

The Messenger

Volume 2010
Issue 1 *The Messenger*, 2010

Article 10

2010

A Man and a Tree

Josh Huffines

Follow this and additional works at: <http://scholarship.richmond.edu/messenger>



Part of the [Fiction Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Huffines, Josh (2010) "A Man and a Tree," *The Messenger*: Vol. 2010: Iss. 1, Article 10.

Available at: <http://scholarship.richmond.edu/messenger/vol2010/iss1/10>

This Fiction is brought to you for free and open access by UR Scholarship Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Messenger by an authorized administrator of UR Scholarship Repository. For more information, please contact scholarshiprepository@richmond.edu.

A Man and a Tree

Josh Huffines

He planted the seed and waited, lying next to its resting place on the hard, cool earth. After a few hours rain fell from the sky, pelting the soil and his skin. He was cold and shivered, but did not leave.

The rain clouds rushed by, in a hurry for some reason, and the sun soon emerged in the drenched sky. It warmed the soil and drove the chill from his bones. He continued to wait. The moon rose, the stars wheeled and the sun appeared once again. He didn't just wait in idle desperation next to the seed. He pondered the meaning of life, he observed nature, he prayed and he read pleasant stories. He began to lead a simple life. On the 13th day, after a steady combination of rain, sunshine and starshine, the seedling broke the soil with a searching green curlicue, looking to the entire world like an Old English question mark.

He continued to wait next to the seedling. He nurtured it for days, months, decades. One day on his way to school, a young boy became distracted by a large black hawk, soaring high in flight. The bird landed on a branch and the young boy caught a glimpse of an old man situated atop a towering oak tree. Amazed, he yelled up to the man, asking why he had climbed the tree.

"I didn't," he replied.