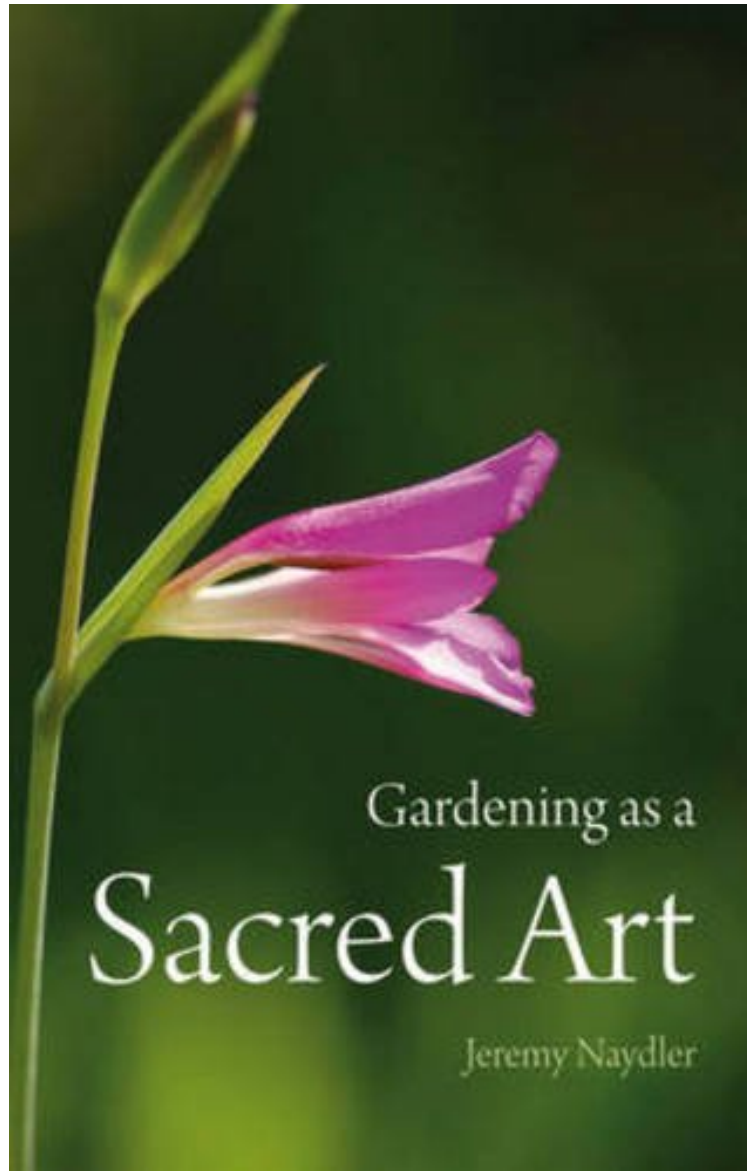


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Gardening as a Sacred Art

Jeremy Naydler

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Jeremy Naydler : Gardening as a Sacred Art before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Gardening as a Sacred Art:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Clarisse BolducThoroughly enjoyed the history of gardening through the ages. Very well written.1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The Gentle GardenerBy Soren KerkJeremy Naydler: I have not yet read this book but I have read all the others, and two of them

twice (Temple and the essays in "The Future of the Ancient World." I know this one will be sublime. Your gentle brilliance shifted my attention to the world about 10 years ago. I was wandering among my friends and associates suddenly asking (out of the blue), "Which way does the Nile run - north or south?" I know - silly question - but no one I asked had thought about it. Then one day shortly thereafter someone randomly had two of your books in hand and asked me if I wanted to read one while she read the other and then we would switch. I picked the blue one. I learned about the Nile, the Dwat - and felt a lifting of the roof of my cranium. I use your books in the social science classes I teach at film schools in Hollywood. The mix of your gentle mindedness and its brilliance ... well ... there is so much to discuss ...

This beautifully illustrated book presents a unique history of how people have worked with nature throughout history. For ancient peoples, gardens were home to spiritual and divine beings. This idea that gardens were sacred places continued into the European Middle Ages. Since the seventeenth century, however, nature has been seen increasingly as a physical resource to be exploited. Changes in gardening styles reflect this development, including the creation of grand garden terraces and landscapes such as Versailles, whose purpose is to impose human values, aesthetics, and order on nature. More recently gardening has become a more conscious art form intended to enhance nature's inherent beauty. Drawing on garden examples from ancient Egypt to Monets Giverny, Jeremy Naydler asserts that gardening can be regarded as a sacred art means of connecting human beings with nature and the Earth in a truly spiritual way.

'A fascinating read for those of us who've ever wondered whether the effort we make to create gardens helps or hinders the process of connecting with the natural world.' -- EarthLines 'This is a wonderful book ... Gardening as a Sacred Art is not only a masterful summary of the history of gardens (from antiquity to the early 20th century) from the spiritual perspective but, more importantly, it culminates in a beautiful meditation upon how the gardener may steer the garden "towards becoming an icon", an image ... Thus the main thrust of this profound and inspiring volume is to remind us that gardens are essentially sacred spaces in which we may work together with Nature ... Anyone who is already familiar with Jeremy Naydler's work on what might loosely be called the philosophy of gardening will have high expectations of this book -- and they will not be disappointed. -- Resurgence 'As a professional gardener himself and a scholar of symbolism and Goethe, Jeremy is ideally placed to write this book. The way we treat our gardens reflects our own attitude towards nature and the tension between feeling we belong to Nature but at the same time wanting to control it ... This thoughtful book challenges the gardener in us to work as an artist and experience the sacred presence around us by being creatively engaged with the hidden formative forces of Nature.' -- David Lorimer, Scientific Medical Network 'Gardening as a Sacred Art is an exceptionally well-referenced, delightfully illustrated and informative work. The message that the book conveys is that gardening, if done with due reverence for the Divine forces at work within the garden, can open a 'window to the spirit'. The task of the gardener, then, is to form 'a living bond' with the garden's 'soul', whereupon the garden will once again become a sacred place in which to find healing, peace and communion with the spirit.' -- Rosemary Usselman, New View 'Jeremy Nadlers is a professional gardener as well as a doctor of theology and religious studies, but this is primarily a theological book. The fascinating conclusion is that a garden can act as an icon, a door through which we can glimpse the divine from our world ... Dr Naydler explores the evolving relationship between the gardener-garden designer and nature. Our reverence for, versus dominance over, the wild landscape is the counterpoint along the journey ... The theology stance does, though, add a richer dimension to that usually found in garden books ... In this secular age, I welcome any book that, rather than looking at gardens as accessories, encouraged us to see them as places of communion in which to stop and listen.' -- Jamie Cable, Church Times 'Gardening as a Sacred Art is a well-researched and interesting perspective on whether gardens throughout history were created in harmony with nature ... enjoyed this book immensely and would recommend it to anyone who has an interest in garden history or designing gardens that have 'soul'.' -- Kim Grove (Garden designer), Garden Design 'Naydler suggests that "the garden calls to us from the future, where it exists as a still unrealised ideal". In his beautifully illustrated book, he resounds the call of the garden as a "necessary counterbalance and corrective". It's a welcome message towards resanctifying our world.' -- Nexus Magazine '[This book] provides a most accessible history of the principles and values by which gardens have been shaped for three thousand years. Most especially it reminds us of what we lose when our senses are limited by a narrow and material reality ... [I] will leave this delight to your discovery.' -- Temenos Academy 'Gardening as a Sacred Art is a history of spirit as manifested in gardens from ancient Mesopotamia to modern Europe. Like the history of art, it mirrors the life of the communities in which they were created. Jeremy Naydler takes us back firstly to when gardens were not experienced simply as places of leisure but were integral to religious practice... Gardeners will love this book. Occasionally you look down the garden you have worked all day (or maybe it was Nature that worked you!), and you have that peace, that sense of the numinous that cannot be understood except by somehow knowing that it is vital. Our author has been so kind as to declare it for us: gardening is a sacred art.' -- Self and Society About the Author Jeremy Naydler is a philosopher and cultural historian who lives in Oxford. He is the author of Temple of the Cosmos: The Ancient Egyptian Experience of the Sacred (1996) and Shamanic Wisdom in the Pyramid Texts: The Mystical

Tradition of Ancient Egypt (2005).