

Pride

Pinnacle of our work, the harvest comes
Aided only by friend and harvest moon
Men pluck their sustenance and plenty from
The hand of fate wielding impending doom¹

What more is there to revel in than this?
Seizing ourselves from clutches of the wild
Who can think of better ground for hubris
Than providing for man woman and child?²

But revelers err if they dare forget
The soothsayer's hackneyed calls for reprieve
Whether one knows or remains ignorant,
Pride cometh just before the autumn leaves³

Work hard and be proud of your endeavors
Weep when you begin to feel fall's shivers⁴

¹ The world is a cruel place. Often we feel everything and everyone is out to get us, except for a few who are extremely close to us, the little luck and/or consistency nature gives, and of course ourselves. There is no better example of man's struggle with nature than that of the food supply. We must harvest or die. It's a very cyclical event, but there are so many factors and so much riding on the harvest. If there is no harvest – for whatever reason – people die. Harvest or doom.

² What should make us more proud in life than to be proud of our work in supporting ourselves, and particularly in supporting our community. Such pride seems nobly earned.

³ However, those who revel in the pride of their work should remember the one who tells the future. If they forget or remain ignorant of his prophecy, they err greatly. Many may think this prophecy is banal and overdone, and many may think it false as they rarely see it come true, or they can give examples where it doesn't. Pride comes before autumn leaves. This has a double meaning: 1) in this story, harvest comes right before autumn. The harvest moon is the first full moon prior to the autumnal equinox. This story and harvest take place before autumn's leaves set in. This is when pride begins as well, because the harvest was the source of the pride. 2) The common saying when discussing pride is "pride goes/comes before the fall." I recognize that the verse technically says pride goes before destruction, and haughtiness before the fall, but I think the spirit of it all and the common saying work well here. Anyway, this is basically saying that pride comes before the fall, and the soothsayer is telling the revelers to beware dwelling on their pride.

⁴ This is the first and maybe only poem in this series where the one thing I wish for my children is one thing of which I also want them to beware. It is important and appropriate to be proud of the work they do. If there wasn't pride in the work, it is probably either unnecessary, not beneficial, or poorly done. Pride also connotes an understanding of the undergirding of ourselves and our work (hopefully) – God. However, to dwell on our work as the end itself, and to revel in our pride is to invite destruction. I desire my children to have pride, but when they feel the shivers of fall, they must heed the soothsayer's warnings.