



## Mirabai: Ecstatic Poems

*From Beacon Press*

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### Mirabai: Ecstatic Poems From Beacon Press

Mirabai is a literary and spiritual figure of legendary proportions. Born a princess in the region of Rajasthan in 1498, Mira (as she is more commonly known) fought tradition and celebrated a woman's right to an independent life in her ecstatic poems. Her royal family arranged an early marriage for her, but she felt a marriage to Krishna was more important. As a result, her life became a model of social defiance and spiritual integrity.

During her lifetime, Mira's reputation spread across her country. She was known as a woman of immense talent and devotion. By the time she died in 1550, she was considered a saint. People across India recited and danced to her poems, and they still do today. In this collection, Robert Bly and Jane Hirshfield, two of America's best poets, have created lively English versions of Mirabai's poems, using fresh images and energetic rhythms to make them accessible to modern readers. Their work makes clear that Mirabai's poetry transcends her time and culture.

Columbia University professor of religion John Stratton Hawley provides an afterword to the volume that discusses what is known of Mirabai's life and reputation. With a historian's precision, he shows how Bly and Hirshfield's versions belong to a tradition of reinterpretation and rephrasing that is already centuries old.

Mirabai comes to life through the impressive interpreting of her poems by Bly and Hirshfield. The poems feel as fresh today as they must have felt when this amazing woman sung them herself five centuries ago.

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## Editorial Review

### Review

We are so fortunate that two magnificent poets have been drawn to Mirabai's music. Like two twining flutes, Robert Bly and Jane Hirshfield ignite these subtle, surrendered-heart notes, as 'a steeped herb' releasing its cure, and even though we ourselves may be bogged down in our 'patch of gooseberry bushes' (both their images), still we catch. -Coleman Barks, author of *The Drowned Book* and *The Essential Rumi*

### About the Author

Robert Bly is the author of *The Night Abraham Called to the Stars*, a book of poems in the ghazal form, as well as ten other collections of poetry. He has published several books of prose, including *Iron John* and *The Sibling Society*. Recently published, *The Winged Energy of Delight* is a gathering of poems by twenty-two poets from various languages that Bly has translated over the last forty years. Bly lives in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

## Users Review

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#### Floyd Wyatt:

This Mirabai: Ecstatic Poems book is not ordinary book, you have after that it the world is in your hands. The benefit you receive by reading this book is definitely information inside this reserve incredible fresh, you will get details which is getting deeper a person read a lot of information you will get. This specific Mirabai: Ecstatic Poems without we recognize teach the one who looking at it become critical in imagining and analyzing. Don't possibly be worry Mirabai: Ecstatic Poems can bring once you are and not make your tote space or bookshelves' grow to be full because you can have it within your lovely laptop even cell phone. This Mirabai: Ecstatic Poems having very good arrangement in word and also layout, so you will not truly feel uninterested in reading.

#### Karen McCarthy:

Reading can called mind hangout, why? Because if you are reading a book especially book entitled Mirabai: Ecstatic Poems your head will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in every single aspect that maybe unidentified for but surely can become your mind friends. Imaging each word written in a book then become one web form conclusion and explanation this maybe you never get ahead of. The Mirabai: Ecstatic Poems giving you an additional experience more than blown away your thoughts but also giving you useful info for your better life within this era. So now let us demonstrate the relaxing pattern is your body and mind are going to be pleased when you are finished examining it, like winning a. Do you want to try this extraordinary shelling out spare time activity?

#### Nancy Steffen:

What is your hobby? Have you heard in which question when you got pupils? We believe that that question

was given by teacher to the students. Many kinds of hobby, Every person has different hobby. Therefore you know that little person just like reading or as studying become their hobby. You should know that reading is very important along with book as to be the matter. Book is important thing to incorporate you knowledge, except your personal teacher or lecturer. You find good news or update regarding something by book. Many kinds of books that can you decide to try be your object. One of them is actually Mirabai: Ecstatic Poems.

**Angie Blakney:**

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