



Artificial Paradises: Baudelaire's Masterpiece on Hashish

By D. Baudelaire



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At the time of its release in 1860, Charles Baudelaire's "Artificial Paradises (Les Paradis Artificiels)" met with immediate praise. One of the most important French symbolists, Baudelaire led a debauched, violent, and ultimately tragic life, dying an opium addict in 1867. This book, a response to Thomas De Quincey's Confessions of an Opium Eater, serves as a memoir of Baudelaire's last years.

In this beautifully wrought portrait of the effects of wine, opium, and hashish on the mind, Baudelaire captures the dreamlike visions he experienced during his narcotic trances. These hallucinations, sometimes exquisite, sometimes disturbing, and the delusions of grandeur that often accompanied them, constitute the Paradis Artificiels, the gorgeous yet false worlds of ecstasy that eventually led to his ruin. Contrasting the effects of hashish and opium with those of wine, Baudelaire concludes that "wine exalts the will, hashish destroys it" and makes idlers of all those who use it.

This new translation of a controversial book provides fascinating reading as well as a key to the mind of a great writer.

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Artificial Paradises: Baudelaire's Masterpiece on Hashish By D. Baudelaire Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #997292 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Citadel
- Published on: 1998-08-04
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: .0" h x .0" w x .0" l, .69 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 204 pages

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

This translation of *Du vin et du haschisch* (1851) and *Les Paradis artificiels* (1860) constitutes the first modern English version published in this last quarter century of Baudelaire's writings on the mood-altering drugs of his time. In contrast to his contemporary Gustave Flaubert (who purchased hashish but did not partake), Baudelaire experimented with the drug and eventually condemned its use because of its harmful effects. Though *Du vin* is Baudelaire's own contribution on the subject, *Les Paradis artificiels* is his translation of Thomas De Quincey's *Confession of an English Opium Eater* (1821). Alcoholism and drug abuse are only part of Baudelaire's broader view of the world of artificial paradises, which, in his poetic framework (his *Fleurs du mal* particularly), include any form of artifice used by humans to escape from their miserable condition. Diamond's introduction is a useful thumbnail coverage of the topic, and the notes at the end of the volume lead to further study. For readers of French literature. ?Danielle Mihram, Univ. of Southern California

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Language Notes

Text: English (translation)

Original Language: French

From the Back Cover

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Daniel Soderquist:

Nowadays reading books are more than want or need but also get a life style. This reading habit give you lot of advantages. The huge benefits you got of course the knowledge your information inside the book this improve your knowledge and information. The details you get based on what kind of publication you read, if you want send more knowledge just go with knowledge books but if you want feel happy read one along with theme for entertaining for example comic or novel. Often the *Artificial Paradises: Baudelaire's*

Masterpiece on Hashish is kind of reserve which is giving the reader capricious experience.

Ruth Barnett:

Spent a free time for you to be fun activity to accomplish! A lot of people spent their sparetime with their family, or their own friends. Usually they accomplishing activity like watching television, gonna beach, or picnic inside park. They actually doing same task every week. Do you feel it? Do you wish to something different to fill your free time/ holiday? Might be reading a book can be option to fill your free time/ holiday. The first thing you will ask may be what kinds of e-book that you should read. If you want to try out look for book, may be the guide untitled Artificial Paradises: Baudelaire's Masterpiece on Hashish can be fine book to read. May be it might be best activity to you.

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