

KUBLA KHAN

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And should my youth—as youth is apt, I know— 25
Some harshness show,
All vain asperities I day by day
Would wear away,
Till the smooth temper of my age should be
Like the high leaves upon the Holly-tree. 30

And as, when all the summer trees are seen
So bright and green,
The Holly leaves a sober hue display
Less bright than they,
But when the bare and wintry woods we see, 35
What then so cheerful as the Holly-tree?

So serious should my youth appear among
The thoughtless throng,
So would I seem amid the young and gay
More grave than they, 40
That in my age as cheerful I might be
As the green winter of the Holly-tree.

KUBLA KHAN

SAMUEL TAYLOR COLERIDGE

In the summer of the year 1797, the Author, then in ill health, had retired to a lonely farm-house between Porlock and Linton, on the Exmoor confines of Somerset and Devonshire. In consequence of a slight indisposition, an anodyne had been prescribed, from the effect of which he fell asleep in his chair at the moment he was reading the following sentence, or words of the same substance, in *Purchas's Pilgrimage* :—"Here the Khan Kubla commended a palace to be built, and a stately garden thereunto : and thus ten miles of fertile ground were inclosed with a wall." The author continued for about three