

The dark Epicureanism in the Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam

Post by "Pacatus" of May 10, 2022 at 2:29 PM

"A book of verses underneath the bough,
a jug of wine, a loaf of bread--and thou
beside me singing in the wilderness--

Oh, wilderness were paradise enow!"

This was a treasured statement of our philosophy when my wife and I lived a more simple life (for 15 years) in what I called our "widly garden": growing vegetables in the kitchen garden, cutting and splitting wood for winter, planting fruit trees, gathering blackberries and wild cherries -- and my wife's homemade wine. Doesn't seem pessimistic at all to me.

But, re the Khayyam quote, I always thought Epicurus might have quipped: "Why are you in a wilderness? Are their no civilized gardens around?" 😊