

1

God created the world out of the four elements, to glorify his name. He strengthened the world with the wind. He connected the world to the stars. And he filled the world with all kinds of creatures. He then put human beings throughout the world, giving them great power as stewards of all Creation. Human beings cannot live without the rest of nature, they must care for all natural things.

-Hildegard of Bingen

2

Whatever is in any way beautiful has its source of beauty in itself, and is complete in itself; praise forms no part of it.

- Marcus Aurelius

3

It isn't that I don't like sweet disorder, but it has to be judiciously arranged.

- Vita Sackville West

4

Kiss of the sun for pardon.

Song of the birds for mirth.

You're closer to God's heart in a garden
than any place else on earth.

- Dorothy Frances Gurney

5

When you touch a body, you touch the whole person, the intellect, the spirit, and the emotions.

- Jane Harrington

6

Arma virumque cano, Troiae qui primus ab oris
Italiam fato profugus Laviniaque venit litora,
multum ille et terries iactatus et alto vi superum,

saevae memorem Iunonis ob iram,
Multa quoque et bello passus, dum conderet
Urben inferretque deos Latio; genus unde
Albanique patres atque altae moenia Romae.

-Virgil

7

Here is one spot where each may experience “the romance of possibility.”

-Louise Beebe Wilder

8

I do not wish to die--

There is such contingent beauty in life:

The open window on summer mornings

Looking out on gardens and green things growing,

The shadowy cups of roses flowering to themselves--

Images of time and eternity--

Silence in the garden and felt along the walls.

- A. L. Rowse

9

My sister, my spouse, is a garden enclosed,

a fountain sealed up.

-Song of Songs.

10

In our gardens, Lord Ganesha sends His power through fruits and vegetables, the ones that grow above the ground, to permeate our nerve system with wisdom, clearing obstacles in our path when eaten. The growers of them treat it like they would care for Ganesha in His physical form.

11

I cannot believe that the inscrutable universe turns on an axis of suffering; surely the strange beauty of the world must somewhere rest on pure joy!

-Louise Bogan

12

But where only a free play of our presentational powers is to be sustained as in the case of pleasure gardens, room decoration, all sorts of useful utensils, and so on, any regularity that has an air of constraint is to be avoided as much as possible. That is why the English taste in gardens, or the baroque taste in furniture, carries the imagination's freedom very far, even to the verge of the grotesque, because it is precisely this divorce from any constraint of a rule that the case is posited where taste can show its greatest perfection in designs made by the imagination.

-Immanuel Kant, Critique of Aesthetic Judgment, 1790

13

Lord of the far horizons,

Give us the eyes to see

Over the verge of the sundown

The beauty that is to be.

- Bliss Carman

14

A stranger here

Strange things doth meet, strange glories see;

Strange treasures lodged in this fair world appear,

Strange all, and new to me.

But that they mine should be, who nothing was,

That strangest is of all, yet brought to pass.

-Thomas Traherne (1637-1674) The Salutation

15

Because in particular moments, in the dusk of a late May evening, when everything glows, when green seems greener than you've ever seen it before, and the roses you planted are beginning to flower, future tasks don't matter, neither do past worries - because you witness a perfect moment of soul-restoring beauty.

16

In the creation of a garden, the architect invites the partnership of the Kingdom of Nature. In a beautiful garden the majesty of nature is ever present, but it is nature reduced to human proportions and thus transformed into the most efficient haven against the aggressiveness of contemporary life.

- Luis Barragán, Mexico

17

"Remember, it is forbidden to live in a town which has no garden or greenery."

- Kiddushin 4:12

18

Gardening as far as Gardening is Art, or entitled to that appellation, is a deviation from nature; for if the true taste consists, as many hold, in banishing every appearance of Art, or any traces of the footsteps of man, it would then be no longer a Garden.

- Joshua Reynolds, Thirteenth Discourse, 1786

19

Beauty is an ecstasy; it is as simple as hunger. There is really nothing to be said about it. It is like the perfume of a rose: you can smell it and that is all

- W. Somerset Maugham

20

O Life-green finger of God,

in you God has placed a garden.

You reflect heaven's eminent radiance

like a raised pillar.

You are glorious

as you perform God's deeds.

-Hildegard of Bingen

21

And oh if there be an Elysium on earth,
It is this, it is this!

-Thomas Moore, 1779-1852

22

Oh boldest path,
penetrating into all places,
in the heights, on earth,
and in every abyss,
you bring and bind all together
From you clouds flow, air flies,
Rocks have their humours,
Rivers spring forth from the waters
And earth wears her green vigour

-Hildegard of Bingen

23

The cottage garden; most for use designed,
Yet not of beauty destitute.

- Charlotte Smith

24

There is no "The End" to be written, neither can you, like an architect, engrave in stone the day the garden was finished; a painter can frame his picture, a composer notate his coda, but a garden is always on the move.

- Mirabel Osler

25

Oh fire of the Holy Spirit,

life of the life of every creature,
holy are you in giving life to forms...

-Hildegard of Bingen

26

Beauty is excrescence, superabundance, random ebullience, and sheer delightful waste to be enjoyed in its own right.

- Donald Culross Peattie, *An Almanac for Moderns*

27

Art is that Ithaca
of green eternity, not wonders.
Art is endless like the river flowing
passing yet remaining; it mirrors the same
inconsistent Heraclitus, who is the same
and yet another, like the river flowing.

-Borges, *The Art of Poetry*

28

Do not, I beg you, look for anything behind phenomena.
They are themselves their own lesson.

-Goethe

29

Each moment of the universe
And all the universes
Are reflected in each other
And in all their parts and
Thence again in themselves.

Every item of this cosmos
Of possibilities is the
Mode by which I apprehend
A person. Each person chooses
His own time and space as he
Continually adjusts
Himself to other persons....
They of course may appear
Not only as persons.

-Rexroth

30

These pictures and a thousand more
Of thee my gallery do store
In all the forms thou canst invent
Either to please me, or torment.

-Andrew Marvell

31

Methinks my own soul must be a bright invisible green.

-Henry David Thoreau

32

In all things of nature there is something marvelous.

-Aristotle

33

A little too abstract, a little too wise,
It is time for us to kiss the earth again,
It is time to let the leaves rain from the skies,
Let the rich life run to the roots again.

-Robinson Jeffers

34

But, of these pictures and the rest,
That at the entrance likes me best:
Where the same posture, and the look
Remains, with which I first was took.

-Andrew Marvell

35

And this, our life, exempt from public haunt, finds tongues in trees, books in the running brooks,
sermons in stones, and good in everything.

-William Shakespeare

36

What I know of the divine sciences and Holy Scriptures,
I learned in woods and fields. I have no other masters
than the beeches and the oaks.

-Saint Bernard of Clairvaux

37

A tender shepherdess, whose hair
Hangs loosely playing in the air,
Transplanting flowers from the green hill,
To crown her head, and bosom fill.

-Andrew Marvell

38

Painting is closely related to gardening but closer still is poetry.

-Robert Dash

39

Those who are willing to be vulnerable move among mysteries.

-Theodore Roethke

40

There are points of time, of distant memory, when the soul unites within the pattern of
the universe. That union brings forth the understanding of life's harmony. So it should be
within the garden...

41

The richness I achieve comes from Nature,
the source of my inspiration.

-Claude Monet

42

The tree which moves some to tears of joy is in the eyes of others only a green thing that stands
in the way. Some see nature all ridicule and deformity... and some scarce see nature at all. But

to the eyes of the man of imagination, nature is imagination itself.

-William Blake

43

Without the body, the wisdom of the larger self cannot be known.

-John Conger

44

Dear wood, and you, sweet solitary place,

Where from the vulgar I estranged live,

Contented more with what your shades me give

Than if I had what Thetis doth embrace...

-William Drummond

45

Such harmony of Soul this Place inspires

All furious Passion and all fierce Desires

Are here becalm'd...

-Lady Irwin, 1733

46

All finite things reveal infinitude:

The mountain with its singular bright shade

Like the blue shine on freshly frozen snow,

The after-light upon ice-burdened pines;

Odor of basswood upon a mountain slope,

A scene beloved of bees;

Silence of water above a sunken tree:

The pure serene of memory of one man,--

A ripple widening from a single stone

Winding around the waters of the world.

-Theodore Roethke

47

Most noble

evergreen with your roots

in the sun:
you shine in the cloudless sky of a sphere no earthly
eminence can grasp;
enfolded in the clasp
of ministries divine.

-Hildegard of Bingen

48

... all blades of grass, wood, and stone, all things are One.

-Meister Eckhart

49

The first act of awe, when man was struck with the beauty or wonder of Nature, was the first spiritual experience.

-Henryk Skolimowski

50

I cannot believe that the inscrutable universe turns on an axis of suffering; surely the strange beauty of the world must somewhere rest on pure joy!

-Louise Bogan

51

In a field I am the absence of field. That is always the case. Wherever I am, I am what is missing. When I walk I part the air and always the air moves in to fill the space where my body has been. We all have reasons for moving. I move to keep things whole.

-Mark Strand

52

Beauty is momentary in the mind –

The fitful tracing of a portal;

But in the flesh it is immortal.

The Body dies; the body's beauty lives.

So evenings die, in their green going,

A wave, interminably flowing.

So gardens die, their meek breath scenting

The cowl of Winter, done repenting.

-Wallace Stevens, 1879-1955, Peter Quince and the Clavier

53

My Mind was once the true survey

Of all these Meadows fresh and gay;

And in the greenness of the Grass

Did see its Hopes as in a Glass:

When Juliana came, and She

What I do to the Grass, does to my Thoughts and Me.

-Andrew Marvell

54

It has been the office of art to educate the perception of beauty. We are immersed in beauty but our eyes have no clear vision.

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

55

Art consists of limitation.

The most beautiful part of every picture is the frame.

-G.K. Chesterton

56

Texture and foliage keep a garden interesting through the season. Flowers are just moments of gratification.

-Kevin Doyle

57

Clora, come view my soul, and tell
Whether I have contrived it well.

Now all its several lodgings lie
Composed into one gallery;
And the great arras-hangings, made
Of various faces, by are laid;
That, for all furniture, you'll find
Only your picture in my mind

-Andrew Marvell

58

By plucking her petals, You do not gather the beauty of the flower.

-Rabindrath Tagore

59

The work of art is born of the intelligence's refusal to reason the concrete. It marks the triumph of the carnal.

-Albert Camus

60

There is no excellent beauty that hath not some strangeness in the proportion.

-Francis Bacon

61

So will I build my altar in the fields,
And the blue sky my fretted dome shall be,
And the sweet fragrance that the wild flower yields
Shall be the incense I will yield to thee.

-Samuel Taylor Coleridge

62

Sweet are the paths, O passing sweet,
By Eske's fair stream that run,
O'er airy steep, through the copsewood deep,
Imprevius to the sun;

Who knows not Melville's beechy grove
And Roslin's rocky glen,
Dalkeith which all the virtues love,
And Classic Hawthornden.

-Sir Walter Scott

63

In the name of
Man, member,
and the holy fluid,
AMEN.

-Takahashi

64

To see a World in a Grain of Sand
And a heaven in a Wild Flower,
Hold Infinity in the palm of your hand
And Eternity in an hour.

-William Blake, Auguries of Innocence, 1863

65

Gardening is the slowest of the performing arts.

-Anonymous

66

But who can paint like Nature? Can imagination
boast, Amid its gay creation, hues like hers?

-James Thomson, 1700-1748, Spring

67

To build, to plant, whatever you intend,
To rear the Column, or the Arch to bend,
To swell the Terras, or to sink the Grot;
In all, let Nature never be forgot.

-Pope

68

My soul can find no staircase to Heaven unless it be through Earth's loveliness.

-Michelangelo Buonardo

69

Laying out grounds may be considered a liberal art,
in some sort like poetry and painting.

-William Wordsworth

70

You are still alive
I will pull down the blinds
And sleep in this easy chair for a thousand years
You were slaughtered, but your ghost is eternally young
I will freeze my age
In the heated sleep with you
The blinds down, the room
Turns into the garden with trees thriving
The summer in the garden is eternal

71

First follow Nature, and your judgment frame
By her just standard, which is still the same:
Unerring NATURE, still divinely bright, One clear,
Unchang'd, and universal light, ...
Those Rules of old discover'd, not devis'd,
Are Nature still, but Nature Methodiz'd;
Nature, like Libery, is but restrain'd
By the same Laws which first herself ordain'd

-Pope, Essay on Criticism

72

Gardens are the result of a collaboration between art and nature.

-Penelope Hobhouse

73

Our bodies are our gardens, to which our wills are gardeners.

-William Shakespeare

74

Art brings out the grand lines of nature.

-Antoine Bourdelle

75

You will find that my compositions in gardening are altogether after the Pindaric manner, and run into the beautiful wildness of Nature without affecting the nicer elegancies of art.

-Addison

76

In a rock garden we foster a little parch of the wilderness that stand to us for freedom.

-Jason Hill

77

Arma virumque cano, Troiae qui primus ab oris
Italiam fato profugus Laviniaque venit litora,
multum ille et terris iactatus et alto vi superum,
saevae memorem Iunonis ob iram,
Multa quoque et bello passus, dum conderet
Urben inferretque deos Latio; genus unde
Albanique patres atque altae moenia Romae.

-Virgil

78

For an estate, the garden, according to Alberti, is just as important as the house, and the same geometric principles should be employed in designing the garden and the house.

79

Osterley, or Oysterley, the house nowe of the ladie Gersham's, a faire and stately building of bricke, erected by Sir Thomas resham, knight, citizen and merchant-adventurer of London, and finished about anno 1577. It standeth in a parke by him also impaled, well wooded, and garnished with manie faire ponds, which afforded not onely fish, and fowle, as swanes, and other water fowle; but also great use for milles, as paper-milles, oyle-milles, and corne-milles...

-John Norden

80

In all places where there is a Summer and a Winter, and where your Gardens of pleasure are sometimes clothed with their verdant garments, and bespangled with variety of Flowers, and at other times wholly dismantled of all these; here to recompense the loss of past pleasures, and to buoy up their hopes of another Spring, many have placed in their Gardens, Statues, and Figures of several Animals, and great variety of other curious pieces of Workmanship, and their walks might be pleasant at any time in those places of never dying pleasures.

-John Wolridge, Systema Horticulturae, 1677

81

The garden pool at Osterley, was said to be furnished "with neatly made fishes, frogs etc. swimming in the fountain as if they were alive," and there is a "stream of water cheerfully running out of a little hill which is handsomely furnished with all sorts of neatly made animals and little men as though they were alive."

82

The imitation of nature is an attempt to master terror.
Art and war are imitations of nature:
the first an imitation of nature's making,
the second an imitation of nature's destruction.

-Ian Hamilton Findlay

83

The Cosmos is divine.
The earth is sacred.

84

Nature is painting for us, day after day, pictures of infinite beauty.

-James Russell Lowell

85

Bring back the birch.

-Ian Hamilton Findlay

86

I see humanity now as one vast plant, needing for its highest fulfillment only love, the natural blessings of the great outdoors, and intelligent crossing and selection.
In the span of my own lifetime I have observe such wondrous progress in plant evolution that I look forward optimistically to a healthy, happy world as soon as its children are taught the

principles of simple and rational living. We must return to nature and nature's god.

-Luther Burbank, 1849-1926 a plant breeder, botanist, and free thinker.

87

All the grownd within this waulk to be case into a laque, with a fayre raile with Images gilt rownd about it and some low flowers specially violets and strawberries along qu. Then a fayre hedg of Tymber woorke till it towch the water, with some glasses colored hear and there for the ey. In ye Middle of the laque where the howse now stands to make an lland of 100 broad; An in the mMiddle thereof to build a howse of freshnes with an upper gallery open upon the water, a tarace above that, and a supping roome open under that; a dynyng roome, a bedd chamber, a Cabanett, and a Roome for Musike, a garden; In this Grownd to make one waulk between trees; The galleries to cost Northwards; Nothing to be planted hear but of choyse.

-Sir Francis Bacon, instructions for creating his garden.

88

Over fertilized plants may be beautiful but are otherwise useless, like people whose energies are devoted so completely to their appearance that there is no other development.

-William Longgood

89

To affect the quality of the day, that is the highest of the arts.

-Henry David Thoreau

90

Nature, as the source of a manifestation of a contingent will that cannot be known to us, is a source of terror.

-Ian Hamilton Findlay

91

When nations grow old, the arts grow cold
and commerce settles on every tree.

-William Blake