

An attempt to typeset some poetry, both left-to-right and right-to-left. First, Edward Henry Winfield's translation of one of Omar Khayyam's quatrains:

In the sweet spring a grassy bank I sought
And thither wine and a fair Houri brought;
And, though the people called me graceless dog,
Gave not to Paradise another thought!

English speakers may be more familiar with Edward Fitzgerald's version:

Here with a Loaf of Bread beneath the Bough,
A Flask of Wine, a Book of Verse – and Thou
Beside me singing in the Wilderness –
And Wilderness is Paradise enow.

Wikipedia notes: "As a work of English literature FitzGerald's version is a high point of the 19th century and has been greatly influential. . . . However, as a translation of Omar Khayyam's quatrains, it is not noted for its fidelity."

And here is an attempt to show the original persian script, pasted from the fa.wikipedia link from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rubaiyat_of_Omar_Khayyam : for this I prefer to use DejaVu Sans as the font, because it is closer to what I see in my browser.

ابر آمد و زار بر سر سبزه گیریست بی باد گلرنگ نمیشاید زیست
این سبزه که امروز تماشاگاه ماست تا سبزه خاک ما تماشاگاه کیست