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SYNOPSIS

Short story *The Man Who Planted Trees* by Jean Giono is set in Paris, France and set in 1913. The story begins with a man, who is also the narrator of this story, making a long journey in a place called Provence mountainous area of Alps, France. The area is a very barren region and not overgrown with any plants except coarse grass and wild lavender. This situation makes climate and weather there becomes very hot and the sun is very stinging in the skin.

The long journey that has been done by the narrator was very difficult because the place he passed was a desert. In the middle of his journey, he felt very thirsty and realized that the water supply that he carries was running low. So it forces him to immediately find some waters to sustain his life as well. As far as he goes there is no sign of water nor life that he meets. He had to rest several times and spend a night to conserve the remnants of his effort, and several times also he had to move his tent from one place to another place due to the unfriendly weather and wind problems.

During his journey to find the water, he was blurred to see a village from a distance. When he arrived there, it was the village that has been damaged and uninhabited. There is no sign of life at all in that place, but there is life once. The chaotic houses, the roof-damaged church, and the well that had dried up the water, are proved that there had been life once but it had been abandoned by the inhabitants because of their ignorance. In that village, indeed, was once occupied by some families who have a main job as a charcoal maker. The main raw material of charcoal

is wood, and wood is taken from trees. So their main activity is to find wood that will be produced into charcoal by cutting it in the forest. Such activities lead to the availability of wood in the wild is gone. If the tree is exhausted then it means that nature has been damaged, because there is nothing else will keep rain water and cause the soil become barren.

Those circumstances indicate that the relationship between humans and nature happen very bad. Human only take the maximum benefit of nature without doing any activity in order to maintain its sustainability. This can happen because they have no awareness and background knowledge about nature and how to guard it. The only thing they know is to continue their work and activities to sustain their lives.

The traveler finally continues on his way. Until, he met a shepherd who was herding his sheep. He asks the water to the man and the man gives his water to the traveler gladly. Out of curiosity, the traveler decided to join the shepherd's activities and decided to stay overnight in his cottage. Name of the shepherd is Elezeard Bouffier. He lives alone in that place. Before occupying his current home, he had family in the lowland once. He also has a farm there. However, since he was left by his only son and wife, he decided to live alone in the hills and only accompanied by his dog.

Throughout the rest of his life, he spent the rest of his life by repairing the damaged natural conditions of the place. With his solitude, he has had much time to recover his nature. Every day, while shepherding his sheep, he planted acorns around his cottage to a distance of a dozen kilometers from his cottage. Before planting the

seeds, he treats the seeds very well, for example, he will only plant the best acorns that have been selected before and soaked into the water for a day and night. The traveler observed all of Bouffier's activities carefully and he amazed with him that a solitude man aware to repair the damaged nature so well.

The next day, the traveler left Bouffier for several years to follow a war. Bouffier continued his activities and he also planted various kinds of trees besides oak trees, those are the beech and birch trees. After finishing the war, the traveler decided to go visit Bouffier at his cottage. When he arrived at the area, he was surprised by the view he found. The area he first encountered was only a desert, now it has turned into an area full of trees. The area that Bouffier successfully cultivated reached a distance of tens of kilometers from his cottage. The traveler also said that what Bouffier had done was the same as the hand of God who did. He is like a God who is capable of creating that kind of change without help from anyone. The day he visited Bouffier was spent by the traveler and Bouffier by taking a walk along Bouffier's forest.

Sooner or later, Bouffier forest is began to be known; from forest ranger to government. To protect the forest from hunters or people who want to exploit the trees, the government declared two important policies for the ecosystems; forest is fully under supervision and protection of the government and activities related to charcoal making have been banned.

Since the government regulation has been made, people's awareness to keep the environment is getting better. They reduce many activities that can threaten and harm

Giono ran into difficulties with the American editors of Reader's Digest who in 1953 asked him to write a few pages about an unforgettable character. Apparently, the publishers required a story about an actual unforgettable character, while Giono chose to write some pages about that character which to him would be most unforgettable. When what he wrote met with the objection that no "Bouffier" had died in the shelter at Banon, a tiny mountain hamlet, Giono donated his pages to all and sundry. Not long after the story was rejected, it was accepted by Vogue and published as "The Man Who Planted Hope and Grew Happiness." Giono later wrote an American admirer of the tale that his purpose in creating Bouffier "was to make people love the tree, or more precisely, to make them love planting trees."

Giono interpreted an individual as an unforgettable character, if unselfish, generous beyond measure; they left their mark on earth without thought of reward. Giono believed he left his own mark when he wrote Elzeard Bouffier's story because he gave it away for the good of others, heedless of payment: "It is one of my stories of which I am the proudest. It does not bring me in one single penny and that is why it has accomplished what it was written for."