

Adam's three gardens

by [Philip C. Kolin](#) in the [July 10, 2013](#) issue

The first resplendent and holy, flourishing  
over waters, trees with fulsome fruit,  
witherless leaves,  
psaltery furrowing  
the land, a covenant of light and mist;  
no want; creation swelling, begetting  
in the shadow of white-clifted wings.

In the second, sin sprouted  
rocks and spurs; acorns detonate  
like grenades; mandrakes scream  
bloodroots and tribulation;  
serpents untangle from  
dead boughs,  
sunlight shriveled up everywhere.

The third the garden within  
tending memories of rockroses, fallen  
pomegranates and sallow sunsets;  
olive trees weeping in the wilderness  
blood-seared thorns and stargazer lilies  
pressed into a crown; God calling us  
back to paradise.