

## Paradise



‘Paradise is a lake  
surrounded by snow-  
capped mountains.’  
(Advertisement for Zell  
am See 2004).

They came in multitudes  
from the hot, dry lands,  
the men black-haired and bearded,  
the women covered head to toe,  
bejewelled, with hennaed hands.  
They gazed in awe at the lake -  
So blue! So beautiful!  
They looked in amazement  
at the mountains - So green!  
and the trees – So tall!  
They marvelled at the snow  
So white! So crisp! So cold!  
They lifted delighted faces  
to the rain – So fresh! So cool!

And they gave thanks to Allah  
for this foretaste of Mecca,  
for this paradise on Earth.

*Margaret Hardy*  
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