

Book Review

The Man Who Planted Hope and Grew Happiness

by Jena Giono

Reviewed by Lucinda Hodges

"When you remembered that all this had sprung
from the hands and the soul of this one man, without technical resources,
you understood that men
could be as effectual as God in realms other than that of destruction."

By Jean Giono

[The Man Who Planted Hope and Grew Happiness](#), is the perfect book to read for the winter solstice: the darkest day of year. No matter how low the sun is on the horizon this book will remind you of the hope each day brings as the sun begins to rise in the sky once again.

This book could be viewed as the French version of Johnny Appleseed. Giono's story is a more spiritual telling of the folklore tale of Johnny Appleseed; and though his book is really a booklet, his writing speaks volumes about the abilities of mankind. The main character of the book Elzeard Bouffier, is a quiet peasant who quietly sets out, of his own determination, to plant one hundred acorn seeds a day upon a barren desert.

[The Man Who Planted Hope and Grew Happiness](#) is freely available on the Internet. The link I have provided above is one of hundreds of websites you may view and read his book on. Originally, [The Man Who Planted Hope](#) was published as an article in Vogue Magazine in 1954. The book was first published by a French publisher in 1954. In 1967 the first American edition was published. This first American printing is now out-of-print, but still available on the web through various booksellers for generally less than five dollars. There is a current version of, [The Man who Planted Hope](#), in print with a new title, [The Man Who Planted Trees](#). As well, there is a [Twentieth Anniversary](#) hard-cover edition of the book complete with gorgeous wood cut illustrations.

No matter which publication of the book you read, this is a timeless tale of hope for mankind that is an excellent choice to read out loud during the holiday season; especially for families looking for uplifting spiritual reading without religious overtones.

The creation of a thousand forests is in one acorn.

- Ralph Waldo Emerson