

Does happiness reflect in your face  
from the wine of the true religion?  
Where is your generous hand  
if you've beheld the Ocean of Abundance?  
The one who sees the River doesn't grudge water to the thirsty,  
especially the one who has beheld that Sea and those mighty Clouds.

[VI, 804-805]

The ant trembles and staggers with a grain of wheat,  
blind to the abundance of the threshing-floors.  
It drags a grain along greedily and fearfully,  
unaware of the stack of winnowed wheat.  
The Owner of the threshing-floor is calling to the ant,  
“Hey, are you blind? While you have become devoted  
with all your soul to that one grain,  
do you really think that single grain  
is all My threshing-floors possess?”

[VI, 806-809]

A human being is essentially an eye:  
the rest is merely flesh and skin:  
whatever the eye has beheld, he or she is that.  
A jar will submerge a mountain with its water  
when the eye of the jar is open to the Sea.  
When the interior of the jar has a channel to the Sea,  
that jar will overwhelm a river as great as the Oxus.  
In the same way whatever speech Muhammad utters,  
those words are really uttered by the Sea.  
All his words were pearls of the Sea,  
for his heart had a passage into that Sea.  
Since the bounty of the Sea is poured through our jar,  
why should anyone be amazed that the Sea itself  
should be contained in a Fish?

[VI, 812-817]

~ *Jewels of Remembrance*,  
Excerpts from Rumi's *Mathnawi* translated by Camille and Kabir Helminski