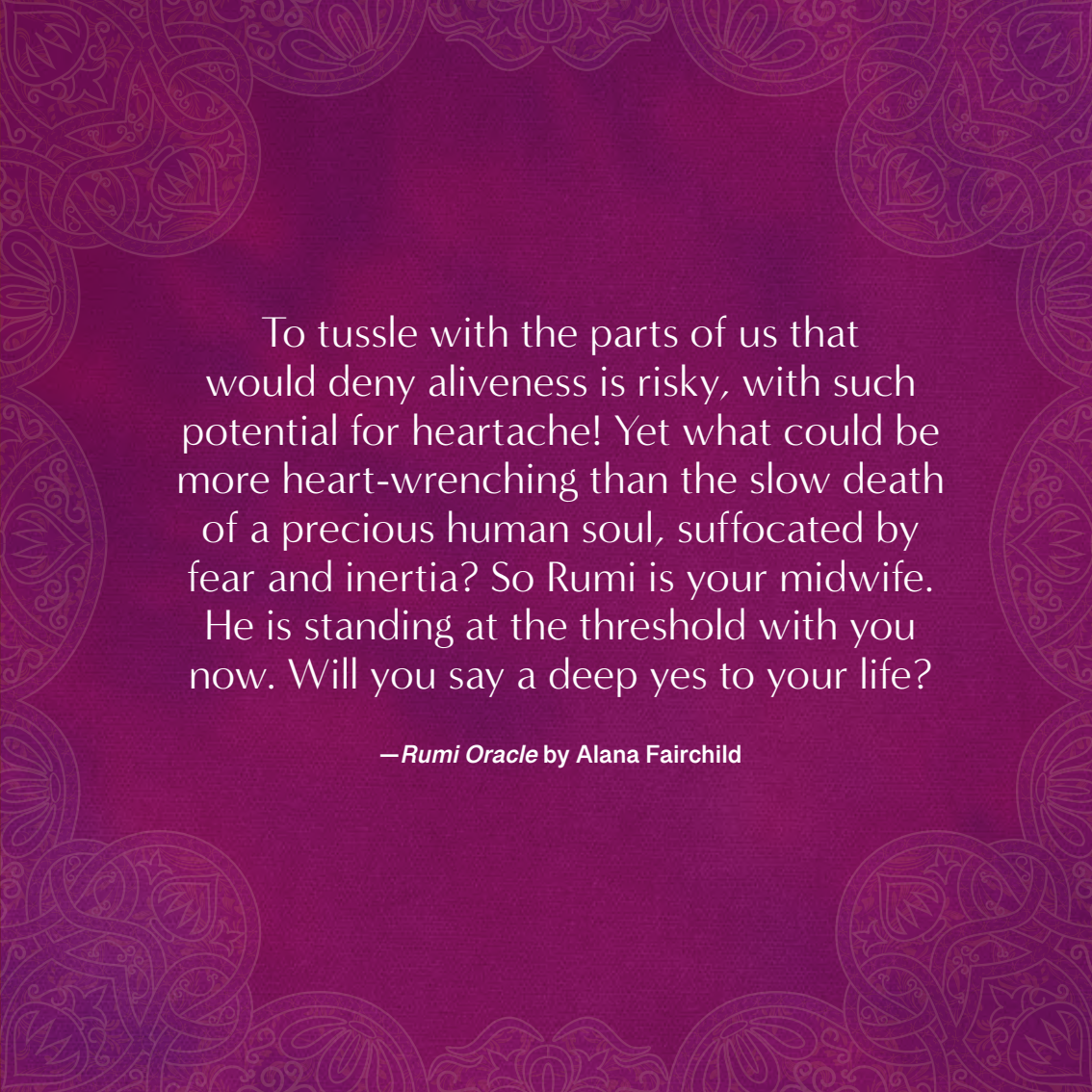
The background of the cover is a painting of a person with long, flowing hair, seen from the side in a meditative or prayerful pose. The colors are warm, with shades of orange, yellow, and red. The entire image is framed by a decorative border consisting of repeating circular motifs in gold and purple. The text is centered over the painting.

RUMI NOWRUZ

Alana Fairchild

Music and Mysticism for A New Day





To tussle with the parts of us that
would deny aliveness is risky, with such
potential for heartache! Yet what could be
more heart-wrenching than the slow death
of a precious human soul, suffocated by
fear and inertia? So Rumi is your midwife.
He is standing at the threshold with you
now. Will you say a deep yes to your life?

—*Rumi Oracle* by Alana Fairchild

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Song List

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9 Najat (*Absolution*)

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Artist Credits

James Englund

Composition, Production, Vocals, Guitar,
Balalaika, Bass, Percussion, Piano

Stewart Havill

Composition, Production, Vocals, Synths, Programming

Alana Fairchild

Production, Vocals

Rassouli

Translations, Spoken Word

Pete Drummond

Drums

Andy Byrnes

Percussion

Paul Jarman

Taragota, Cylisax, Irish Whistle

Rumi

Jalāl al-Dīn Muḥammad Rūmī, or simply Rumi, was an Islamic scholar, prolific poet and Sufi mystic who lived in the 13th century. His vast mystical writings continue to inspire humans around the world. To my heart, he lives on as a great spiritual friend to humanity.

Some years ago, I was fulfilling a long-held desire to travel to Istanbul. At the time, I was also writing an oracle deck called *Journey of Love*, which featured art by Freydoon Rassouli. Wandering about the old neighbourhood of Sultanahmet, witnessing whirling dervishes, surrendering into a Turkish hammam, and feeling like I was stepping back in time at the Grand Bazaar stimulated a series of mystical experiences that I continue to hold dear.

I felt inspired to meditate and seek connection with Rumi more directly. I knew of his poetry and his open-hearted, open-minded mysticism, which resonated with my own spiritual belief system. I wanted to ask if he would give me permission to write an oracle deck in his name. Spontaneously, I felt his presence fill the space and an unexpected ecstatic union took place in my heart. We were entirely as one. I felt blissful and divinely disoriented, and reassured.

A day or so later—unprompted by me—Rassouli emailed me, sharing that he loved my writing in *Journey of Love* and asking if I would be interested in writing a Rumi oracle using his translations of Rumi's poetry. Joyfully, I accepted.

The abundant feedback I've received over the years about how the *Rumi Oracle* has helped people live fuller, braver lives inspired me. I wished to make another soul offering to honour our beloved spiritual friend. Meeting James Englund and Stewart Havill (I believe, orchestrated by Mother Mary — but that is another story!) made this possible. I am deeply grateful for their gifts and generosity of spirit. Along with the other skilful musicians who worked on this album, the translations of Rumi's poetry—provided by Rassouli—which became the lyrics for this album (with the exception of the colloquial Farsi endearment *delam barat tang shode doret begardem*), and support from my publisher Blue Angel, this album has been lovingly born. Sincere thanks also go to my incredibly talented and infinitely optimistic vocal coach, Anna Rizzo-Tassone, for her guidance, creativity and encouragement.

It is my warm wish that this music evokes in your heart the deepest truth of your relationship with Rumi—whatever that may be—and paves a more beautiful path for your own divine experience of the great love that secretly, yet dazzlingly, pervades all of existence.

Meaning of Nowruz

Nowruz translates from Persian as *New Day*. This refers to the Persian New Year festival. As a secular event inclusive of people from varying ethnic, cultural and religious identities, revellers include adherents to Judaism, Christianity and Islam. With roots in Zoroastrianism and the ancient world, Nowruz' history spans over 3000 years and continues to be honoured by over 300 million people around the world, including peoples from Central Asia, the Balkans and the Middle East, and a vast diaspora of Iranian, Kurdish, Pakistani, Afghan and Tajik communities globally.

Marking the beginning of spring in the Northern Hemisphere, vibrant rituals of observance vary amongst different cultural groups and include fire and water ceremonies, gift-giving, dance and poetry.

This optimistic, hopeful festival is a symbol of release and rebirth, and the very real possibility for humanity to unite beyond our differences, in joyful reverence for goodness and grace.

Language, Pronunciation & Musical Metre

This album is a blend of English and Farsi, the latter of which has been stretched and danced with in places to align with musical rhythms. The result is unconventional but hopefully also beautiful to your heart.

I am grateful for Rassouli's support in helping me somewhat attune my Australianised ear to Farsi for this album. I hope you can forgive any imperfections and experience the purity, emotion and spirit of my intention in the delivery. Rassouli's deeply resonant voice can be heard reciting Rumi's poetry far more skilfully in Farsi at different moments on the album.

Transliterations & Translations

Transliteration is the substitution of letters from one alphabet to another. In this case, Farsi and Arabic terms have been transliterated into English as song titles. This is a complicated process but various standardised guidelines for doing this exist, such as the Romanisation guidelines from the Library of Congress, and I have chosen what I felt were simple and accessible transliterations for song titles.

For lyrics in Farsi noted below, I have utilised a phoneticised version of transliteration, which made sense to my ear and helped me begin to familiarise myself with the language. I have shared this in case Farsi is new to you, too, and you are moved to sing along with me.

I would also like to note that the English translations of Persian song titles are a distillation of a series of complex concepts that the original word encompasses. Cultural integration is an art and whilst I do my best to accomplish it with sensitivity and coherence, the best I can claim for myself in this regard is sincerity and purity of purpose — which is the intention to increase pathways of loving relatedness amongst our entire human family.



1 Elham (*Inspiration*)

toh barrow daarr moe zay-eh-no kish de bosch

koh kazeh es peedeynoh ben bish teh bosch

O my friend, if you are longing to be written on, become a blank page.

toh barrow daarr moe zay-eh-no kish de bosch

koh kazeh es peedeynoh ben bish teh bosch

One of my favourite Rumi lines is, “... if you are longing to be written on, become a blank page.” So many of us are looking for spiritual guidance. We want to know what we need to know, when we need to know it, to live our best lives.

To receive genuine inspiration, we have to empty ourselves somewhat, particularly of our opinions and expectations. For me, that often requires an almost painful psychological surrender, but I've learned to embrace the process, like a trust fall. This gets me out of my own way and allows for a greater loving intelligence to be my soft place to land. It is only then that I can be visited by mystical experience and creative inspiration.

Personally, I find spiritual inspiration to be refreshing and unexpected. I enjoy the energising quality of that. Similarly, divine timing moves with its own wisdom, regardless of my demands or expectations. I don't tend to enjoy that quite so much at the time, but with hindsight, I am consistently grateful for how things unfolded. It reminds me of a beautiful expression engraved in a pendant I once bought in Istanbul. The translation is, “God grants destiny with compassion”.

This idea inspires my heart with patience and faith.

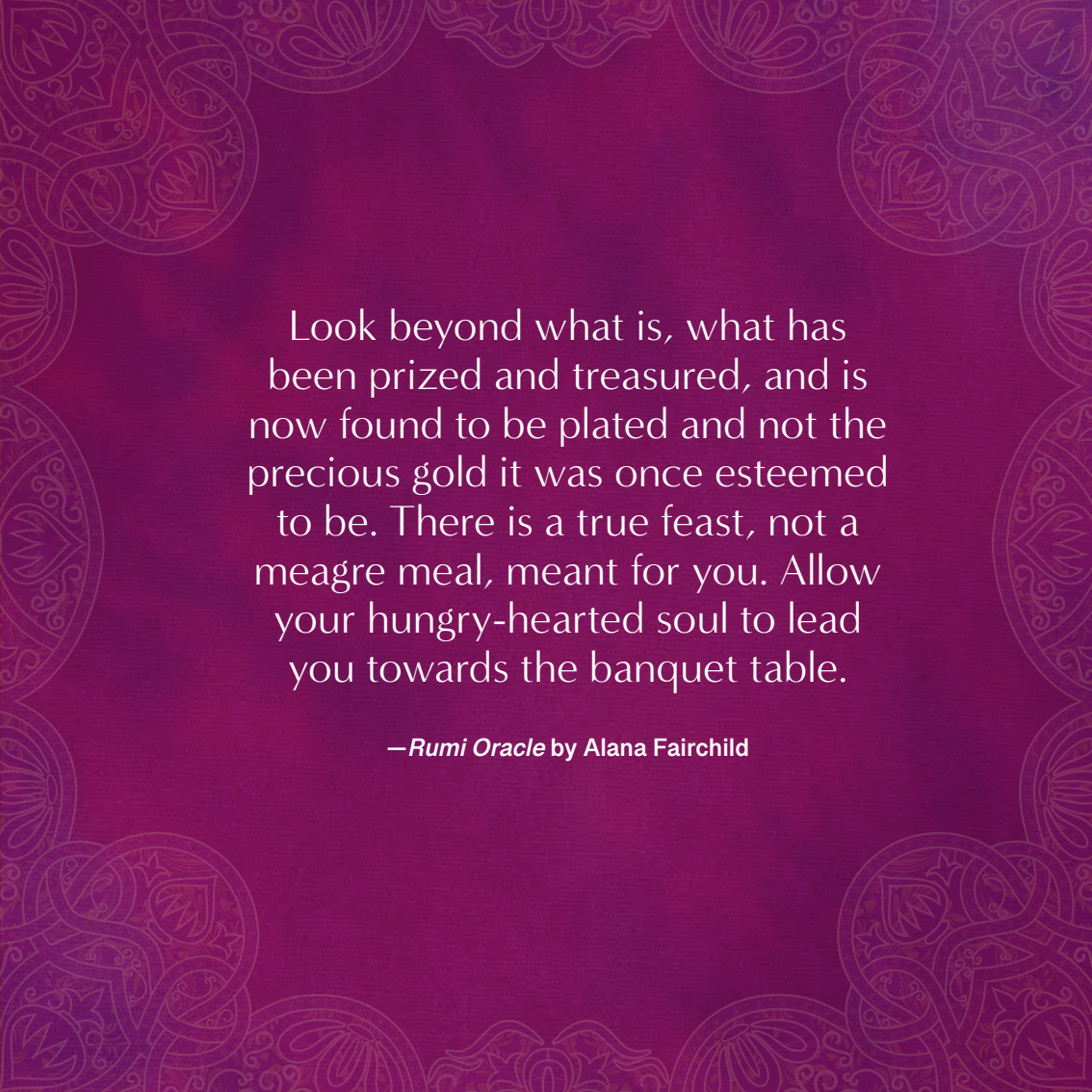
2 Ashiq (*Lover*)

Weary and consumed by longing, I was caressed by my beloved last night.

My wounded soul was set free when I tasted the sweetness of love.

My spirit was lifted at once; I surrendered my life,
while overflowing with joy, and my vision was filled with light.

I've always felt that the love language of mystics is yearning, and that divine experience unfolds in paradox. The pain of perceived separation catapults the mystic into hot pursuit of divine embrace. The truest experience of our luminous inner nature arises as we dare to enter the depths of our darkest and most secret interiority. Sometimes the Divine breaks our hearts to open them.



Look beyond what is, what has
been prized and treasured, and is
now found to be plated and not the
precious gold it was once esteemed
to be. There is a true feast, not a
meagre meal, meant for you. Allow
your hungry-hearted soul to lead
you towards the banquet table.

—*Rumi Oracle* by Alana Fairchild

3 Doret Begardam (*I Circle Around You*)

Roaming about town, the master was holding a light, saying,
“I am weary of the demons and the beasts, a human is what I am longing for.”

The human cannot be found; we have searched.

“What cannot be found, is what I am longing for.”

delam barat tang shode doret begardem

Although poor and needy, I will not accept small pieces of ruby.

The mine of the finest rubies is what I am longing for.

One hand holding a cup of wine, and the other, the curls of the beloved.

A dance like this, in the middle of the circle, is what I am longing for.

delam barat tang shode doret begardem

My heart yearns for you. (And so) I circle around you.

A dance like this, in the middle of (the circle).

Is what I'm longing for.

Is what I'm longing for.

Is what I'm longing for.

My ancestry is diverse, with a portion of my genetic inheritance stemming from the Levant, which is itself incredibly diverse. Although I grew up in Australia, I have always had a fascination—and somehow a deep and abiding connection—with an array of cultures and spiritualities. This led me to reflect on the nuances of human languages.

Certain Persian colloquialisms have a poetic quality. In Farsi, *delam barat tang shode* translates as, “My heart has tightened for you,” or we might say, “Your absence constricts my heart.” In other words, “I really, really miss you!” *Doret begardem* means, “I circle around you.” It is an affirmation of the centrality of someone, our desire to rotate around them, to do anything for them. In numerous spiritual traditions, as diverse as pre-Islamic Arabian goddess worship to Hinduism and Tibetan Buddhism, circumambulation—or circling around a sacred idol—is an act of religious devotion.

In his native Aramaic, Christ called God not ‘Father’, but something closer to ‘Daddy’. This reveals an informality and ease which arises not from a lack of respect but from genuine intimacy. The mystic knows that the divine relationship is an amalgam of unknowable mystery, passionate eros and unconditional friendship. That divine bond exists in every heart and is somehow simultaneously transcendent of this world and very much part of our daily lives. I wanted to include these lyrics to demystify mystical love somewhat, and express it as a natural inclination of the human heart.

4 Al-Uzza (Venus)

Winter falls upon us so spring can bring new growth.

Cry the tears! Allow the longing!

Sadness brings surrender.

Sadness brings surrender and a deep desire to be free.

deedaeus siras maro

jaunay dah lir ahs maro

zahr ee ay sheer-ahs maro

zoor ree ay tau ban dishi tahm

I have seen everything; I have no fear.

I have the heart of a lion! I shine like Venus.

deedaeus siras maro

jaunay dah lir ahs maro

zahr ee ay sheer-ahs maro

zoor ree ay tau ban dishi tahm

Al-Uzza is one of a trinity of pre-Islamic Arabian goddesses. She is associated with protection (especially during times of strife, war and struggle), oracles and divination, bestowal of gifts and blessings, and undoubtedly much more. Her worship as a high goddess extended throughout Arabia and into Europe. To the Nabateans, she was known as Venus, and worshipped in Petra (located in present-day Jordan), possibly in the large Nabatean temple complex known as the Temple of Winged Lions. Large cats were sacred to her.

Her temple, housing a sacred stone cube, stood in Nakhla (located in present-day Saudi Arabia)—likely for several thousand years—until around 630 CE when it, along with the revered acacia trees and human custodians, were destroyed in an Islamic raid. Yet the light of Venus continues to shine. As the morning and evening star, she has become associated with Mother Mary (who is honoured in Judaism, Christianity and Islam as a blessed, holy woman).

To me, the Divine Feminine is constantly evolving, and assumes the forms necessary to guide humanity with enduring compassion and merciful, loving wisdom. This is her song.

5 Hosh Dar Dam (*Awareness on the Breath*)

Wings of hope languish from lack of use.

When wings dissipate and weaken, life begins to lose its value.

Every cell in your body is created to rise to challenges.

Your life is meant to confront everything that holds you captive.

Don't sit at the bottom of the well, not caring about salvation.

Listen to the voice within calling to you;

prepare yourself for a feast of sweetness!

Placing awareness on the breath is a tool for meditation, and the method I had to embrace to be able to sing this song! It is also what I hope happens for the listener as we go on the auditory journey together.

In my initial production notes for the album, I was inspired for this track to be accompanied by an Armenian oboe or duduk. It's an instrument that can evoke a soulful and somewhat sorrowful sound. In the hands of a skilful player, it is nothing short of mesmerising.

When James told me he had come up with an idea that we could use the vocal part instead of the oboe to accomplish this hypnotic effect, I was intrigued (though still somewhat obsessed with the duduk).

It was not easy to vocalise this song. It took a lot of practice. One lyric line—“Every cell in your body is created to rise to challenges,”—struck me as particularly ironic, and a saving grace of encouragement to continue when I felt overwhelmed by the seemingly 764 distinctive melodic twists and turns (it only felt like that, I have not yet been driven to actually count them).

6 Al-Kimia (*Alchemy*)

om aad bahor ay o shivaun

toeh hoeh kton poostan shavat

The spring of love arrives to transform the dust into a garden.

The call is heard from the heavens to bid the wings of soul to fly.

The sea becomes filled with pearls; the dry land receives the water of life.

The stone becomes a ruby, and the body becomes all soul.

O, you living in the world of six directions, accept the gloom and accept the bliss,

for every seed buried in the ground will one day grow into fruitful plant.

I wanted to name this track after the ancient practice of alchemy.

Alchemy is a curious art, heralded as the prelude to modern chemistry, and also a mystical metaphor for personal transformation. When Rumi writes of the spring of love transforming the dust into a garden, I am reminded of the effect of the spiritual path. It is alchemical. It is active. It brings forth from us our most exquisite potential. It accomplishes transformations that may seem unlikely—
if not impossible—with loving intelligence.

Alchemists utilised heat to facilitate the alchemical process of transformation. When I sing this song, I feel the spiritual heat turned up and a type of sacred ripening taking place, as though my body is the burning glass and Spirit is fanning the holy fire in my soul as the lamp.

7 Basira (*Inner Vision*)

I am not a handful of worthless dust; I am not just an empty shell.

I am a regal pearl formed in this world!

Close your eyes to see and become aware of me.

Perceive me with eyes that see the unseen.

Come into the mystery to find me.

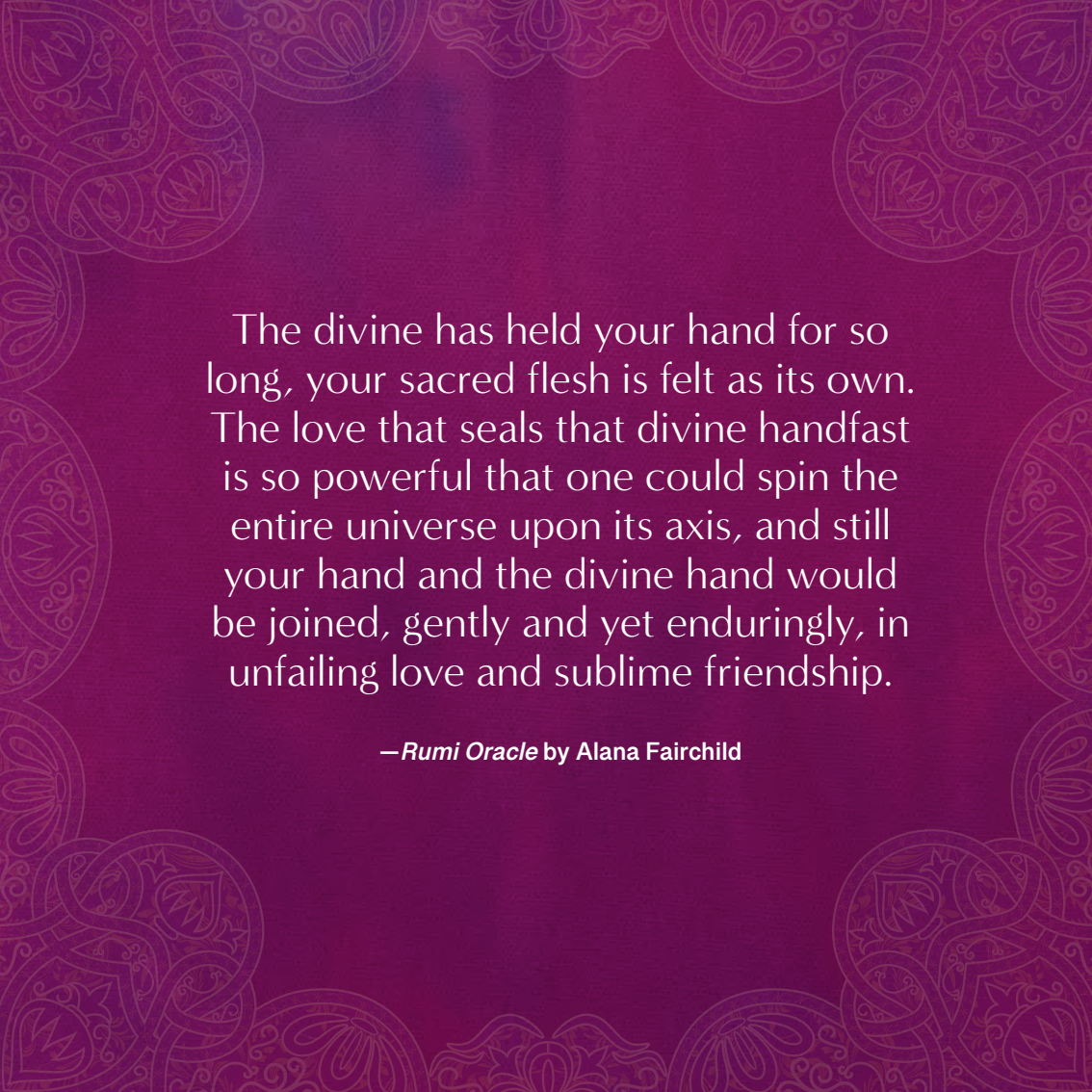
Perceive me with eyes that see the unseen.

I am a carefree visitor here for you.

“Perceive me with eyes that see the unseen” is such a beautiful encapsulation of the spiritual need to turn within, to not allow appearances to mesmerise us or undermine our faith.

In Sufism, *basira* refers to the eye of the heart. It holds an array of meanings, from perception and intelligence to the capacity to witness reality. This is a different type of vision. It is the seeing of things that changes us from within — releasing us from doubt and anchoring us firmly on our unique path to truth.

I think of this song as an invitation from Rumi to behold the visions that the Divine is lovingly revealing in our hearts.



The divine has held your hand for so long, your sacred flesh is felt as its own. The love that seals that divine handfast is so powerful that one could spin the entire universe upon its axis, and still your hand and the divine hand would be joined, gently and yet enduringly, in unfailing love and sublime friendship.

—*Rumi Oracle* by Alana Fairchild

8 Sarv-e Abarkuh (*Tree of Life*)

O Heart! Stay close to those who know about the heart.

O Heart! Choose the shade of a tree that is in constant bloom.

Don't meander aimlessly among the herb sellers and potion vendors.

Go directly to the shop that sells nothing but sweets!

Don't sit waiting by every boiling pot to have your plate filled!

Not every boiling pot is cooking what you want.

Not every sugar cane is filled with sugar.

Not every down has an up.

Not every eye has vision.

Not every sea contains pearls.

Not every sea contains pearls.

This song is named for an actual tree, a very old tree called the Cypress of Abarkuh, which is estimated to be around 4/5000 years old and is the most ancient tree in Iran.

Cypress trees hold spiritual meaning. Certain traditions of the ancient world used them in funerary rites to support everlasting spiritual life. Trees are considered sacred in numerous cultures, particularly amongst Indigenous and shamanic groups, where they are acknowledged as possessing spiritual energies and medicine for body and soul.

So for me, this song is a call to realise what is truly precious, what is worth dedicating effort towards protecting. That may not align with the priorities of mainstream society, but as more and more humans choose their own heart-aligned priorities, society will heal and mature spiritually, which ultimately benefits all beings.

9 Najat (*Absolution*)

betwargah gor shekinam

khoorr shavat dar kafehman

vah harmehk horan zittomahn

jomlay guloo yoh samana

If I pick a rose without you, it becomes a thorn in my hand.

If I am the thorn, I become the rose in your hand.

torvisha jahung yauof delum

vouw shudde bishcauft delum

atlasan nobauft delum

doosh monay injin dishitum

Love embraced my spirit, and all my doubts vanished at once.

A new and glorious robe of honour was placed on my shoulders.

kohlin azar daroonahat
dastick arhum barooz ahnut
sineb besooza das hassad
infalakay hahmeedarrol

Love offered me the power of new vision,
and the transforming touch of divine generosity,
and placed the chalice of eternal wine in my hand.

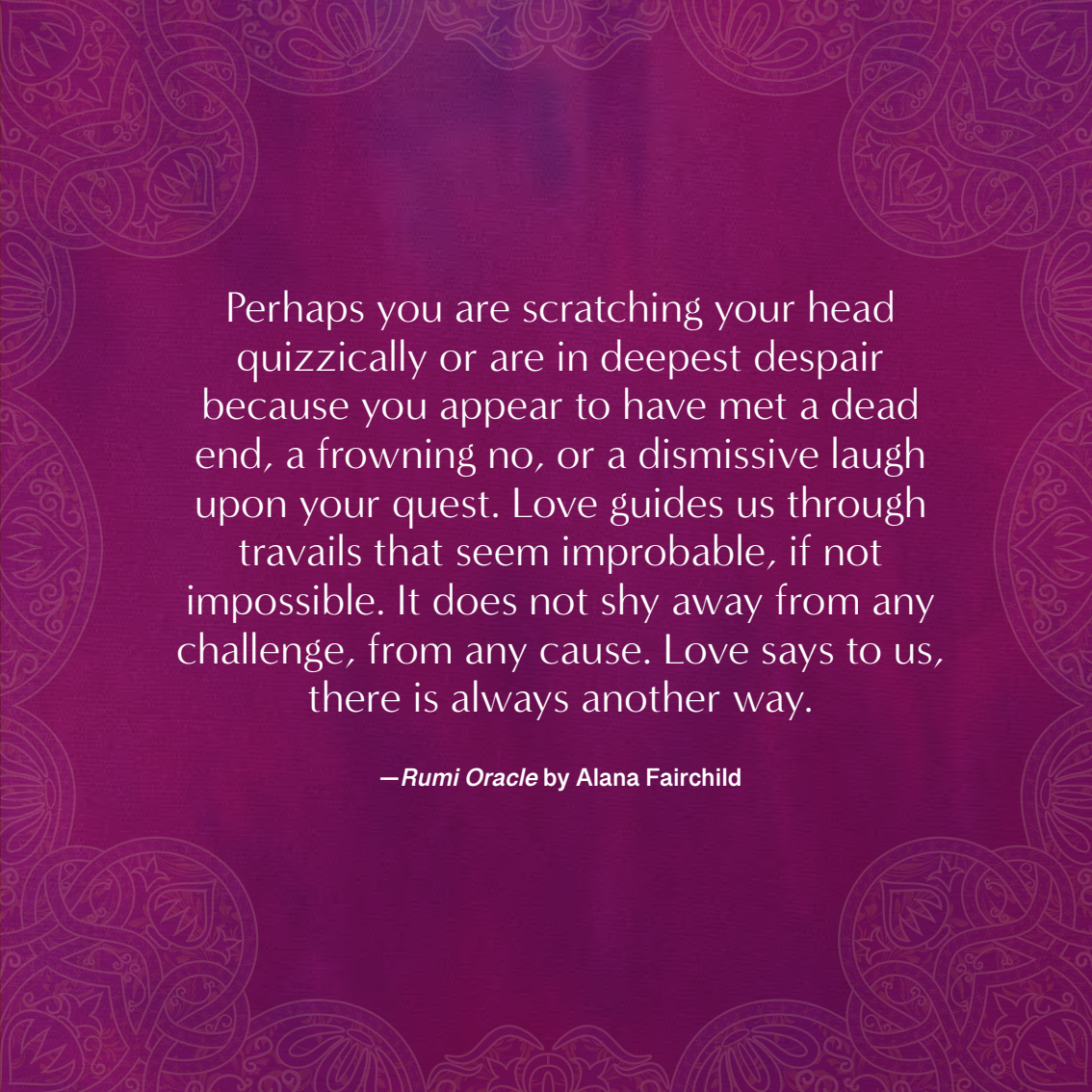
I was practising this song at home one evening; my practice sessions often occur around twilight. There's a certain magic in the air at that time. Across diverse traditions—from Hinduism to neo-Celtic shamanism—it is believed that the realms of devas and faeries are more active at the transitions of dawn and dusk.

That evening as I sang, and dusk quickly gave way to nightfall, I became aware of a presence perched on my balcony only a couple of metres away. Outlined in shadows, given the fast-fading light, an owl hooted gently as I sang. My hands spontaneously rested at my heart and I felt a sense of quiet, ecstatic love fill the space between and around us. As I sang the line, “A new and glorious robe of honour was placed on my shoulders,” the wings of the owl lifted and shifted, as if to allow for the robe to rest upon it, and hooted a quickened pattern of soft sounds. I was transfixed in the moment.

Whilst owls are not generously looked upon in Islam and Christianity, there was no fear in this encounter. I reflected on how the owl is associated with Greek wisdom goddess Athena, the Buddhist saviouress goddess Tara, and the *vahana* (or sacred vehicle) of luminous Hindu goddess Lakshmi. These are goddesses sought for guidance and protection.

Najat is a beautiful feminine Arabic name which translates as 'saviour' or 'salvation', and 'absolution' or 'redemption'. I believe that absolution is a gift of grace that happens in our lives again and again, bringing us closure and release, and ensuring that we remain faithful on our sacred course in life. Such grace leads us through the darkness that owl navigates so skilfully, into the secret love hiding in our life's mysteries.

I named that owl Najat, and I think of this song now not only as absolution, but also the signs that prefigure it. It is a song of faith and hope, and absolute confidence in the timeliness of divine grace.



Perhaps you are scratching your head
quizzically or are in deepest despair
because you appear to have met a dead
end, a frowning no, or a dismissive laugh
upon your quest. Love guides us through
travails that seem improbable, if not
impossible. It does not shy away from any
challenge, from any cause. Love says to us,
there is always another way.

—*Rumi Oracle* by Alana Fairchild

10 Kashf (*Unveiling*)

Greetings from my heart to you who are always with me,
(hidden inside as the heart).

You are the compass of my life. My course is your way,
(no matter where I go).

You exist everywhere and in everything,
(always watching over us).

My soul brightens in the darkness when I speak your name.

Far beyond the body, there is an opening from my heart into yours.

Through that opening, I send you secret messages like the moonlight.

I polish the mirror of my heart to be your reflection.

I make my ear the receiver for the tenderness of your words.

Derived from the Arabic word for ‘unveiling’, *kashf*, comes the Urdu word *kashaf* which also refers to ‘revelation’, as well as meaning ‘a solution’ and ‘a manifestation’. In Islam’s mystical branch of Sufism, *kashf* refers to the knowledge that can only arise through direct and personal experience of the Divine.

It has been my experience that divine love is not only transcendent, but also pragmatic. There is a generous and kind intelligence in that love that simultaneously uplifts and grounds the soul, helping us realise a more beautiful truth — whilst at the same time, with great compassion, helps us navigate the difficulties of our lives.

This song is an expression of gratitude for the constancy, protectiveness and tenderness of that divine love. It has saved me countless times. I hope that whenever you feel in need of it, you realise that love is there within you, listening and responding always.



Alana Fairchild

Renowned mystic, sound healer and publishing phenomenon, Alana Fairchild is a visionary powerhouse, with a diverse global following. With considerable knowledge across a broad range of metaphysical topics, Alana is a rare and nourishing channel, with a purity and potency that sets her apart. Highly regarded as a prolific creatrix of quality offerings, Alana currently has over 50 titles in print. Through her oracle decks, books,

albums of music and meditation, live events and mystical retreats, Alana is devoted to protecting the spiritual freedom of every human being. With a quirky, loving sense of humour and passionate energy, she expresses her gift for weaving soul-stirring magic into the world to uplift the human heart. Find her online home at www.alanafairchild.com



James Englund

Grammy-nominated James Englund is the founder and head producer at Crash Symphony Productions, and has worked with artists including John Butler Trio, Michael Bolton and Erika Heynatz, and co-produced a Grammy-nominated album by Fiona Joy Hawkins. James is an exceptional multi-instrumentalist and talented vocalist, well-known and respected within the industry as a songwriter and performer.



Stewart Havill

Stewart Havill is a multi-award-winning producer and audio engineer at Crash Symphony Productions with over 30 years of industry experience. Having worked with a variety of artists, including sound production for Lior and Alex Gibson, Stewart is highly respected for his considerable production skill, meticulous approach, creativity and warm, down-to-earth personality.



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