

(47) (Dahlia) p.54

1st draft b. Fri Sept 17/76

f. Fri Sept 24/76

(Taylor cont.) planting: divide clump of roots - lay these horizontally eyes upward in the crown + toward the stake [eyes-stock the part of the base of last year's / stem

- T. H. Madding Crowd ch XIX where every flower not a buttercup was a daisy - Blue Eyes 231, p 3 note / 8/13-14
- comeling (2 syllables) pro (kumling or ~~comel~~ 3 syll. recalling pommeling - ~~used~~ Holinshed, Cursor Mundi ^ (A 55 Poems {Songs} #21) = stranger
- T.H. Blue Eyes: faith . . a gathered flower.

” Madding: a timely thunder shower . . [birds <Z> pleased] hymning [seen]. ch. 31 notes p 3 8/30/76

- but for the green-white + purple green + the reed stem pinwheels a black eyed susan wandered to white to the + white tipped purple fl blossoms, the no

L simul

nodding / the principal the same. <cf W.S. Sonnet 30> same Skt, with; (Gk "AMA = together

- H. J. notes 7/26/76 Portrait L 392 [moon's] disk partly masked by [earth's] shadow

“thornless”

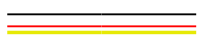
405 if she isn't the <no> rose has lived <but better> near it. Coleridge to Bowles (Blue Eyes - No beg. or surface [looked thru not (8/5/76 with -)] + check curled in celophane petals

Dahlia pinnata with Taylor. ~~Tuberous~~ tuberous rooted common opp. lvs often compound or twice compound, segments Garden <4-8 ft> toothed or cut - always ray + disk flowers ↑ / flws 4" / min

- 1 Interest grows not knowing dahlia
- 2 what color blossoms dividing tubers
- 3 eyes upward toward old stems
- 4 ~~or~~?\* <would> assure curled-in ^ ~~moonrays~~ purple
- 5 purple <moonrays> ~~or~~ <or->all-white glassed mask-(centered) disks roses ~~nears~~ excels cannot excel you
- 6 no roses ~~near~~ them thornless
- 7 ~~pleased~~ <pleasing> comeling/birds black-eyed susan by
- 8 their <dahlia> year's-heads ~~principal~~ <income> the same

2nd draft f. Sat Sept 25/76

- 1
- 2
- 34 assure curled in white-tipped purple disks
- 45 moonrays <or> all-white glassed-mask disks
- 56
- 67
- 78
- ↑(3) eyes upward toward old stems [insert, line 3]



\* \* \*

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## Sources

Taylor, *Taylor's Encyclopedia of Gardening*, **Dahlia**

*Century Dictionary (CD)*, **comeling, same, thornless**

Shakespeare, Sonnet 30

Thomas Hardy, *A Pair of Blue Eyes*

*Far from the Madding Crowd*

Henry James, *The Portrait of a Lady*

LZ, *55 Poems* ("Song 21")

## Dahlia

line 1: **Interest grows not knowing dahlia**

line 2: **what color blossoms dividing tubers**

line 3: **eyes upward toward old stems**

line 4: **assure curled in white-tipped purple**

line 5: **moonrays or all-white glass-mask disks**

line 6: **roses cannot excel you thornless**

line 7: **pleasing comeling birds black-eyed susan**

line 8: **dahlia year's-heads income the same**

Sept 17-25/76

Rosh Hashana 5737

line 1: **Interest grows not knowing dahlia**

{LZ's note above to Shakespeare's Sonnet 30 is presumably to the use of money market vocabulary in the latter half of the poem, which also characterizes this flower, perhaps suggested by the phrase "compound or twice-compound" in Taylor's description of the Dahlia (see next)}.

Taylor, **Dahlia** (dah'l'ya, also day'li-ya). A small but very important genus of tuberous-rooted herbs of the family Compositae, the source of all the garden dahlias. {...} Ours are perennials with tuberous roots and opposite leaves which are often compound or twice-compound, the leaflets or segments toothed or cut. Flowers very various, due to breeding, but the wild types always with both ray and disk flowers. {...} (Named for Andreas Dahl, Swedish pupil of Linnaeus.)

line 2: **what color blossoms dividing tubers**

Taylor, **Dahlia** {see line 1} > DAHLIA CULTURE > *Planting and Cultivation*: {...} It is desirable to stake all except the dwarf varieties and it is well to drive the stakes before the actual planting is done. The root should be laid down horizontally, eye upward and toward the stake, in a hole about six inches deep. {...}

*Division of Root Clumps.* The enlarged underground parts of the dahlia are sometimes called “bulbs” or “tubers,” but properly speaking they are always *tuberous roots*. Beginners often make the mistake of planting a whole clump of roots, which, in most cases, is not only a waste but the results are usually not so good as when the clump is properly divided. All of the eyes are in the “crown” or upper end, which is essentially a part of the base of last year’s stem. Sometimes there are more roots than there are eyes and sometimes more eyes than roots.

*Selection of Varieties.* Of the 14,000 dahlia varieties that have been introduced, perhaps 2000 are on the market at the present time. Few of these date back more than 15 years, so that any selected list of the “best varieties” is soon outmoded. {Taylor follows with a list of about 40 varieties and their diverse colors.}

line 3: **eyes upward toward old stems**

See Taylor on *Planting* and *Division of Root Clumps* line 2.

line 4: **assure curled in white-tipped purple**line 5: **moonrays or all-white glass-mask disks**

Henry James, *The Portrait of a Lady*, Chap. XLII: But she had seen only half his nature then, as one saw the disk of the moon when it was partly masked by the shadow of the earth.

See Taylor line 1.

line 6: **roses cannot excel you thornless**

Henry James, *The Portrait of a Lady*, Chap. XLIII: ‘Ah yes, if she isn’t the rose she has lived near it.’

*CD, a.* {...} **thornless**. Free from thorns.

Youth’s gay prime and *thornless* paths.

*Coleridge, Sonnet to Bowles.*

line 7: **pleasing comeling birds black-eyed susan**

Thomas Hardy, *Far from the Madding Crowd*, Chap. XXXI: Freshness was exhaled in an essence from the varied contours of bank and hollow, as if the earth breathed maiden breath; and the pleased birds were hymning to the scene.

*CD, comeling*† (kum’ling), *n.* {...} A comer; an incomer; a new-comer; a stranger.

To *cumlynges* do yee right, na suike [deceive],

For quilum war yee seluen slike.

*Cursor Mundi*, l. 67855.

So that within a whyle they began to molest the homelings (for so I find the word *indigena* to be Englished in an old book that I have, wherein *advena* is translated also as *comeling*).

*Holinshed.*

LZ, 55 Poems, "Song 21":

Snows' night's winds on the window rattling

{ . . }

sheltering

Safety from the window's pommelling (CSP 51)

line 8: **dahlia year's-heads income the same**

See CD, **comeling** line 7.

CD, **same**<sup>†</sup>, *adv.* [{...} = Gr. ἅμα, at the same time, together, ὁμός, the same (> ὁμοῖος, like), = Skt. *sama*, even, like, equal; cf. Skt. *sa* (in comp.), with, *sam*, with; L. *simul*, together, *similis*, similar: see *simultaneous*, *similar*, etc.] Together.