

Contents

<i>Introduction</i>	ix
<i>Foreword</i>	xiii
Quatrain	
1. <i>"Awake! for Morning in the Bowl of Night"</i>	3
2. <i>"Dreaming when Dawn's Left Hand was in the Sky"</i>	7
3. <i>"And, as the Cock crew, those who stood before"</i>	8
4. <i>"Now the New Year reviving old Desires"</i>	10
5. <i>"Iram indeed is gone with all its Rose"</i>	13
6. <i>"And David's Lips are lock't; but in divine"</i>	17
7. <i>"Come, fill the Cup, and in the Fire of Spring"</i>	21
8. <i>"And look—a thousand Blossoms with the Day"</i>	22
9. <i>"But come with old Khayyam, and leave the Lot"</i>	25
10. <i>"With me along some Strip of Herbage strown"</i>	27
11. <i>"Here with a Loaf of Bread beneath the Bough"</i>	31
12. <i>"How sweet is mortal Sovranty!—think some"</i>	33
13. <i>"Look to the Rose that blows about us—'Lo"</i>	35
14. <i>"The Worldly Hope men set their Hearts upon"</i>	36
15. <i>"And those who husbanded the Golden Grain"</i>	41
16. <i>"Think, in this batter'd Caravanserai"</i>	43
17. <i>"They say the Lion and the Lizard keep"</i>	44
18. <i>"I sometimes think that never blows so red"</i>	49
19. <i>"And this delightful Herb whose tender Green"</i>	51
20. <i>"Ah, my Beloved, fill the Cup that clears"</i>	55
21. <i>"Lo! some we loved, the loveliest and the best"</i>	56
22. <i>"And we, that now make merry in the Room"</i>	58
23. <i>"Ah, make the most of what we yet may spend"</i>	63
24. <i>"Alike for those who for Today prepare"</i>	64
25. <i>"Why, all the Saints and Sages who discuss'd"</i>	69
26. <i>"Oh, come with old Khayyam, and leave the Wise"</i>	70
27. <i>"Myself when young did eagerly frequent"</i>	75
28. <i>"With them the Seed of Wisdom did I sow"</i>	76
29. <i>"Into this Universe, and why not knowing"</i>	81
30. <i>"What, without asking, hither hurried whence?"</i>	82
31. <i>"Up from Earth's Centre through the Seventh Gate"</i>	84
32. <i>"There was a Door to which I found no Key"</i>	90
33. <i>"Then to the rolling Heav'n itself I cried"</i>	95
34. <i>"Then to this earthen Bowl did I adjourn"</i>	97
35. <i>"I think the Vessel, that with fugitive"</i>	101
36. <i>"For in the Market-place, one Dusk of Day"</i>	105
37. <i>"Ah, fill the Cup:—what boots it to repeat"</i>	107
38. <i>"One Moment in Annihilation's Waste"</i>	108

39.	<i>“How long, how long, in Infinite Pursuit”</i>	111
40.	<i>“You know, my Friends, how long since in my House”</i>	115
41.	<i>“For ‘Is’ and ‘IS-NOT’ though with Rule and Line”</i>	116
42.	<i>“And lately, by the Tavern Door agape”</i>	119
43.	<i>“The Grape that can with Logic absolute”</i>	120
44.	<i>“The mighty Mahmud, the victorious Lord”</i>	123
45.	<i>“But leave the Wise to wrangle, and with me”</i>	124
46.	<i>“For in and out, above, about, below”</i>	127
47.	<i>“And if the Wine you drink, the Lip you press”</i>	129
48.	<i>“While the Rose blows along the River Brink”</i>	130
49.	<i>“’Tis all a Chequer-board of Nights and Days”</i>	135
50.	<i>“The Ball no Question makes of Ayes and Noes”</i>	138
51.	<i>“The Moving Finger writes; and, having writ”</i>	141
52.	<i>“And that inverted Bowl we call The Sky”</i>	142
53.	<i>“With Earth’s first Clay They did the Last Man’s knead”</i>	144
54.	<i>“I tell Thee this — When, starting from the Goal”</i>	146
55.	<i>“The Vine had struck a Fibre; which about”</i>	149
56.	<i>“And this I know: whether the one True Light”</i>	153
57.	<i>“Oh, Thou, who didst with Pitfall and with Gin”</i>	154
58.	<i>“Oh, Thou, who Man of baser Earth didst make”</i>	156
59.	<i>“Listen again. One evening at the Close”</i>	157
60.	<i>“And, strange to tell, among the Earthen Lot”</i>	158
61.	<i>“Then said another — ‘Surely not in vain”</i>	161
62.	<i>“Another said — ‘Why, ne’er a peevish Boy”</i>	163
63.	<i>“None answer’d this; but after Silence spake”</i>	164
64.	<i>“Said one — ‘Folks of a surly Tapster tell”</i>	166
65.	<i>“Then said another with a long-drawn Sigh”</i>	169
66.	<i>“So while the Vessels one by one were speaking”</i>	171
67.	<i>“Ah, with the Grape my fading Life provide”</i>	172
68.	<i>“That ev’n my buried Ashes such a Snare”</i>	175
69.	<i>“Indeed the Idols I have loved so long”</i>	176
70.	<i>“Indeed, indeed, Repentance oft before”</i>	179
71.	<i>“And much as Wine has play’d the Infidel”</i>	180
72.	<i>“Alas, that Spring should vanish with the Rose!”</i>	183
73.	<i>“Ah, Love! could thou and I with Fate conspire”</i>	184
74.	<i>“Ah, Moon of my Delight, who know’st no wane”</i>	189
75.	<i>“And when Thyself with shining Foot shall pass”</i>	190
Addenda		
	<i>“Omar’s Dream-Wine of Love,” by Paramahansa Yogananda</i>	196
	<i>The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam (consecutive quatrains 1–75)</i>	199
	<i>About the Author.</i>	221
	<i>Paramahansa Yogananda: A Yogi in Life and Death.</i>	225
	<i>Aims and Ideals of Yogoda Satsanga Society of India</i>	226

I



*Awake! for Morning in the Bowl of Night
Has flung the Stone that puts the Stars to Flight:
And Lo! the Hunter of the East has caught
The Sultan's Turret in a Noose of Light.*

GLOSSARY—*Morning*: Dawn of awakening from delusive earthly existence. *Bowl of night*: The darkness of ignorance, which imprisons the immortal soul in mortal consciousness. *Stone*: Spiritual discipline. *Stars*: The attractive twinkling of material desires. *Hunter of the East*: Eastern wisdom, a mighty slayer of delusion. *Sultan's turret*: The sovereign soul. *Noose of light*: The divine illumination of wisdom, which destroys the captive darkness surrounding the soul.

Spiritual Interpretation

The inner Silence sings:

“Awake! Forsake the sleep of ignorance, for the dawn of wisdom has come. Hurl the hard stone of spiritual discipline that breaks the bowl of dark unknowing, putting to flight the pale stars of mock-lusted material desires.

“Behold, the Eastern Wisdom, the Hunter and Destroyer of delusion, has caught the proud minaret of the kingly soul in a noose of Light, dispelling its imprisoning mortal darkness.”

I have been inspired further to interpret this introductory quatrain as Omar's personal clarion call to the spiritually sleeping:

“O inhabitants of the City of Delusion, sleep no more! The sunlight of my awakening message of mystic wisdom has arrived. Learn how to use the hard stone of spiritual discipline to break the bowl of your dark ignorance, dashing from its hold the desire for momentarily attractive material pleasures.

“Behold with envy how the Hunter of Wisdom has been searching out and gathering the lofty, kingly, spiritually advanced devotees of Truth, encompassing their souls with a halo of the everlasting Light of Freedom.”

Practical Application

Most people, though apparently awake, are really asleep in delusion. Pursued by the compelling commands of their hounding habits, they have not yet been awakened by wisdom to walk its pleasant pathways. Where life is in danger for lack of watchfulness, it is not safe to sleep. So it is unwise to slumber in the dark doorways of evil habits, which invite the danger of possible death to wisdom and true happiness.

The ordinary man earns a living, eats three times a day, amuses himself with trivial entertainments, remaining engrossed in the mechanical performance of material duties without ever awakening to the importance of understanding the purpose of life: attaining true happiness and sharing it with others. The wise man gives up false pride in self-perfection, the thought that “I am all right as I am.” Using the net of introspection, he catches delusion and destroys it. Forsake the slumber of ignorant habits and awaken wisdom by performing those good habits which alone can free life from danger and crown it with lasting happiness.

To be drunk with the daily round of haunting useless habits, to be negatively the same every day for years, is a wasted experience. Destroy false pride. Awaken the soul and remain ever wakeful, striving each day to be different and better in all ways. Your soul was not meant to be a prisoner of passion, sleeping behind bars of ignorance. Jerk yourself from the stupor of sloth; race forward with progressive activities, and catch success in the net of soul creativity.

Forsake spiritual lethargy and melancholia. Bask in the light of meditative peace and Self-realization, which destroys false pride of material existence and banishes inner soul gloom.