

HIS Nature

*Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if
it had been slain, standing
in the center of the throne.
REVELATION 5:6*

I am utterly amazed at the message God communicates to us through Queen Anne's lace. It seems that our Lord has specially designed this flower to remind us of his sacrifice for our sins and the beauty of his heavenly appearance. What a loving Savior Jesus is!

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and even the common cold. Could this cache of drugs also be our Creator's way of reassuring us that in his heavenly presence there will be no more pain or illness or suffering (Revelation 21:4)?

The Bible makes it clear that, upon the cross, Jesus willingly drank a cup of suffering (Mark 14:36). In autumn, the umbel of the Queen Anne's lace curls up to form a "cup," symbolic of this sacrifice of our Creator for the forgiveness of our sins. Christ had to die so that we could live eternally (Romans 5:18). Likewise, it is only when the flower dies that it can release the seeds that ensure a future generation of flowers (John 12:24).

We must be careful not to confuse wild carrot with its deadly counterfeit, the hemlock plant. Every part of hemlock—flowers, seeds, leaves, stems, roots—is saturated with deadly poison, and it is wise not to handle this plant! To the untrained eye, Queen Anne's lace and hemlock are very similar in appearance, sharply illustrating a warning from our Lord—people will try to confuse us with deadly, false gospels (Matthew 24:24).

After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.

REVELATION 7:9

HEAVEN ON EARTH

A cookie can be quite an adventure. With every bite, we may find delicious chocolate chips, plump raisins, or creamy peanut butter. We might also think of creation as a "delicious dessert." There are many sweet things about our Lord's precious character "baked" into the universe around us (Isaiah 6:3; Romans 1:20) waiting to be savored. Christ our Creator entreats us with this invitation: "Taste and see that the LORD is good" (Psalm 34:8). Let us now sample a dainty morsel called Queen Anne's lace (*Daucus carota*), a common, but oft ignored, roadside wildflower.



Queen Anne's Lace

Legend has it that Queen Anne's lace, also known as "wild carrot," got its name from England's Queen Anne (ruled from 1702–1714) because she adorned her hair with its lacy leaves. The origin of this flower, however, can be traced to the greater Middle East—specifically the country of Afghanistan. Over the centuries *Daucus carota* has slowly spread across the globe and now grows

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widely on three continents: Asia, Europe, and North America.

Our great Lord's hands formed Queen Anne's lace; therefore we should not be surprised by what we see under a magnifying glass. Its flower head is not haphazardly put together, but the tiny flowers (known as florets) that compose it form wonderful and precise geometric patterns. Under close scrutiny, *Daucus carota* echoes the perfections and excellences of our Creator as proclaimed in Scripture (1 Chronicles 16:25-33; Revelation 4:11).

Wild carrot is a biennial. This means that it blooms after two summers of growth. In the second year it forms an exquisite flower head, or umbel. The umbel is actually a lovely bouquet of delicate white florets surrounding a tiny maroon flower, which is elevated above and is slightly larger than the other florets.

There are many wildflowers far more colorful than Queen Anne's lace, but none better reflect the beauty of our Savior's love for his

people. Science has no explanation for the centrally-located, blood-colored floret of *Daucus carota*. Its presence does not increase insect pollination, nor does it provide any protection for the plant. Perhaps it has no biological value, and its purpose is to provide us a picture of Christ's glory in heaven (Philippians 2:9-11).

The Bible tells us that Jesus will forever be worshiped as the wounded Savior (Revelation 5:6). He will be the focus of praise in heaven—the one whose blood purifies his people, making their sins as white as snow (Isaiah 1:18). Queen Anne's lace is a marvelous illustration of this because at the center of its sea of white is this single, red-tinged floret. What an incredible reminder of God's love. The hundreds of fragile white flowers in the umbel picture the saints who are cleansed by the blood of the Lamb and surround him who was slain (represented by this amazing, central, crimson floret). Sadly, some see the central maroon floret of *Daucus carota* as a "defect" of the flower head. (I wonder how many in the world view the Cross as a "defect" of Christianity.)

"Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city" (Revelation 22:14).

As a flower, wild carrot is quite prolific. It is capable of taking over whole fields—carpeting them white as snow and thus reflecting the sufficiency of Jesus' sacrifice for our sins (Colossians 2:13-15). *Daucus carota* also thrives best in uncultivated soil: in waste places, in empty lots, and along roadsides where car and truck exhaust might destroy less-hardy plants. Scripture teaches us that Christ's gospel blooms solely in the hearts of the undeserving (Romans 3:9-24; Ephesians 2:1-10).

Myrrh, frankincense, and expensive perfume were presented to Jesus at the beginning (Matthew 2:11) and the end of his earthly life (John 12:1-8), marking him the King of kings. It is the aroma of Christ (2 Corinthians 2:14-16) that attracts the humble of heart (James 4:6), not the high and mighty. Isn't it fascinating, then, that God placed in Queen Anne's lace strong-smelling oils that attract lowly



creatures: ants, flies, bees, wasps, butterflies, and moths? Oh, how sweet it is to be drawn to Jesus!

But *Daucus carota* has far more than a delightful fragrance. God also "stocked the shelves" of this wildflower with an unbelievable number of drugs, making it nature's "super-pharmacy." We don't have space to mention all the medicinal compounds contained in this plant, but here is a partial list: painkillers, antidepressants, anti-inflammatory medications, antibacterials, anticonvulsants, antihistamines, antioxidants, drugs to treat anxiety, expectorants, and pituitary stimulants. Queen Anne's lace may also prove useful in the treatment of Alzheimer's, Crohn's disease, Parkinson's disease, infertility, diabetes, leukemia, spina bifida, migraine headaches,

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