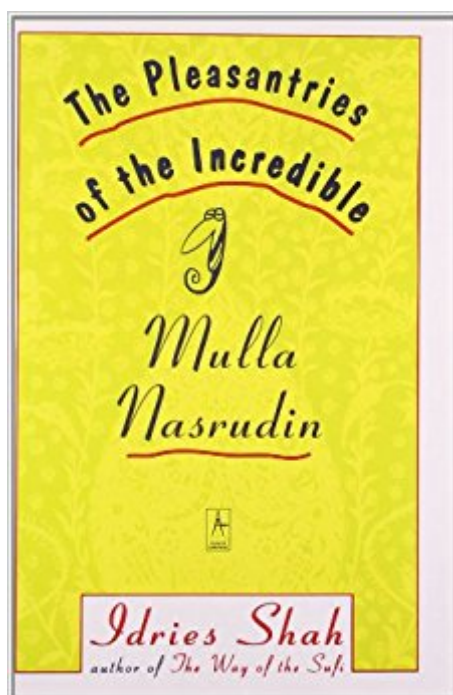


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# The Pleasantries Of The Incredible Mulla Nasrudin (Compass)



## Synopsis

The appeal of Nasrudin is as universal and timeless as the truths he illustrates. This delightful collection of teaching stories in which Mulla Nasrudin is the main actor is both an outstanding anthology of humor and a book of Sufi wisdom. Here are stories by the Sufi masters Rumi, Jami, and Attar, plus others collected by Idries Shah from the Persian, Afghan, Turkish, and Arabic cultures.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"(Nasrudin's) antics are parallels of the mind's workings ..." -- The Observer, January 19, 1969"... an invitation to knowledge lies behind a smiling mask of almost childlike simplicity." -- Clarin, November 11, 1976"... deliberately created ... to outwit ... the patterns of conditioned thinking which form the prison in which we all live." -- Doris Lessing, The New York Times Book Review, May 7, 1971"Undebased wisdom, a kind of addendum to language, joining people together, a kind of extension of the proverbial." -- Geoffrey Grigson, Country Life, November 21, 1968 --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

This delightful collection of teaching stories in which Mulla Nasrudin is the main actor is both an outstanding anthology of humor and a book of Sufi wisdom. Here are stories by the Sufi masters Rumi, Jami, and Attar, plus others collected by Idries Shah from the Persian, Afghan, Turkish, and Arabic cultures.

In The Pleasantries is the classic story about irrational levels of payment at the Turkish bath-house. There is a Different Time-Scale. A search on Turkish in The Sufis, Kindle version, at once yields Shah's explanatory statement: "Nasrudin enables the Sufi Seeker to understand that the formal ideas current about time and space are not necessarily those which obtain in the wider field of true reality. The Sufi time conception is an interrelation of a continuum. Shah has left a lot of material, a large body of work. Some of it, including the Pleasantries, seems self-evident, some opaque. Both are a problem. Electronic searching is a bonus. In this sense, perhaps, it follows the example of Nasrudin in emphasising the interrelationship not of time, but of ideas. At the very least it more swiftly confirms your ignorance. Whatever the form of publication The Pleasantries is exceptional. It was first published in 1968. With Nasrudin, as the story says, there's probably a different time scale.

I just read this book in small chunks while riding the bus to work - a great way to get the mind moving in the morning, maybe for reasons similar to the attraction of doing crossword puzzles at the breakfast table. Some of these short tales were immediately hilarious, but a fair number seemed strangely bland and pointless. In almost all cases where I drew a blank, a day or two later, on re-reading them I got the point - or at least "a point" - usually a genuinely insightful one well worth coming back for. Maybe two or three will have to wait for another time. This little book is some of the most satisfying personal reading I've done in recent memory. I dearly wish, however, that the publisher had figured out a way to reproduce the drawings with better resolution. They're wonderfully whimsical and surprising.

All of Idries Shah's books are worth reading as he is a great storyteller with a wealth of teaching-stories from the middle east. His books are thoughtful, well-written, and entertaining. The Mulla is my favorite of all--i always come away with a smile, a laugh, and a thoughtful nod. Here's an example: The mulla has been invited to a banquet given by the King. He goes wearing a fancy coloured robe. He sits down and immediately begins rubbing food into the robe. The king asks him why he is doing this. He replies "The robe got me in here, so it is only right that it should have a share!" If The Mulla was in charge of the Middle East there would be Peace.

Entertaining and thought provoking. The drawings are clever and amusing. Like "vitamins", read a Nasrudin anecdote a day!

There is a lesson in every story or there is entertainment in every story, your choice

Not half as good as an old book I had and let someone "borrow". Nasrudin stories in that book did not make him to be a fool- most of these stories do. The Nasrudin I know was a wise man who could spin your head around with his phrasing. I can't believe I. Shah wrote this even.

The Mulla does many foolish and many simply funny things, but after some study or deep reflection they can be found to have a deeper meaning.

Each one of Idries Shah's three delightful Nasrudin books - The Pleasantries of the Incredible Mulla Nasrudin, the Exploits of the Incomparable Mulla Nasrudin and the Subtleties of the Inimitable Mulla Nasrudin - is not only the perfect gift for any thinking person with a sense of humor, but a fitting antidote to the stress, pressure and confusion of modern life. For beyond the laughter lie deeper levels of meaning that reveal themselves at their own pace and can help broaden our perception and increase our understanding. The bite-sized jokes center around Mulla Nasrudin, an age-old Middle Eastern teaching figure whose antics mirror those of the human mind as he juggles the roles of wise man, fool and our own self. Calling these jokes "perfectly designed models for isolating and holding distortions of the mind which so often pass for reasonable behavior," author Idries Shah notes that they have been used for centuries by the Sufis as teaching exercises. Other specialists - from physicists to psychologists - have employed them to illustrate concepts that defy more straightforward explanations. I've not seen anything like them anywhere else.

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