Omar Khayyam: Rubaiyat

A relatively literal translation from Farsi (Persian). Source: Shahriar Shahriari, http://www.okonlife.com/ (2012) Here not all quatrains present, numbering follows Edward Fitzgerald.

Ι

The sun with its morning light the earth ensnare The king celebrated the day with a wine so fair The herald of dawn intoxicated would blare Its fame and aroma, for time having not a care.

П

At dawn came a calling from the tavern Hark drunken mad man of the cavern Arise; let us fill with wine one more turn Before destiny fills our cup, our urn.

III

Drinking wine is my travail Till my body is dead and stale At my grave site all shall hail Odor of wine shall prevail.

V

When the canary made its way to the field Found the rose and wine smiling, kneeled, In tongues its message in my ear it thus reeled Hark, no moment in time did twice yield.

VI

It is a day neither hot nor cold, Clouds help the dry flowers unfold Canary with his song to the flower told Drink while you can, yourself don't scold.

VII

I resolve daily that at dusk I shall repent For a night with a cup full of wine spent. In the presence of flowers, my resolve simply went In such company, I only regret that I ever resolved to repent.

XII

Heaven is incomplete without a heavenly romance Let a glass of wine be my present circumstance Take what is here now, let go of a promised chance A drumbeat is best heard from a distance.

XIII

The rose claimed to be Jacob of grass and dirt A red ruby resurrected with a green skirt I said if this is so, show a sign of your hurt Said just take a look at my bloody shirt.

XIV

Take all the worldly goods, but in lieu Let the beauty of nature renew And at night on the grass like dew And in the morn take me away from view.

XV

Before time takes you by surprise Ask for good red wine and get wise You are not of gold, don't believe the lies You are put to dust, once again you'll rise.

XVI

This Old World we've named Cosmos by mistake Is the graveyard of nights & days, no more awake And a feast that hundred Jamshid's did break And a throne that hundred Bahram's did make.

XVII

The palace where Jamshid held his cup
The doe and the fox now rest and sup
Bahram who hunted game non-stop
Was hunted by death when his time was up.

XIX

The grass that grows by every stream Like angelic smiles faintly gleam Step gently, cause it not to scream For it has grown from a lover's dream.

XX

O friend, for the morrow let us not worry This moment we have now, let us not hurry When our time comes, we shall not tarry With seven thousand-year-olds, our burden carry.

XXI

All my companions, one by one died With Angel of Death they now reside In the banquette of life same wine we tried A few cups back, they fell to the side.

XXIII

Don't permit sorrow to be your friend Sadness and pain become your trend Don't let the book or the farm you tend Rule your life before to earth you descend. 2

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XXIV

Some are thoughtful on their way Some are doubtful, so they pray. I hear the hidden voice that may Shout, "Both paths lead astray."

XXVII

In childhood we strove to go to school, Our turn to teach, joyous as a rule The end of the story is sad and cruel From dust we came, and gone with winds cool.

XXVIII

Wherever you go in the land of God Flowers bloom from kingly blood Violet with its colorful shroud Was a beauty mole on a face once proud.

XXIX

Anxiously I began this course With life my awe grew even worse Unwillingly returned with force What was the point, I ask my source.

XXXI

From the depths of earth to heights of Saturn We've solved all riddles, turn after turn Break every chain, our ignorance burn Except the riddle that fills the urn.

XXXII

The secrets eternal neither you know nor I And answers to the riddle neither you know nor I Behind the veil there is much talk about us, why When the veil falls, neither you remain nor I.

XXXIII

Those who went in pursuit of knowledge Soared up so high, stretched the edge Were still encaged by the same dark hedge Brought us some tales ere life to death pledge.

XXXIV

I brought the cup to my lips with greed Begging for longevity, my temporal need Cup brought its to mine, its secret did feed Time never returns, drink, of this take heed.

XXXV

This clay pot like a lover once in heat A lock of hair his senses did defeat The handle that has made the bottleneck its own seat Was once the embrace of a lover that entreat.

XXXVIII

The caravan of life shall always pass Beware that is fresh as sweet young grass Let's not worry about what tomorrow will amass Fill my cup again, this night will pass, alas.

XL

Tonight I shall embrace a gallon cup With at least two cups of wine I'll sup I'll divorce my mind and religion stop With daughter of vine, all night I'll stay up.

XLI

At all times, merrily try
To drink wine and in song cry
Millions of kings in silence lie
From coming of January and passing of July.

XLII

Happily I walked with the tavern down the line Passed an old drunk, holding a bottle of wine "Do you not fear God?" was reproach of mine said, "Mercy is God's sign, in silence I wine and dine."

XLIII

Drink wine that drives away joy and pain And the thought of Seventy Two nations' reign Never withhold from such elixir again Of which one sip will purge all that's insane.

XLIV

Each drop of wine that is spilt
Burnt deep in my heart and sorrow built
I drink wine while prayer thou wilt
The water that quenched the fire of my guilt.

XLVI

This Universal wheel, this merry-go-round In our imagination we have found The sun a flame, in the Cosmic lantern bound We are mere ghosts, revolving, the flame surround.

XLVII

Khayam, if you are intoxicated with wine, enjoy! If you are seated with a lover of thine, enjoy! In the end, the Void the whole world employ Imagine thou art not, while waiting in line, enjoy!

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XLVIII

In the wheel of fortune the unseen vine Drink, be merry, wait your turn in line When it is your turn, neither cry nor whine Everyone must taste the same deadly wine.

XLIX

We are the puppets and fate the puppeteer This is not a metaphor, but a truth sincere On this stage, fate for sometime our moves steer Into the chest of non-existence, one by one disappear.

L

In the cosmic game of polo you are the ball The mallet's left and right becomes your call He who causes your movements, your rise and fall He is the one, the only one, who knows it all.

LI

Signs of destiny have always been Those hands inscribed both good and mean What was written, came from the unseen Though we tried without and worried within.

LII

Good and evil, our moral prison, Joy and sorrow passing like season, Fate in the way of logic and reason Is the victim of far worse treason.

LIII

Once transpired, cannot be changed Only pain will come if remorse engaged Though with sorrow you may be aged Not even a dot will be rearranged.

LIV

The day the stallion of time was tamed and trained Venus and Jupiter were adorned and stained This life for us was allotted and ordained This was not our will; were thus chained and restrained.

LVI

Lover of drunk and the outcast Better than pious prayer and fast Thou art the first and art the last Caress if thou wilt, if thou wilt blast.

LVII

O Life, you put many traps in my way Dare to try, is what you clearly say All that is, thy command must obey You lead me away and call me astray.

LVIII

Why treat thy slave so cold as ice? Where is thy light to save me from vice? Even with command of Paradise Where is thy gift above my just price?

LIX

An old potter at his wheel Clay and dirt mould and deal My inner eye would reveal My father's dust bears his seal.

LX

To a pottery I went by chance Two thousand pots I saw in a glance Cried out a pot awakened from trance "whither potter, vendor and buyer prance?

LXII

When the clay into a cup is molded Its breaking, the drunk scolded; Many limbs and heads are enfolded Through whose love unfolded, by which decree folded?

LXIII

When the Maker formed nature Why imperfect was the venture If it is good, why departure And if bad, why form capture?

LXIV

They say in heaven are beautiful lovers Sweet taste of wine in the air hovers Fear not if succumbed to same earthly powers In the end the same, one discovers.

LXVII

Hark! Feed me wine, if you really care Turn into ruby my face of amber Bathe me in wine when death me ensnare With boards of vine my coffin bear.

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LXVIII

This cup was made by the Wise Lord With love & care to the heights soared The potter who shaped with such accord To make and break the same clay, can also afford.

LXIX

If my coming were up to me, I'd never be born And if my going were on my accord, I'd go with scorn Isn't it better that in this world, so old and worn Never to be born, neither stay, nor be away torn?

LXXI

As the rising Venus and moon in the skies appear To the goodness of quality wine, nothing comes near I am amazed at the vendors of a liquid so dear Where they'll buy a better thing, is not clear.

LXXII

Alas the youthful fire is a dying ember The spring of life has reached December What is termed youth, I vaguely remember But know not whence and how from life's chamber.

LXXIII

Like God, if this world I could control Eliminating the world would be my role I would create the world anew, whole Such that the free soul would attain desired goal.

LXXV

Beloved friends let us gather For each other, together care With raised cups salute and share In memory of he who isn't there.