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CAT. 4. SITA SHIES AWAY FROM HANUMAN

INDIA, MUGHAL; 1594

This miniature is from the copy of the *Ramayana* that the Great Mughal Akbar commissioned for his mother in 1594.

Nearly all the Great Mughals were enthusiastic founders of gardens, either at palaces or at mausoleums, like the famous Taj Mahal. Many Mughal gardens were of the Persian *charbagh* type, divided into four sections by channels, and these sections could be subdivided into innumerable sunken beds with geometrical patterns and hold smaller irrigation channels, fountains, and pavilions.

The architecture, as here, was often further decorated with flowers in relief or in inlays.

Rugs brought the wealth of flowers from the real garden into the pavilions, and some were even designed as stylized gardens with beds and watercourses.

