

The grass is always greener...

I was thinking about the saying, “the grass is always greener on the other side,” lately, not just for curiosity reasons but for practical reasons. Let me explain.

This spring, I sowed a garden in the field at the back of my house. I sowed all kinds of vegetables. This was my second venture into organic gardening since my retirement. During the winter months, I prepared the ground and allowed the frost to break up the soil as well as the farmyard manure.

Then, I fenced in the garden to keep the critters away and now allow my labours of love to be destroyed. Finally, I invited some sheep and their lambs into the field to become animal lawnmowers to keep the freshly grown grass manicured.

Of course, my fence, in my estimation, would stand the test of time and animals. I drove fence posts into the ground and checked their stability. I placed them at strategic places around my garden. I invested in a roll of fine green mesh and duly erected it. Like the Lord with the Israelites, I allowed the sheep and lambs to enter Paradise but were forbidden from eating the fruit of my garden. I hoped for a peaceful outcome but, I soon discovered how false my presumptions could be.

With a half-acre of grass to munch on, the sheep and lambs felt they were in sheep-heaven with the wonderful feast at their disposal. They enjoyed roaming around and selecting sample to tantalize their taste buds and stomachs. They seemed happy and content and appreciative of their wonderful gift.

Days passed, but their contentment seemed to give way to boredom. Then, they noticed the green fence and could see some patches of grass along the parameters, inside the fence. It seemed the lambs had no self—control and wondered how different and sweeter such forbidden grass might be. They had to check it out.

Their animal instincts search for a way to reach the forbidden fruit. Two twins – little Eves – decided to find an excuse to enter the forbidden territory. They felt like gods in their own domain, knowing that they could do anything they wanted. Eventually, they discovered the weak link in the fence and nosed the fence up from the bottom and entered. They even invited an older cousin to join them, letting her know they way to get in.

The god gardener finally noticed the trinity of lambs enjoying their new playground and dancing up and down on the newly sown ridges of vegetables. The gardener was angry and ran to chastise them and put them out. When they saw him coming, they began to blame each other. He demanded that they exit the garden immediately and earn their mutton just like the other sheep and lambs were doing. They only asked one question: How do we get out of here. They rushed different places against the green fence but it would not budge. Finally, the gardener opened part of the fence and allowed them to exit, after having chastised them.

Ironically, once they got a taste of the forbidden fruit, they were hooked and went back several times to the garden of greener grass. Finally, the gardener got really fed up with the antics and the destruction of his spring labours, he even nailed the fence more securely at the bottom. He adopted a sentry duty mentality to see if his more fortified fortress garden would continue to test the antics of the uninhibited lambs. Finally, frustration led to banishing the lambs and sheep from the whole property. Unashamedly, the lambs and sheep didn't have to look for a fig leaf to cover their embarrassment. They were banished completely from the area with no hope of a Noah or Moses to rescue them every again.

The gardener discover that Ovid was right many centuries ago when he said that “the grass is always greener on the other side.” He discovered it is also true of animals as well.

Human nature, being what it is, as well as animal nature, we often believe that another person's life, freedom, gifts, position, home, family, wealth is much greener than ours.

In the last century, many Irish people, went to America, believing that “the streets were paved in gold.” Many Americans moved west to be part of the gold rush.

Yes, to all of us, “the grass may be greener on the other side,” but it is just as hard to cut.