

Rabia's Song

Rabi'a al'Adawiyya of Basra, born around 717, died 802 A.D
Adapted from Zuleikha's White Pavillion tape,
as recorded by Arienne and Wim van der Zwal
capo 4th fret

Am Dm Am
Where are you going? And she said "To that world"
Dm Am
Where do you come from? And she answered "From that world"
Dm Am G Am
So what are you doing in this world? And she said "I am sorrowing"
Dm Am G
In what way? they asked of her. And Rabia replied "I am
Am Dm G Am
eating the bread of this world and doing the work of that world ." (repeat line)
Am Dm G Am Dm Am G Am
Alla-a-a-ah Alla-a-ah A-a-llah Alla-a-ah Alla-a-ah A-a-a A-a-a Allah

Am Dm Am
With two loves I have loved thee
Dm Am
With two loves I have loved thee
Dm Am
Love that is selfish and love that is glorious
Dm Am
Love being selfish and love being glorious
Dm Am G
In what way? they asked of her, and Rabia replied
Am Dm G Am
"Of the selfish love I exclude all but you, of the other you enfold me in glory." (repeat line)
Am Dm G Am Dm Am G Am
Alla-a-a-ah Alla-a-ah A-a-llah Alla-a-ah Alla-a-ah A-a-a A-a-a Allah

Dance Verses:

1. Where are you going? and she said “To that world”
Where do you come from? and she answered “From that world”
So what are you doing in this world? and she said “I am sorrowing”
In what way? they asked of her, and Rabia replied
2. “I am eating the bread of this world
3. and doing the work of that world .”
Repeat 2 and 3
4. Alla-a-a-ah Alla-a-ah A-a-llah Alla-a-ah Alla-a-ah A-a-a A-a-a Allah

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Dance Movements:

1. Walk in circle, counter-clockwise, plodding along, hands on heart,
2. Hands on shoulders, circle continues to walk counter-clockwise,
3. Drop hands, walk in toward center, raising arms to the heavens,
4. Spinning to the right on first three Allahs, spin left on last three Allahs.

Commentary:

Rabia is quoted as having said the following:

"I love You with two loves- a selfish love
And a Love that You are worthy of.

As for the selfish love, it is that I think of You,
To the exclusion of everything else.

And as for the Love that You are worthy of,
Ah! That I no longer see any creature, but I see only You!"

Translations from "Doorkeeper of the Heart" by Charles Upton :

I have two ways of loving You:
A selfish one
And another way that is worthy of You.
In my selfish love,
I remember You and You alone.
In that other love, You lift the veil
And let me feast my eyes on
Your Living Face.
That I remember You always,
or that I see You face-to-face--
No credit to me in either:
The credit is to You in both

The one who explains, lies.
How can you describe
the true form of Something
In whose presence you are blotted out?
And in whose being you still exist?

May God steal from you
All that steals you from Him.

O God!

If I adore You out of fear of Hell, burn me in Hell!

If I adore You out of desire for Paradise,

Lock me out of Paradise.

But if I adore You for Yourself alone,

Do not deny to me Your eternal beauty.