

# The Stairway of Existence

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by **Hafiz**, *Persian lyric poet & mystic (1320 to 1389)*

*We  
Are not  
In pursuit of formalities  
Or fake religious  
Laws,*

*For through the stairway of existence  
We have come to God's  
Door.*

*We are  
People who need to love, because  
Love is the soul's life,*

*Love is simply creation's greatest joy.*

*Through  
The stairway of existence,  
O, through the stairway of existence, Hafiz*

*Have  
You now come,  
Have we all now come to  
The Beloved's  
Door.*

from **The Gift**

translated by Daniel Ladinsky