

## INNER & OUTER MEANING

– shared by Ashok Chawla at the IRCLC Annual Meeting on December 18, 2014 –

Paramahansa Yogananda (1893 – 1952) came to the US in 1920 and introduced Kriya Yoga to the people of this country. He is known for his book, Autobiography of a Yogi.

Quotes from one Yogananda's articles:

Long ago in India I met a Persian poet who told me that the poetry of Persia often has two meanings, one inner and one outer.

One day as I was deeply concentrated on the pages of Omar Khayyam's Rubaiyat, I suddenly beheld the walls of its outer meaning crumble away, and the vast inner fortress of golden spiritual treasures stood open to my gaze.

I have felt that this dream-castle of truth would be a haven for many shelter-seeking souls invaded by enemy armies of ignorance. Profound spiritual treatise, by some mysterious divine law, does not disappear from the earth even after centuries of misunderstanding.

In Sufism, the wine is the joy of the spirit, and the love is the rapturous devotion to God. Omar's real dream-wine was the joyously intoxicating wine of divine love. This Divine Love is what Omar advises as a panacea for all human woes and questioning.

Yogananda used Edward FitzGerald's first edition of his translation of the original Rubaiyat to English.

Selection from the *Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam*:

Come, fill the Cup, and in the Fire of Spring  
The Winter Garment of Repentance fling:  
The Bird of Time has but a little way  
To fly – and Lo! The Bird is on the Wing.

Spiritual Interpretation:

In the warm spring of newly arrived spiritual enthusiasm, fling off the icy garment of soul-bliss-freezing regret and repentance, created by unfulfilled material desires and disillusioning sense of indulgences. Fill the cup of your consciousness with the warming wine of God's wisdom and bliss.

Waste not a precious moment, for the bird of life soars but a little while in the skies of your present existence. Behold in your mind's eye that day, how soon! It will fly away. While you have it within your power, teach this bird to sing God's all protecting name. Guide its flight toward His shore of immortality. Let us not sweep onward into the caverns of dark death, whither it is fast winging now without a conscious aim.