

May 2008

PLANTING SEEDS

Whatever seeds each man cultivates will grow to maturity and bear in him their own fruit. (Pico della Mirandola, *Oration on the Dignity of Man*)

Spring is a time for the planting of seeds. After a long Midwest winter, homeowners in the town of Wheaton, Illinois are busily clearing last fall's debris from their yards. Some are planting spring flowers, thereby bringing a welcome splash of color to the dreary landscape. Others have already started the planting of cool weather crops in their vegetable gardens.

Our life is like a garden. Our every thought, word, and deed are the "seeds" which sooner or later bear karmic fruit. Whether we harvest flowers or weeds depends on the quality of our actions. Actions harmful toward others inevitably reappear in our garden of life as weeds.

Great spiritual Teachers have taught that we reap what we sow. When we truly understand that, we begin to take responsibility for our thoughts and actions. Why should our life bring forth weeds when it can instead be a source of delight and inspiration, not only to ourselves, but also to others? As the *Voice of the Silence* reminds us, "Sow kindly acts and thou shalt reap their fruition."

Driving through the local community of Wheaton where the national center of the Theosophical Society in America is located, one sees a variety of flower gardens, some small and unimaginative, others large and expansive. When we sow our seeds in the garden of life, how generous are we? Do we settle for a meager display of two or three flowers or do we aim for a pageantry of rich colors and breathtaking beauty?

The words of St. Paul are worth noting: "He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully" (2 Corinthians 9:6).

David P. Bruce
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