

THE PEAR TREE

(a parable and original poem)

By Shirley Faneuf



One winter day a son said to his father

*“See that pear tree,
dead-looking and brown,
‘It really is good for nothing
‘Perhaps we should cut it
down.”*

“Well, son,” said the father, *“I’m
willing*

*‘To give it just a while longer
‘Give it water and nourishment
‘And see if it will become stronger.”*

One spring day the son said to his father

*“Look, Father, look at this pear tree
‘It is budding and showing signs of
life,
‘You were right to let it be.”*

Then in summer the son said to his father,

*“This pear tree is covered with
blossoms of white.
‘Have you ever seen, Father,
‘Such a beautiful sight?”*



In Autumn the fruit from
this tree was ripe



And abundant, the limbs
drooping down
*“Father, this can’t be the
same pear tree in winter;
I suggested that we best cut
down.”*

Autumn is now for him a time
of rejoicing

A time of fulfillment and reaping
Like the pear tree, observed by the father’s son,
Turned into a life worth the keeping.

This example of the pear tree tells each one of us here—

**“To each one in his ‘season’ show love
Lest we destroy a thing of beauty
A fruitful servant of the Father above.”**

-Shirley Faneuf
