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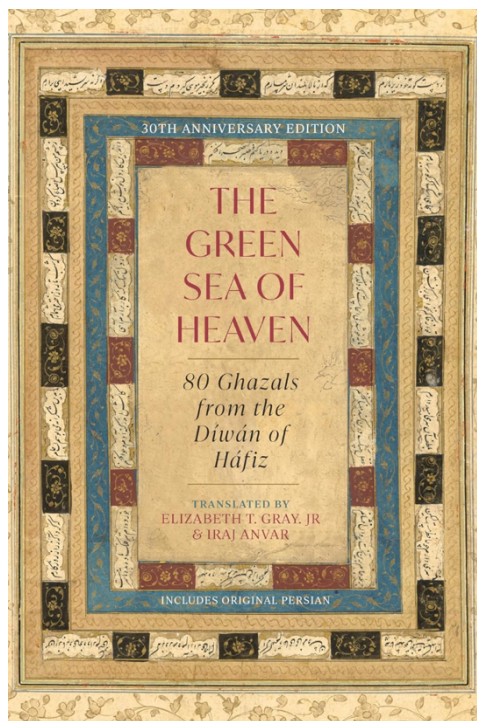
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

*The authoritative edition of Hafiz's most important poems, including original Persian and brilliant English translations*

"Achieves the almost impossible, rendering the virtually untranslatable Hafiz into beautiful and accurate poetry." —**Omid Safi**, Duke University; author of *Radical Love:*

*Teachings from the Islamic Mystical Tradition*

Recent translations of Háfiz have been controversial. Fake translations have appeared in recent years, offering 'versions' that have no connection to anything the Persian poet and sage of Shiraz ever said. Now, in January 2025, ***Green Sea of Heaven: Eighty Ghazals from the Diwan of Hafiz***, translated by Elizabeth T. Gray, Jr. and Iraj Anvar (Paperback original; ISBN 978-1958972359; 272 pages, US \$35.) offers fidelity to the originals as well as beautiful translations that show Hafiz's timeless relevance.



Háfiz became the greatest Sufi poet, called both "Tongue of the Invisible" and "Interpreter of Mysteries." His command of traditional imagery and themes blends eroticism, mysticism, and panegyric into verse of unsurpassed beauty. Eighty of his ghazals are presented in this book, with Persian originals on facing pages.

"A groundbreaking work, one that places the ghazal of Hafiz into a contemporary English poetic idiom. After too long a wait, we encounter Hafiz, come alive in an English style that is at once natural and intricate. This is a remarkable achievement." —

**Michael Sells**, John Henry Barrows Professor of Islamic History and Literature, The University of Chicago Divinity School; author of *Mystical Languages of Unsayings*

"These are truly remarkable and moving translations: the first English versions of Hafiz to read as poetry." —**James W.**

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**Morris**, professor of Islamic studies, Boston College; author of *The Reflective Heart: Discovering Spiritual Intelligence in Ibn 'Arabi's Meccan Illuminations*

"These approachable, skillful English renderings will appeal to anyone seeking to understand Hafiz in the context of his medieval Muslim world." —**Dominic Parviz Brookshaw**, professor of Persian literature and Iranian culture, University of Oxford; author of *Hafiz and His Contemporaries*

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For author interviews, media review copies:  
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**Háfiz** of Shiraz (d. 1389 CE) remains the most popular poet in Iran today. His work, available in English translation since 1771, has left a profound mark on many Western writers including Thoreau, Emerson, Goethe, W.B. Yeats, Nietzsche, and Rimbaud.

**Elizabeth T. Gray, Jr.** is a poet and translator whose selection of poems by Iran's iconic female poet Forough Farrokhzad (1934-67), *Let Us Believe in the Beginning of the Cold Season* (New Directions, 2022) was a finalist for the 2023 PEN Prize for Poetry in Translation. Her own books of poetry include *After the Operation* (Four Way Books 2025), *Salient* (New Directions, 2020), and *Series I India* (Four Way Books 2015). She serves on the boards of World Poetry, Flood Editions, *The Beloit Poetry Journal*, Kimbilio Fiction, Friends of Writers, and the Abdorrahman Boroumand Center for Human Rights in Iran. From 2009-2015 she served as Chair of the Board of the Iran Human Rights Documentation Center. She holds a BA and JD from Harvard University and an MFA from the Program for Writers at Warren Wilson College. She lives in New York City. [www.etgrayjr.com](http://www.etgrayjr.com).

**Iraj Anvar** is an actor, singer, stage and film director, writer, translator, and educator. He completed his first diploma in Genoa, Italy at the Swiss School, then gained a degree in acting and directing at Alessandro Fersen's Studio di Arti Sceniche in Rome, Italy. On returning to his native Tehran, he co-founded the Tehran Theater Workshop where he directed and performed in many stage and television productions and translated plays and film dialogue into Persian, including European plays he directed for the stage. He also taught acting and diction at Tehran University. A few months before the 1979 Islamic Revolution, he moved to New York City, where he received his PhD in Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies at NYU where he taught Persian language and literature for several years. In New York, he has read and sung Rumi, Hafiz, and other classical poets in Persian and in his own translations at the Asia Society, Cathedral of St. John the Divine, St. Bartholomew's Church, the Long House Preserve Garden, the Bowery Poetry Club, Stony Brook, and several other institutions.