Interlude to The Man Who Planted Trees [1]

To see a human being reveal really exceptional qualities one must be able to observe their activities over many years. If these activities are completely unselfish; if the idea motivating them is unique in its magnanimity; if it is quite certain they have never looked for any reward; and if in addition they have left visible traces on the world - then one may say, without fear of error, that one is in the presence of an unforgettable character.

References

[1] J. Giono, F. Back, and C. Plummer, *The man who planted trees*. Chelsea Green Publishing Company, 1985.