# THE GARDENS, A POEM TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH OF THE ABBE DE LILLE, PP. 5-146

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The Gardens, a Poem Translated from the French of the Abbe De Lille, pp. 5-146 by Jacques Delille

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# **JACQUES DELILLE**

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## GARDENS,

A POEM.

TRANSLATED FROM

THE FRENCH OF THE ABBE DE LILLE.

BY

MRS. MONTOLIEU.

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### GARDENS.

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In gardens Wisdom dwelt in days of yore, And with serener smiles dispensed her lore. And when the good implored th' immortal powers, They asked not pomp, but amaranthine bowers; Free in cool shades and flowery meads to rove; Eternal peace, and rural joys to prove.

But now, my Muse, expand thy eager wing, My theme invites, and Philip bids me sing.

Insult not nature with absurd expense, Nor spoil her simple charms by vain pretence; Weigh well the subject, be with caution bold, Profese of genius, not profese of gold. Less grand than lovely, decked with modest care, A garden one vast picture should appear. See with a painter's eye. The fields array, The numerous tints their varying hues display, The gleams of light, the masses of the shade, The changes by the hours and seasons made, The bright enamel of the grass-clad ground, The laughing hills with golden harvests crowned, The rocks, the streams, each various shrub and tree, These should your colours, canvas, pencils be; Nature is yours, and your prolific hand Must, to create, her elements command.

5