



Working God's Garden

10 Shevat, 5732-1972

When a Jew receives an instruction he may perhaps ask, Why exert myself? He is expected to study Torah, so he'll study Torah. He is expected to put on *tefillin* and fulfill other *mitzvos* during the day — so he'll do them. But why should he wear himself out?

And we tell him, *no!* Your job is to take your portion in the world and make it bear fruit.

This has two parts: We cannot be satisfied that our portion of the world remains constant: that today will be the same as yesterday, and tomorrow will be the same as today, and not worse, and that is enough.

That is like a house. But you exist in a world that must become an orchard, where everything must grow. Grapes, olives, whatever — they must grow.

Furthermore, when a person is not satisfied working only on himself, but invests his efforts to work with a second Jew, then the latter must also become a tree in the orchard. And not only must the tree itself be healthy; it is essential that its fruits produce yet other trees.

In other words the tree's fruit contains seeds which, when planted, will produce another fruit-bearing tree with its own seeds, and so on, endlessly.

And this was the Rebbe's method.

He was never satisfied to work only on himself, nor was he content helping another Jew only to study Torah and fulfill *mitzvos*. Rather he wanted every Jew to influence another, to lead others — to become a tree bearing fruit whose seeds will give rise to another tree, and another, and another.

And this is all included in the word *Gani*, "My garden," a place where God's Presence dwells permanently. And how do we make the world into His garden? When we meet another Jew we should see to it that he becomes a perfect tree, and that the fruits of that tree are appropriate to a tree in the orchard. From these fruits there must grow additional trees: the second Jew shall inspire others.

And if the question is asked, Why go to such trouble? — Raise wheat instead, which, according to the Talmud, matures in 52 days. The answer is no, we have to make the world into an orchard, with trees. And that takes more than days or weeks. And when he complains that he's already worked for 52 days without results, enough is enough: he'll look for someone



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else. The answer is no: you're in an orchard. Perhaps the kind of tree you're working with requires a year, two years, three years... or a lifetime, like a date tree that takes 70 years to produce fruit.

And this is what we learn from the teaching: Just as the Rebbe's efforts were directed toward long-term goals — and when you “cast your bread upon the waters,” the results, though they may take time, are assured; so, too, for everyone following in his footsteps, for everyone in the generation before Moshiach, when we have to gather up every individual Jew. Redemption cannot come if even a single Jew is left behind in *galus*. We must devote ourselves to every Jew.

And then, through our limited efforts here below, we receive boundless support from Above, and tremendous success in creating a divine orchard bearing choice fruits.

