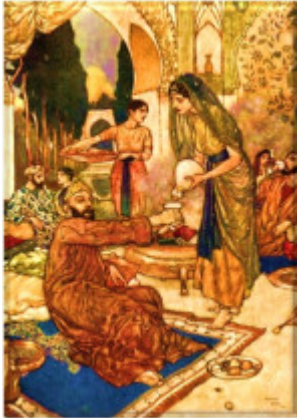


The dark Epicureanism in the Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam

Post by "Pacatus" of May 7, 2024 at 3:18 PM

After Khayyam



*"And, as the Cock crew, those who stood before
The Tavern shouted—'Open then the Door.
You know how little while we have to stay,
And, once departed, may return no more.'"*

- Omar Khayyam, Rubaiyat III, translated by Edward Fitzgerald (from his First Edition)

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And so, to the tavern at dawn make haste,
that lively vintage tapped this morn to taste -
for yesterday's run dry, tomorrow's fruit
unpres't - and deign not this hour sour to waste

whilst wishing what mayest thou savor when
fortune's flavors favor your taste buds' ken,
from imagining and memory bruit:
fancies and dreams - once dreamt, must drowse again.

The past draught, once drunk, shall be drawn no more;
and next year's sherry - yet to bloom with flor,
in oaken casks to ferment - still, doth wait.
This day's quick wine thus quaff, while it may pour -

and lose not thyself in portentous lore;
nor scorn merry mirth, vain creeds to adore.

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“flor” – a yeast that is used in the production of sherry (from Spanish for flower).

Written in the form of Edward Fitzgerald’s quatrains (except for the closing couplet).

Image from an illustration by Edmund Dulac from the Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam, 1909