The Insanity of Nebuchadnezzar

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The King had Another Dream

There was a tree in the middle of the earth.
The tree grew and became strong, and its top reached to heaven, and it was visible to the end of the whole earth.
Its leaves were beautiful and its fruit abundant, and in it was food for all. The beasts of the field found shade under it, and the birds of the heavens lived in its branches, and all flesh was fed from it.
"I saw in the visions of my head as I lay in bed, and behold, a watcher, a holy one, came down from heaven."
He proclaimed aloud and said thus: 'Chop down the tree and lop off its branches, strip off its leaves and scatter its fruit. Let the beasts flee from under it and the birds from its branches. But leave the stump of its roots in the earth, bound with a band of iron and bronze, amid the tender grass of the field. Let him be wet with the dew of heaven. Let his portion be with the beasts in the grass of the earth.
Let his mind be changed from a man's, and let a beast's mind be given to him; and let seven periods of time pass over him.
Nubchadnezzar had built the “Hanging Gardens of Babylon”, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world.
Hanging Gardens of Babylon (by Martin Heemskerck)
Gardens at Nineveh

Nineveh also boasted of a garden similar or perhaps even more elegant than Babylon. This relief taken from the North Palace of Ashurbanipal (669–631 BC) at Nineveh shows a luxurious garden watered by an aqueduct.
Babylon Today
My lord, may the dream be for those who hate you and its interpretation for your enemies!
At the end of twelve months he was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon

Is not this great Babylon, which I have built by my mighty power as a royal residence and for the glory of my majesty?
While the words were still in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven,

"O King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken: The kingdom has departed from you, and you shall be driven from among men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field. And you shall be made to eat grass like an ox, and seven periods of time shall pass over you, until you know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will."
Immediately the word was fulfilled against Nebuchadnezzar. He was driven from among men and ate grass like an ox, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven till his hair grew as long as eagles' feathers, and his nails were like birds' claws.
At the end of the days I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High, and praised and honored him who lives forever, for his dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom endures from generation to generation;
The Legendary Hanging Gardens of Babylon

Quintus Curtius Rufus (active 1st century AD) wrote...

"The Babylonians also have a citadel twenty stades (3140 meters) in circumference. The foundations of its turrets are sunk thirty feet into the ground and the fortifications rise eighty feet above it at the highest point. On its summit are the hanging gardens, a wonder celebrated by the fables of the Greeks. They are as high as the top of the walls and owe their charm to the shade of many tall trees. The columns supporting the whole edifice are built of rock, and on top of them is a flat surface of squared stones strong enough to bear the deep layer of earth placed upon it and the water used for irrigating it."
The Legendary Hanging Gardens of Babylon

Quintus Curtius Rufus (part 2)

So stout are the trees the structure supports that their trunks are 12 feet thick and their height as much as fifty feet; they bear fruit as abundantly as if they were growing in their natural environment. And although time with its gradual decaying processes is as destructive to nature's works as to man's, even so this edifice survives undamaged, despite being subjected to the pressure of so many tree-roots and the strain of bearing the weight of such a huge forest. It has a substructure of walls twenty feet thick at eleven foot intervals, so that from a distance one has the impression of woods overhanging their native mountains. Tradition has it that it is the work of a Syrian king who ruled from Babylon. He built it out of love for his wife who missed the woods and forests in this flat country and persuaded her husband to imitate nature's beauty with a structure of this kind."
Tablet No. BM 34113

From the British Museum, translated by A. K. Grayson in 1975. It has lines that may refer to Nebuchadnezzar's illness...
2 [Nebu]chadnezzar considered
3 His life appeared of no value to [him, .......]
5 And (the) Babylon(ian) speaks bad counsel to Evilmerodach [....]
6 Then he gives an entirely different order but [. . .]
7 He does not heed the word from his lips, the cour[tier(s) - - -]
11 He does not show love to son and daughter [. . .]
12 ... family exist [. . .]
14 His attention was not directed towards promoting the welfare of Esagil [and Babylon]
16 He prays to the lord of lords, he raised [his hands (in supplication) (. . .)]
17 He weeps bitterly to Marduk, the g[reat] gods [......]
18 His prayers go forth to [......]