

In Praise of Trees

"If not for the trees, human life could not exist". Midrash Sifre on Deut. 20:19

Look deep, deep, deep into nature, and then you will understand everything.

-- *Albert Einstein*

"If we surrendered to earth's intelligence we could rise up rooted, like trees.

-- *Rainer Maria Rilke, Book of Hours*

He who plants a Tree loves others besides himself.

-- *English proverb*

The best friend on Earth of man is the tree. When we use the tree respectfully and economically, we have one of the greatest resources of the Earth.

-- *Frank Lloyd Wright*

"How generously they shower us with food, literally giving themselves so that we can live. But in the giving their lives are also ensured. Our taking returns benefit to them in the circle of life making life, the chain of reciprocity. Living by the precepts of the Honorable Harvest—to take only what is given, to use it well, to be grateful for the gift, and to reciprocate the gift"

— *Robin Wall Kimmerer, Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants*

People who will not sustain trees will soon live in a world which cannot sustain people.

-- *Bryce Nelson*

Acts of creation are ordinarily reserved for gods and poets. To plant a pine, one need only own a shovel.

-- *Aldo Leopold*

Train up a fig tree in the way it should go, and when you are old sit under the shade of it.

-- *Charles Dickens*

If you are thinking a year ahead, sow a seed.

If you are thinking ten years ahead, plant a tree.

If you are thinking one hundred years ahead, educate the people.

-- *Chinese Poet, 500 BC*

No shade tree? Blame not the sun but yourself.

-- *Chinese proverb*

One generation plants the Trees; another gets the shade.

Keep a green Tree in your heart, and perhaps a singing bird will come.

-- *Chinese proverb*

Beautification be damned! Urban and community trees should be planted for economic, environmental and social reasons.

-- Donald C. Willeke

By means of trees, wildlife could be conserved, pollution decreased and the beauty of our landscapes enhanced. This is the way, or at least one of the ways, to spiritual, moral, and cultural regeneration.

-- E.F. Schumacher

That each day I may walk unceasingly on the banks of my water, that my soul may repose on the branches of the trees which I planted, that I may refresh myself under the shadow of my sycamore.

-- Egyptian tomb inscription, circa 1400 BC

A man has made at least a start on discovering the meaning of human life when he plants shade trees under which he knows full well he will never sit.

-- Elton Trueblood (1900-1994)

The forests are the flags of nature. They appeal to all and awaken inspiring universal feeling. Enter the forest and the boundaries of nations are forgotten. It may be that some time an immortal pine will be the flag of a united and peaceful world.

-- Enos A. Mills

They are beautiful in their peace, they are wise in their silence. They will stand after we are dust. They teach us, and we tend them.

-- Galeain ip Altiem MacDunelmor

What does he plant who plants a tree? He plants the friend of sun and sky; He plants the flag of breezes free; The shaft of beauty, towering high, he plants a home to heaven anigh. For song and mother-croon of bird, in hushed and happy twilight heard - The treble of heaven's harmony. These things he plants who plants a tree.

-- Henry Cuyler Bunner, *the Heart of the Tree*

As trustees, we ought to bequeath to posterity as many forests and orchards as we have exhausted and consumed.

-- J. Sterling Morton

The great French Marshall Lyautey once asked his gardener to plant a tree. The gardener objected that the tree was slow growing and would not reach maturity for 100 years. The Marshall replied, 'In that case, there is no time to lose; plant it this afternoon!'

-- John F. Kennedy

The clearest way into the universe is through a forest wilderness

-- John Muir

We have nothing to fear and a great deal to learn from trees, that vigorous and pacific tribe which without stint produces strengthening essences for us, soothing balms, and in whose gracious company we spend so many cool, silent and intimate hours.

-- Marcel Proust, *Pleasures and Regrets*, 1896

God writes the gospel not in the Bible alone, but on trees, and flowers, and clouds, and stars.

-- Martin Luther

The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit.

-- Nelson Henderson

When you plant a tree, you plant a legacy.

-- Pepper Provenzano

I'd like to go by climbing a birch tree, and climb black branches up a snow-white trunk. Toward heaven, till the tree could bear no more, but dipped its top and set me down again. That would be good both going and coming back. One could do worse than be a swinger of birches.

-- Robert Frost, *Birch Trees*

It is not so much for its beauty that the forest makes a claim upon men's hearts, as for that subtle something, that quality of air that emanation from old trees, that so wonderfully changes and renews a weary spirit.

-- Robert Louis Stevenson

To plant trees is to give body and life to one's dreams of a better world.

-- Russell Page

You will find more in the woods than in books. Trees and stones will teach you that which you can never learn from masters.

-- St. Bernard of Clairvaux

To exist as a nation, to prosper as a state, and to live as a people, we must have trees.

-- Theodore Roosevelt

He that plants a tree loves other besides himself.

-- Thomas Fuller

If what I say resonates with you, it is merely because we are both branches on the same tree.

-- W.B. Yeats

Why are there trees I never walk under but large and melodious thoughts descend upon me?

-- Walt Whitman, *Song of the Open Road*

There is something nobly simple and pure in a taste for the cultivation of forest trees.

-- Washington Irving

It is no exaggerated praise to call a Tree the grandest, and most beautiful of all productions on earth!

-- William Gilpin