

That of course, is pantheism "naked and unashamed," but the image of the potter and the clay is common to all Oriental philosophies, the highest as well as the most earthly. It is the expression of the absolute freedom of the Creator, of His absolute, unquestionable authority over His creature. But the difference between Omar and S. Paul is that of Calvin and S. Augustine, and a hundred fold more, for Calvin at least retained the semblance of Christianity, of "orthodoxy," which Omar denies, utterly, even in its fatalistic, Mohammedan form.

What, then, has the greater Tentmaker—a greater philosopher, also, surely, than Omar—to say concerning the Potter and the Clay? He asks, first: "Shall the thing formed (*figmentum*) say to him that formed it: Why hast thou made me thus?" And then: "Hath not the potter power over the clay of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour?" [Rom. 9. 20, 21.] Here is no pantheistic raving of brotherhood between *figmentum* and *figulus*, between clay and potter, but the clearest, most unquestioning acknowledgement of His Supreme authority "Who knoweth our frame, whereof we are made—*Ipse cognovit figmentum nostrum*" [Ps. 102. 14.]

Another quotation and another comparison; this time, with one who, if not inspired, knew certainly, his human nature as well as Omar, the pessimist, could pretend to do, if not better, the Sweet Bard of Avon, who also, wrote "not for an age, but for all time," in a sense the Persian could neither attain to nor understand.

"Strange, is it not? that of the myriads who
 "Before us pass'd the door of Darkness through
 "Not one returns to tell us of the Road,
 "Which to discover we must travel too."

"That undiscovered country, from whose bourne,
 "No traveller returns."

And, if one did? "If they hear not Moses and the prophets"; if they hear not Mahomet, himself, may we not add? "Neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead."

One last quotation. We have said that Omar's philosophy is that of one "having no hope, and without God in the world." For