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## <u>КНАМВІЧЧАН (THE WINE SONG) OF SHAYKH</u> 'UMAR IBN AL-FĀRID (577-632 л.н.) With translation by A. SEFI

[For text, see p. 247.]

 To the Beloved we drank a wine, With which we were intoxicated, Ere the vineyard was created.

The Beloved is the Prophet, or the Creator Himself, source of love. The wine is the knowledge and love of the Divinity and the intoxication is ecstasy.

When It is diluted.

The description is a contrast with the material crystal cup and red wine usually handed round by a young attendant, and the wine being then diluted with water ومنه قولهم اذاشربت فا حنذ. The full moon represents the Prophet. The sun represents the divine wine. The crescent represents the learned. The dilution means the various religions. The stars represent the bubbles that rise in dilution and mean the teachers of the various religions.

ومن تشبيههم الحمر بالشمس قولهم خمرُ اذا مانــديمي باتَ يــشربها اخشى عـليهِ من اللاَّلاَءِ يحترقُ لورام يحلف ان الشمس ماغربت في فيهِ كَذَّبهُ من وجههِ الشفقُ A. SEFI---

(3) Were it not for Its fragrance,I should not have found my way to Its Tavern,And were it not for Its radiance,Imagination could not have pictured It.

The Tavern is God's creation, the rest is His manifestation therein.

(4) Age has reduced It to an essence, As if It were a secret to be kept

In the heart of the wise.

Old wine being best, this wine older than any is consequently best of all.

But <u>Shaykh</u> Hasan Būrīnī sets against this interpretation the saying of Al-Shahāb al-Suhrawardī : بانور النور ويا خفيًا من فرط الظهور.

 $\mathbf{236}$ 

IBN AL-FARID

i.e. "Oh! Light of the light, O! Thou hidden to the sense, by thy overwhelming presence."

(5) Were It mentioned in the tribe,

Its members would become intoxicated,

But without incurring shame or sin.

Wine-drinking is sinful in Islam, besides it being shameful to get drunk.

(6) Should It ever come to the mind Of anyone, Joy would abide with him, and sorrow depart.

(7) And were they to lay in the shade of Its vineyard, A sick one despaired of, Sickness would leave him.

(8) And were a paralytic brought near To Its abode, He would start walking. And mutes would talk at the thought Of Its flavour.

- (9) Were they to sprinkle with It, A grave,
  - Its dead would rise, with his body revived.

Shaykh Nābulusī says this is a reference to Christ's raising of Lazarus.

نضح رشَّ وبلُّ ونضحت القربة رشحت ومنه المثل وكل اناً ۽ بالذي فيه ينضح مراً الـــى افـعــال النــاس وتفاو تھا بالحسن مَيَّــِتِ للذكور ومَيْت للذكور والانات

> (10) Were Its perfume to spread East, And one deprived of smell were West, The power of smell would come back to him.

By West is meant Morocco and its divines.

(11) And were the revellers to gaze at Its seal, This sight alone would intoxicate them.

The seal is a guarantee of quality in wine, and as such an important factor.

And one of them be bitten by a snake, The poison would not hurt him.

(15) And were a wizard to inscribe the letters Of Its name on the forehead of a madman, The inscription would restore his reason.

The wizard is the teacher.

(16) And were Its name to be written on the banner of an army

The writing would intoxicate those who are under it.

The Sufi leaders themselves have various banners, for instance, the followers of الذل have theirs inscribed الشيخ عبد القادر الكيلا في have theirs inscribed الذل inscribe عي الدين بن عربي while the followers of والانكسار theirs with عي الدين بن عربي and followers of الشيخ ابي الشيخ ابي meaning respectively "Humility and Contrition", "Useful learning and Ennobling action," and "Abandonment of Artifices."

> (17) It exalts the sentiments of Its votaries, And by It the cowardly would find strength.

 (18) And he whose hand knows not generosity, Generous would he become, And he who has no clemency, Would under provocation be clement.

i.e. contrary to the effect of ordinary wine !

 $\mathbf{240}$ 

IBN AL-FARID

(19) And were an idiot to be allowed, To kiss Its stopper, The kissing would make him wise.

(20) They say to me: Describe It, for thou art in that an expert;

Yes I have knowledge of Its qualities.

The knowledge claimed here is experience.

كذا وبمعنى الملك نحو عندي مالّ اي املك مالاً وبمعنى الحكم نحو عندي هذا افضل من ذاك اي في حكمي وبمعنى الفضل والاحسان كما في صورة القصص فان الممت عشراً فمن عندك اي من فضلك وتقع اسم فعل للاغرآ بها نحو عندك فلاناً اي خذهُ

> (21) (These are :) Limpidity, but not of water ; Softness, but not of air ; Luminosity, but not of fire ; Spirit, but without body.

(22) It was, before all existing things,In the long past, when there was no shape or form.

(23) Then, by It all things had their being, And for some wise purpose, It veiled Itself therein, To those who have no understanding.

Some see in this a pantheistic idea, but pantheism is "the Universe is God", whereas here the idea is that God is immanent in all things, like the tree in the seed.

> (24) And my soul loved It, to the extent of being One with It, but there was no mixing as that of one substance with another.

Being one with It, is interpreted by some as "Hulûl", but I take it to mean simply agreement.

(25) Before It there was no before, And there is no after, after its after, And the precedence of all afters is absolutely its own.

Time being a created thing, is finite, whereas the Absolute Spirit is not.

(26) Beauties are all these, which Teach admirers of this wine, The way to praise It, And so they do in prose and verse.

(27) And joyful he will be, who knows It not,When its name is merely mentioned,Like a lover when he hears the name of a beloved.

A. SEFI-

(28) They said : Thou hast drunk the sin ! I replied : Never, but rather that which, It would be a sin, not to drink.

Wine being forbidden by the Qur'ān, it is sinful to drink it.

(29) Happy are the Convent's dwellers, How often they are intoxicated by It, And they drank It not, but they aspired !

He means that Christian mystics and monks, have tried to taste of this divine wine, but were not thorough in their endeavour.

مَنَمَ بالشيء عزم عليه ولم يفعله

(30) I felt Its exhilaration when yet a child, And It will ever remain with me, Though my bones decay.

(31) Hasten and take It pure, But if you wish It diluted, Be just and get It from the mouth, Of the Beloved.

The Prophet's mouth.

(32) Take It in the tavern, And pass It round there, To the sound of music, Which adds to its charm.

The tavern here stands for the place of meeting for Dhikr.

(33) For where It is, worry cannot be, As sadness can never be, Where there is music.

والهمَّ منصوب على انه مفعول معه والـواو للمعية ويجوز ان يقال والهمُّ بالرفع على انه مـعطوف على الضـمير المستكن كقول المتنبي اودُّ مـن الايام مالاتـوده واشكو اليها بيننا وهي جندُهُ يباعدن خلاَّ يجتمعن ووصله فكيف بخلٍ يجتمعن وصدُّهُ وبين هوغم الجناس المحرَّف وبين نغم وغم الجناس المطرف A. SEFI-

(34) Were you to be for one hour only, Drunk with It, You would fancy the world your slave, To rule and command.

There is no happiness in this world, (35)To him who lives sober, And one who does not die drunk with It, Will miss the benefit of resolution.

And has not in It, A lot or share.

246

سُكْرِنا بِها مِن قَبِل أَنْ يُجْلَقُ ٱلْكُرْمُ هلال وكم يبدو إذا مزجت تتخجم مر ر آلوهم<sup>و</sup> ولولا سُماها ما تَصُوَّ رَهَا كأَنَّ خَفَاها فِي صُدورِ ٱلنَّهَىٰ سَمَّمُ نُشَاوى ولا عار عليهم ولا إلىم أَقامتْ بِهِ أَلافراعُ وَأَرْتَحُلُ أَلَهُم عليلاً وقد أشغى لفارقه الشغ وينطق من ذكري مَداقَتها أَلْنَكُم لُعادتْ اليه الرُّوعُ وآنتُعَسَ آبْجُم ُ وفي آلغرب مركومٌ لُعادُلُهُ أَلْتَسْهُمُ لأسكرهم من دونها ذلك لمَا ضُلٌّ في ليل وفي بَدِم بسيرا ومن راووقيه و في ٱلرَّك مُلْسُوعٌ مَلَ د میں دبان مصاب حُن آ لأسكر من تحت اللَّوا ذلك الرَّقْمُ بها لطريق ٱلعزم مُنْ لالهُ عَز مُ وَتَجَكُمُ عَنَّدُ ٱلْغَيْظِ مَنْ لالهُ حِلْمُ

 $\mathbf{248}$