

A comparative study of Sigiriya water garden landscape with Mughal Imperial gardens

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The term 'Cultural landscape' embraces a diversity of manifestations of the interaction between humankind and its natural environment. A great variety of such landscapes can be found from different regions of the world since the ancient time period. Considerably, garden landscape can be considered as one of the significant forms of cultural landscape. Accordingly, Sigiriya water garden landscape (5th Century AC) and Mughal Imperial gardens (1526 – 1648 AC), constitute distinguished chapters in the history of garden landscape displaying remarkable landscape characters. Although a very few researchers have pointed out apparent resemblances between the two garden types, they have not profoundly concern with the subject. Consequently, the identification of resemblances and contrasts between the two particular garden types in terms of basic garden landscape features; topography and geography, garden layout, hydraulics, man-made structures, overall cultural landscape and also cultural, social and religious implications and symbolisms woven around the two cultural landscape types becomes the objective of the research and ultimately it also can be regarded as the significance of my study. So basically, the outline of the study is woven around the analysis of aforesaid basic features which is paramount to discover the similarities and dissimilarities between the two garden types. Based on the analysis of the data collected with the aid of literary sources and site observations, it was able to derive the conclusion that Sigiriya water landscape is also influenced by the Persian gardens likewise the Mughal Imperial gardens, mostly due to the trade relationships between Sri Lanka and Persia. Nevertheless, both of the garden types possess unique garden features which ultimately make them exclusive to the two particular countries; India and Sri Lanka. Hence, a comparative study between Sigiriya water garden landscape and Mughal Imperial gardens is apposite to undertake along with the basic garden landscape features, in order to glance at the two particular garden types, in an innovative aspect.

Keywords : Cultural landscape, Sigiriya water garden, Mughal Imperia gardens, Persian gardens

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