

# Historic Gardens "Chorbog" In The Islamic Countries

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**Abstract** :In principle any garden reminds us of beauty and unity of nature. But there exist gardens arranged in accordance with the traditional principles of the Islamic "Chorbog" or architecturally -organized a "Four-sides" garden which possesses, as it seems to me, considerably more potential than the gardens planned without such principles. At the present paper an attempt has been made to prove it and it is noted that the Koran is sacred for Moslem people, and its references to nature, as well as, the description of paradise gardens deserves the careful study when considering the meaning of the Islamic gardens. Types and peculiarities of the Islamic countries gardens are also considered in the given paper.

**Index Terms** : "Chorbog", historic garden, Islamic countries, Koran, central asia, Muslem, Babylons

## 1 INTRODUCTION

At present, in the Islamic countries, there are different historic gardens! The differences between them are displayed by their location. In other words, between architectural -planning gardens and gardens in the courtyards, palaces location, as well as in large field gardens were created outside of the city. Enormous gardens outside of the historic housing area and the town were called "buston" (in Persian-"orchard") and in North Africa it is called "Agdal". In the past, they belonged to big palace richmen. And, today gardens are the places for recreation of the population. The gardens around the city of Marrakesh: "Menar" or "Agdal" are such gardens [1]. Both these gardens have vast beautiful "khauzes" -basins around which olive trees, palm-trees and different fruit trees were planted. In the planning composition of the "Agdal" khauz-basin, the style Chorbog is repeated more than once, which remind the lattice of "Chorbog". In the centre of the garden, there is a big khauz-basin and around it is connected with each other by straight water canals, forming small ponds, to irrigate a garden. The territory of a garden is surrounded by the fence. In numerous garden in a square shape of "Chorbog", different fruit bearing tress are planted. They are orange tress, lemon, palm-trees, big-trees, pomel-granate. These square gardens are divided from each other by the irrigated canals and combined by olive trees rows and paths for the people having rest. Though in Agdal and Menar gardens, there are no special flower squares, but around these gardens one can enjoy vast green surroundings. Another vast garden is park of Rest in Lahore (Pakistan). It is called a the garden-complex Shalimar. The garden, as a whole consists of water structures and complexes of buildings Shalimar arranged by the Chorbog style is a many-tier complex garden [2]. Usually, in the composition of small gardens of the Islamic world, there are traditional yard garden in the populated areas, their area, as a rule, make up from 6square to 20 sq.m. Such gardens can be seen in private dwellings of the cities Damascus, Fest and Aleppo. The majority of these courtyard gardens has a small central fountain and a basin around which 2-3 palm-trees and flowers in pots usually connected group".

## 2 TYPES OF GARDENS

For the Islamic countries, having dry and climate, water is the most important life supplying factor not only for gardens and vegetable kingdom, but also for the human-being. In the cities of Iran, particularly in Isfahan, every courtyard has a garden. Plane-trees, willows, nut trees. Shades from these trees, cover different fragrant flowers which makes the most perfumed atmosphere. In courtyard gardens of Damascus, there is also such favorable climate. Gardens surrounded by fences in private yards remind a fairytale paradise garden [1]. Another type of gardens of the Islamic world is called "Guliston". They can take the place of "Buston", "Guliston" surrounded by fences, covered by liana roses throne, or a small courtyard-garden composed of large roses. Besides all these, the Islamic world has also memorial-garden-mausoleums. For the first time they were formed in northern India, in the period when the Baburids ruled this country [2]. By all parameters these gardens also repeated the principles of the "Chorbog" style, but only now, in the center of the garden, in the place of the throne of the garden, a building of the mausoleum was installed, where famous people were buried. The type of gardens-mausoleums in contrast to yard gardens are directed to all four parts of the horizon. Three gardens-mausoleums preserved till our time are the examples of such built garden:

- The garden-mausoleum Itimod-ad davla, created by the Baburid Jakhongirshokh (1605-1627).
- The garden-mausoleum in Lahore.
- The garden-mausoleum Taj Mahal in Agra.

## 3 The content of "Chorbog"

The garden-mausoleum in Agra by its beauty and design and by its landscape has become famous and unique among gardens in comparison with mausoleums in many other countries. On the base of the composition this beautiful garden lies the traditional style "Chorbog". Not only in Taj Mahal, but in many Islamic countries when creating gardens, the method of "Chorbog" was used. In a large garden Agdal in Marrakesh this style is repeated more than once in one way or in another. The outside appearance of the garden was created as modeling symmetrically planning architectural garden. On the whole, this garden as it was written in the Koran reminds a paradise garden, which is considered to be as a heaven garden, where the symbol of Allah is described [1]. In spite of their types and not depending of the place of their

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location, in all Islamic gardens, the principles of the necessity of the use of water and shade are inherited. The Koran is sacred for all Moslem. So, they follow its requirements and principles sacredly. In the 55-th verset "Rakhmon", it is said about two pairs of paradise gardens [4]. In the first pars garden, all fruits and berries are mainly riped and they are irrigated from two paradise water springs. It is stressed there, that these fruits are closer to the population of paradise. The second pair of gardens is located below the first pair of the garden. That is why they at sight are darker, trees and plants are much higher! Here, there are two springs of water. In these gardens dates, pamel-granate, big, olive. In short, this sura (h), the beauty and prosperity of paradise is described in detail [4]. So, in paradise there are four out of two pairs of paradise gardens. The notion, "jannat" -paradise and perception in the kind of a garden were formed long before Islam. Such notion was at Christians and even in Judaism. They appeared at Shumers (Mesopotamia) in 4000 B.C. About paradise gardens of Gods we can find on the early written monuments reached us. Later, (2700 B.C) Babylons in their epos Gilgamish wrote in their God`s paradise about: "In the paradise garden of the eternal world there is a tree and it grows nearby the divine spring". As we see, there is water and a tree in the paradise garden. The tree gives fruits and shade. In the Holy Koran these gardens are called "jannat al firdaws" -(paradise gardens) [1]. In the countries of Islamic East such terms meaning sense and content of gardens and gardening are widely spread: Chorbog, chakhorbog, Buston, Guliston ana Paradez. All these terms are of Persian origin and mean genesis and the origin of these gardens. For example: "Chorbog" and "chakhorbog" mean sense of gardens out of four components (parts) of "Buston" it is an orchard, guliston" -is a flower garden, pairdez means (pairi-around, dez-fence; wall) that means garden paradise surrounded by fence and a wall. Paradezes were hunting places for the Akhamenids Kings (590-600 A.D) and in the periods of the Sasanides (200-600 A.D) these were the places for hunting of the Persian Kings [5]. These gardens-paradises were surrounded by high strong walls from the external world. Europeans called them "paradise" and compared it with a paradise garden. In Islam "jannat" is also depicted as the world, arranged from the external world by beautiful gardens. That is why, eastern gardens in miniatures of the Middle ages painters are presented in the type of gardens surrounded by the walls from the external world.

#### 4 CONCLUSION

In such hot eastern Muslim countries having the problem of water-supply as (Iran, Afghanistan, Central Asia and in Arabian countries), constructive and planning works were connected with the irrigated principles of gardens cultification [3]. For the gardens on plane and flat surfaces, rectilinear irrigation ditches (canals) are usually built to save water. The shortage of water in the countries with hot dry climate that is equivalent to the shortage of sunny light in the countries with cold climate, that is countries having an abundance of water, subtropical countries. If for the gardens in eastern countries water and shade play the decisive role than for the gardens in Europe, it is important to have flowers, greenery and trees. We shouldn't forget

such important sides of the problem because they are basic elements of national gardens.

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