

*A collaboration between artist Jamie Treadwell and writer Amin Kurani, for inspiration today.*



// From seed to tree

I remember being told about a man from a certain village, who planted trees in the late season of his life. He knew that the trees would only grow fully after he died. Nevertheless, he planted because he wanted to give his children a worthy inheritance.

I was struck by the man's foresight. He probably planted the trees with extra care because he knew their main purpose. I was also struck by the simplicity of his actions. It is not actually that hard to plant a tree. I have done it. A decent hole patted over with soil will often do. No one digs a mile-high crater because they want a bigger tree.

There's a lesson which I want to apply in my life. First of all, my actions are more significant than I can guess at present. I can help someone even though they might not appreciate it then. Secondly, I can realize how important "small" acts are, like spending time with another person. If people can marvel at the tree's beauty today, that is thanks to someone who sowed a seed many years ago.

*\* "Wisdom Tree" by Jamie Treadwell is available as a painting and limited-edition print. Visit [www.jamietreadwell.com](http://www.jamietreadwell.com) for the gallery and blog.*