



Regenerating the olive trees on the hills of the Community of Living Ethics. An important commitment for a conscious community.

Why to participate in our CSO pilot project (Community Supporting Olive Trees)?

Having had the foresight to buy agricultural land when no one gave them great value, is not for everyone and today owning these arable lands is a great privilege. In a historical moment, where healthy and local food is increasingly in demand and fertile lands are less and less, being able to decide what and how to cultivate on one's own lands is an important responsibility.

Making this commitment therefore means what to decide and how to approach the care of farming lands that needs to be regenerated after many years of few interventions. Contrary to what is thought of an ecosystem far from human intervention, cultivated soils do not regenerate by themselves, they need to be nourished and cared for to stay healthy. Moreover, only with fertile soils can we mitigate the advance of climate change, an important factor for the impoverishment of soils.

Increasing the organic substance to have healthier lands means being able to retain more CO₂ and water in the soil, because each additional gram of humus retains 3 grams of CO₂ and 20 grams of water.

In this way we are able to remove some greenhouse gases from the atmosphere and in the years to come we find soils that can be worked early in the spring and long wet in the summer. Healthy trees and lush fields covered with crops help stop erosion where the sun dries up more and more and the wind and heavy rains take away the very little organic matter left.

But today all this is difficult for an agriculture that works with very low margins and in the absence of resources to intervene with improvement processes, without expecting a short-term monetary return.

So, how to follow the good ancient custom that taught us that the earth is not owned but, by receiving it from previous generations, it is best managed, handing it over possibly improved, to the generations to come?

Having fertile soils and healthy plants was a commitment and a duty for our ancestors. It ensured their survival, their health and even the future of their grandchildren. Thus they looked after creation without having possession of it, they planted trees knowing that they would not see their fruits. Gestures that did not concern one's own profit and went beyond the course of one's life.

Thus, today as yesterday we would need many simple gestures that go beyond their own self-interest, to regenerate the lands in the name of future generations so that they still give us good fruits with unconditional love, as for thousands of years ago.

Surely we must invent new ways, new models of alternative economy based on a community that makes this commitment for the next few years, with the desire to experiment and support the process without immediately receiving material products, a community of people aware of the importance of a such a project as a duty towards the future.

Since ancient times, the Olive tree has represented the spirit and the sacredness of human work, which made it "domestic", friend and brother, he, resistant to frost and drought, water and fire, guardian of suffering and human sacrifice as in Gethsemane, silent witness to the rise and decline of civilizations like the Etruscan one, lavish with gifts, first of all the sacred oil that burns to illuminate the Temple.

Thus, taking care of the olive trees, a symbol of many values, which live and grow on the hills of the Community can trigger that virtuous process that leads from co-responsibility to the regeneration of the Earth and Consciousness.

The olive tree needs to be nourished and cared for with the intervention of man and through the regeneration of the soil in which it has been rooted for hundreds of years, we are able to take care of the whole agro-ecosystem that surrounds it, earth, air and living beings together.

Thus, by taking care of our olive tree we will be able to set in motion not only the regeneration process of all its habitat, but also the mitigation of erosion and adaptation to the climate change of these hills. We will increase its productivity and the carbon reserve in the soil as well as the ability of the soil to retain water for longer, creating a pilot model that can be re-proposed in all the farms of the community and in the territory once it is successful.

For the success of this experiment we now need a community of people willing to adopt 1,3,12, ... 200 olive trees for a period of at least 3/5 years by paying a fixed fee per tree per year, thus giving the possibility to support interventions of care during the seasons and allowing the start of the regenerative process of an entire hill.

All the Community of Living Ethics members, from new parents to grandparents can adopt an olive tree for the future generations.

The people adopting our olive trees:

- dream of a possible improvement for the planet
- believe in simple gestures that move things,
- have patience and look beyond their life,
- recognize the value of renunciation, once a year with an economic commitment that corresponds to a nice dinner at the restaurant, in order to support the care of an olive tree during the four seasons for the next 3/5 years.

A small gesture, made by many, will patiently lead to a great result over time for our future and for the next generations.

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