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MYSTIC PHILOSOPHY OF OMAR KHAYYAM, THE GREAT PERSIAN GENIUS

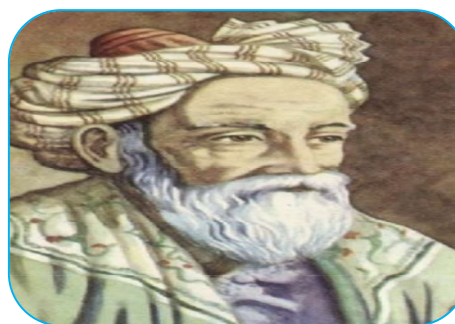
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ABSTRACT

Omar Khayyam the great Persian polymath has earned universal recognition in varied branches of human activities and knowledge. He is not only confined to Persia or the Orient. His couplets known as Rubayyat have earned worldwide popularity. He has shown a propensity to transcend the narrow confines of time and space. The rationalistic erudition which was combined with his extraordinary poetic talent was not just significant to the Persians and its neighbour. It also created ripples in the Indian subcontinent as well. The popularity of Khayyam as a poet still continued in the twentieth century South Asia when Persian ceased to exist as a dominant language



of high culture in the sub continental context. We have translated versions of Omar's poetry in different South Asian languages including Assamese and Bengali. The philosophy of Khayyam about God, Universe, Man, life after death and Nature are of immense importance. In this paper an attempt has been made to bring into light the different aspects of the philosophy of Omar Khayyam through his beautiful Quatrains.

KEYWORDS: *Rubayyat, philosophy, God, reality, Persian etc.*

INTRODUCTION

Omar Khayyam, the great mystic poet philosopher, greatest mathematicians, encyclopaedic scholar, astronomers and physicians was one of the distinguished products of the Iranian renaissance during the Seljuq rule. His complete name was Ghiyasuddin Abu'l Fath Umar ibn Ibrahim Khayyam (1048 A.D.-1131).¹ He was born at Nishapur in Khorasan, Iran. It is known that many Persian poets derive their names from their occupations. Thus we have "Attar", a druggist. Omar thought to have been born into a family of tent makers. Khayyam means 'tent makers'. It is a byname derived from the father's craft. Khayyam signifies a tent maker. He is said to have exercised that trade at one time. Khawaja Nizami Aurizi Samarqandi the reknowned author of the celebrated book *Chahar Maqala*, was his pupil. He relates to a very interesting story which worth mentioning here. "I often used to hold conversation with my teacher, 'Omar Khayyam, in a garden; and one day he said to me, 'my tomb shall be in a spot where the north wind may scatter roses over it".² Further narrates that it was just outside a garden, and trees laden with fruit stretched their boughs on the garden wall, and dropped their flowers upon his tomb, so that the stone was hidden under them. ³

Nizami Uruzi Samarqandi, assigns him in the ranks of astrologers and a writer per excellence. At present Khayyam is known to us as a scholar of philosophy, mathematics, jurisprudence, history and