



AUTHOR OF THE FOUR AGREEMENTS

DON MIGUEL RUIZ

AND BARBARA EMRYS

The THREE
QUESTIONS

HOW TO DISCOVER AND MASTER
THE POWER WITHIN YOU

Barbara Emrys

**The Three Questions: How to Discover
and Master the Power Within You**

«HarperCollins»

Emrys B.

**The Three Questions: How to Discover and Master the Power Within
You / B. Emrys — «HarperCollins»,**

From the author of the international bestseller *The Four Agreements* comes a profound guide which grounds itself further in the tradition of Toltec wisdom, helping us find and use the hidden power within us to achieve our fullest and most authentic lives. Delving deeper into Native American practice, Don Miguel Ruiz confronts us with three simple, yet utterly profound questions which are essential to explore at each stage of our lives: Who am I? What is real? How do I express love? Through these three eternal questions, Ruiz offers a practical framework to eventually lead us to our most complete and truest of selves. His transformative message provides the reader with a vehicle for overcoming stress, fear and anxiety, achieving peace of mind. This significant and empowering book reveals how our power is actually rooted in our identity, and it is only when this realisation hits that we will begin to be a benefit to ourselves and others. A fascinating exploration on spirituality and human identity, *The Three Questions* is essential reading for those who are in pursuit of self-knowledge, understanding and acceptance.

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An imprint of HarperCollins *Publishers*

1 London Bridge Street

London SE1 9GF

www.harpercollins.co.uk

First published in the US by HarperOne, an imprint of HarperCollinsPublishers 2018

This UK edition published by Thorsons 2018

FIRST EDITION

Text © Don Miguel Ruiz and Barbara Emrys 2018

Cover design by Studio Gearbox © HarperCollinsPublishers Ltd 2018

Cover artwork © Nicholas Wilton/Illustration Source

A catalogue record of this book is available from the British Library

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Source ISBN: 9780008305048

Ebook Edition © June 2018 ISBN: 9780008305062

Version 2018-07-09

DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to those who have chosen to be the heroes of their own story. It is dedicated to all peaceful rebels who wish to change their world.

This book is dedicated to those who love themselves without condition and who let that pure love shine for the world. It is dedicated to those who lead with compassion, who dare to act kindly, and who will not be governed by irrational fear.

This book is dedicated to all women and men who act with courage and speak for those who cannot speak for themselves. It is written in honor of those who use their words to deliver messages of love and respect.

With heartfelt thanks to our readers,

DON MIGUEL RUIZ AND BARBARA EMRYS

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INTRODUCTION

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The Three Pearls of Wisdom

ONE RAINY DAY, long ago, an old man was driving his wagon down a country road. The road was filled with potholes, so the drive was difficult, and the rain only made it worse.

As the wagon plunged into a particularly deep hole, a rear wheel broke off. Calming his horse, the old man jumped down onto the muddy road and began to struggle with the wagon wheel. He soon realized that the hole was too deep and the wheel was too heavy for him to lift. As he stood there, wet and cold, he heard footsteps running toward him.

A farm boy was on his way home to supper when he saw the old man's broken wagon, with water flowing around it like a river. The boy was big, strong, and eager to help. Finding a fallen fence post, he stepped knee-deep into the muddy hole and propped up the wagon. Then he began fixing the wheel.

While he worked, the boy spoke to the old man about his wishes for the future. He understood very little about the world, but he wanted to learn. He wanted to discover who he was and to find answers to life's biggest mysteries. He was going to be a man soon and wanted to know more about love. He said he often daydreamed about the wonderful things yet to come.

"Most days," the boy laughed, "I'm not sure if I'm dreaming or if I'm awake!" The boy talked on, and the old man listened in silence.

Within an hour, the job was done. The wheel was set securely in its place, and the wagon was back on the road. The old man, filled with gratitude, searched through his pockets for a few coins. Finding nothing to offer the boy for his work, he asked him if he would accept three pearls of wisdom instead, assuring him that the pearls would provide more riches than any coins. As the sun pierced through rushing storm clouds, the boy smiled. He knew he could not refuse the man's gratitude, however it was offered. And, after all, he had much to learn.

"Yes," answered the boy politely. "I am truly honored that you would share your wisdom with me, sir."

So the old man leaned toward him and began to speak.

"To find your way in this world you need only answer three questions," the old man explained. "First, you must ask yourself: 'Who am I?' You will know who you are when you see who you are not.

"Second, you must ask yourself: 'What is real?' You will know what is real when you accept what is not real.

"Third," the man finished, "you must ask yourself: 'What is love?' You will know love when you realize what love is not."

The old man straightened himself, brushing flecks of mud off his coat. The boy removed his hat respectfully and expressed his thanks. He watched the old man climb onto his wagon and whistle to his horse. The wagon lurched, shuddered, and then began to rattle down the road.

As the boy turned toward home, where supper was waiting, he glanced back to see the back of the wagon disappear among the evening shadows.

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