

Storytelling and Crafts

HONI THE CIRCLE MAKER

Many years ago in the land of Israel lived a man called Honi the Circle Maker. Sometimes he would talk to God, asking God for rain for the hot dusty land, while standing inside a circle he had drawn on the ground. That's why he was called, "Honi the Circle Maker!"

One day was walking along the road, when he saw a man planting a tree. Honi asked the man, "How long will it be until the tree you are planting will give you something to eat?"

"Seventy years," said the man.

"So why are you planting that tree? Do you think you will be around to eat its fruit in seventy years?" asked Honi.

"I don't know," said the man, "but I do know that I found trees with fruit that someone else planted a long time ago. I want to plant trees so my children will find trees with fruit as I did."

Then Honi understood how important it is to plant trees. We eat the fruit from trees that someone else planted a long time ago, and we plant trees so that our children have food to eat as well.

Questions for Discussion:

What did Honi see the man doing alongside the road?

What was Honi's question to the man? What do you think about his question to him?

Does Honi's question sound selfish to you?

What did the man answer Honi? What did you think of his answer?

How do your parents and grandparents plan for *your* future?