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Eden's Love-Nest, Man's Initial Home, Hence All Mankind Loves A Garden

Poets, Philosophers And Monarchs Have Found In Gardens
The Settings For Joyous Dreams—There Have Been
Many Celebrated Gardens In The World, From
Those Ancient Ones Of King Solomon
To The Present Time.

By EMILY EMERSON LANTZ.

WITH the advent of summer man returns to his first home—the garden, for Adam and Eve were created amid an environment of blossomy boughs and singing waters. Dorothy Gurney paints a lovesome picture of that earliest home of mankind when she writes:

The Lord God planted a garden
In the first white days of the world;
And set there an angel warden
In garments of light unfurled.

So near to the peace of Heaven,
That the hawk might nest with the wren;
For there, in the cool of even,
God walked with the first of men.

The delights of that early garden were expressed in its name—Paradise—and ever since the expulsion of Adam and Eve from that fair domain, their descendants have spent the centuries endeavoring to retrace their steps to that environment of lost joy. The Valley of Mesopotamia may, or may not, have been the spot where that vanished Paradise was located, but mankind has ever cherished the memory of that garden and striven to reproduce its verdure.

Ancient Greek legends tell of the garden of the gods, where trees, bearing the golden apples of the goddess Juno, were tended by the Hesperides. Semiramis, widow of Ninus, founder of Ninevah, introduced gardens in the city of Babylon (which she builded), and she is the only Assyrian queen whose name is inscribed upon the monuments of her country. Her successors developed her garden idea until the Hanging Gardens of Babylon were counted among the seven wonders of the world. They were built within and without the palaces, upon terraces raised with earth over the arched roofs, and even upon high towers—the first roof gardens of the world.

Solomon, King of Israel, blessed (or cursed) with 700 wives and 300 concubines, appreciated the value of open air to preserve the amiability of women. He never could have maintained peace among the feminine members of his household had his palaces not been set in spacious gardens planted with fruit trees and watered by tinkling fountains. To these he brought his best-beloved wives, thereby proving he deserved the title wisest of men, and he not only enjoyed his gardens, but wrote of the plants they contained from the shrub to the cedar tree.

Epicurus, the philosopher who taught

that tranquillity of mind and indolence of body were most to be desired, was even more of a nature-lover than Solomon. He literally lived, and doubtless slept, in his garden. Here he studied, exercised and taught his pupils, and here he found most completely that repose of mind and body to which he aspired.

Homer, in his *Odyssey*, wrote in fascinating way of the garden of Alcinous, King of the Island of Phœacia of Corfu, and Sir William Temple wrote of a garden established by a Dutch colonial governor at Cape de Ruen, Esperence, which was planted with trees and flowers native to the four quarters of the globe—Europe, Asia, Africa and America.

Chinese Landscape Gardens.

The fine art of landscape gardening has been known for centuries to the Chinese, who create artificial hills and valleys in such artistic fashion as to make the physical features of the landscape seem the work of nature. Flowering trees are especially frequent and shallow brooks and rills flowing down the hillsides are so directed in their seeming natural courses as to form chains of lakes upon which houseboats are floated from one pleasure house to another located along the banks. The courses of both walks and streams are always winding, and the most notable among Chinese gardens are the Imperial gardens at Peking, called the Garden of Gardens, while among other Imperial pleasure parks is one known as the Garden of Perpetual Spring, where one group of plants succeeds another in the month of their blooming.

Theophrastus, who was a member of the Platonic Circle at Athens, Greece, and for 35 years presided at the Peripatetic School at Athens, in which, during his lifetime some 2,000 students were instructed, spent his years in his garden and so loved it that he bequeathed the garden, with its house and colonades, to his philosophic friends to be used as a permanent seat of instruction. In this garden Theophrastus was buried, and he made provision for the gardener who tended it and for the further embellishment of the place after his own death.

Pliny's "Hippodrome" was surrounded by plane trees, the trunks and branches of which were covered with ivy that stretched like a garland uniting one tree with another. Between the plane trees, box trees and laurel bushes were planted and the great garden walk ended in a semi-circle about which cypress trees were planted. Roses made the garden bright with color and fragrant with their perfume, and here were

found also many smooth and flexible acanthus trees. At the end of the garden was a seat of white marble overspread with vines and supported by four small Carystian pillars. From the marble seat water issued through little pipes to a reservoir of stone and thence to a basin of white and polished marble so arranged as to be always filled, but never overflowing with water. There were also many little fountains scattered here and there near marble seats, whose murmuring waters kept the garden perpetually green. Pliny wrote with enthusiasm to his friend Apollinarius of the charm of his Hippodrome and it is pleasant to fancy him feeding doves such as those that are immortalized in the celebrated mosaic known as "The Doves of Pliny" that adorns the Museo Capitolino, at Rome, Italy.

Among glories of the Moorish city of Granada, Spain, located on a spur of

the Sierra Nevada Mountains, were the enchanting gardens stretching back of the Alh Alhambra. The plain stretching below the city for some 27 leagues was also verdant with flowers, grain and trees. The river Xenil wound its silver course across this plain and with infinite skill and labor the Moors had diverted its waters into little rivulets and brooks that watered the entire surface of the plain, rendering it green and fruitful even under the scorching sun of Spain. The American author, Washington Irving, wrote of this region: "The hills were clothed with orchards and vineyards, the valleys embroidered with gardens and the wide plains covered with waving grain. Here were seen in profusion the orange, the citron, the fig, the pomegranate, with great plantations of mulberry trees from which was produced the finest silk. The vine clambered from tree to tree: the grapes

hung in rich clusters about the peasant's cottage, and the groves were rejoiced by the perpetual song of the nightingale. In a word, so beautiful was the earth, so pure the air and so serene the sky of this delicious region, that the Moors believed the paradise of their prophet to be situated in that part of Heaven which overhung the kingdom of Granada."

The Gardens of Versailles, located a short distance from Paris, France, surround what was first a hunting lodge, built by Louis XIII of France and later amplified into the magnificent palace of Louis XIV and his Bourbon successors. It is of a formal elegance befitting its former royal owners. The fountains of Versailles are the glory of its noble terraces, the silver gleam of their waters accentuating the colorful beauty of flowers and specimens of sculpture placed throughout the grounds.

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