

"Surrender - All"

A Parable Of A Grain Of Wheat

by E. R. Hicks





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Table of Contents

[Preface](#)

[Surrender All: A Parable of a Grain of Wheat](#)

Preface

A believer's ability to surrender his whole self exclusively to the LORD Jesus Christ is a powerful virtue to possess. Relinquishing all his so-called rights to the Master, however, is not an easy task for the believer.

Just exactly what does God have in mind when He tells a person to surrender his will to his Creator and Saviour? What will be this person's ultimate end if he places himself completely in God's Hand?

These questions are answered in the following child-like story based on Spiritual Principles found in God's Word. While the story is written in the form of a simple, easily understood parable, it conveys very real and, indeed, profound Principles of Truth.

I know from personal experience that accepting and practicing the Principles of Truth contained in this little booklet has power to bless the heart of any sincere believer who has struggled with fears and doubts in his Christian journey, as he has pressed on in his struggle to be united with the LORD Jesus Christ in a oneness of personal relationship.

— The Author

“Surrender-All”

A Parable Of A Grain Of Wheat

Not all “once upon a time” stories are fictional. Parables, for instance, pertain to true happenings, although the characters in them are allegorical figures who act out the true-to-life situations in story form in order to make a Moral Principle more easily understood. On the other hand, true “once upon a time” stories may often project great Moral Principles through the use of exceedingly simple illustrations.

Jesus Christ was the Master Storyteller. To the multitudes who thronged to hear Him speak, He told stories of a man going forth to sow, a shepherd going out to search for a lost sheep, a woman sweeping her house for a lost coin, a father watching for his self-willed, wayward son to return home. The stories go on and on. Even people who failed to understand the depths and heights of the theological issues in Jesus’ Parables were blessed and enlightened when they saw levels of spiritual Truth that they never before had perceived.

In the Book of John, Jesus Christ spoke of a corn of wheat which had to fall into the ground and die before it could bring forth fruit. What a blessed comfort this parable is to those who struggle through the trials of this life, seeking to die to their mortal flesh so that they may be brought into the Glory of the Resurrected Life found in the Union with the LORD Jesus Christ!

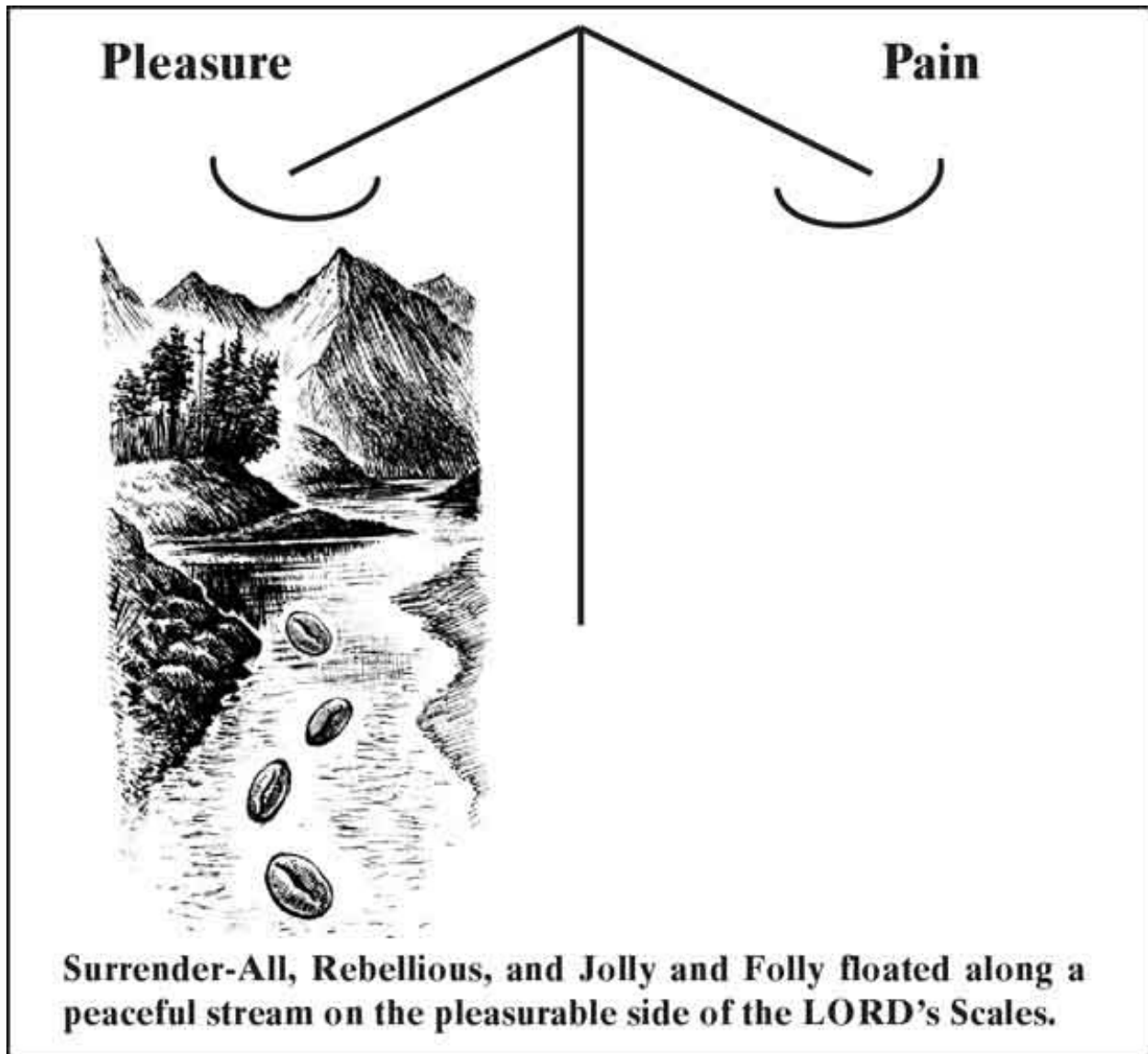
Since God has hidden great spiritual Truth in His natural Creation, we can be blessed by following the life story of the little corn of wheat that Jesus talked about in the Book of John.

And Jesus answered them, saying, The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified. Verily, verily, I say unto you, **Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.** He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal. If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour (John 12:23-26).

By allegorizing the life cycle of a natural grain of wheat, we can understand some of the tremendous surrenders that Jesus Christ made for us when He came into the world as a Living Corn of Wheat that fell into the ground and died. We also can see the class of surrender that must be made by those who desire to be in the Bride of the LORD Jesus Christ, for the Bride, the same as her Bridegroom, is compared to a corn of wheat.

Remember, this “once upon a time” story depicts true-to-life situations. In this instance, we are following the life of a natural grain of wheat in order to help us identify with the Bride’s experiences in her growing relationship with the Bridegroom, the LORD Jesus Christ. The Bride of Christ must learn all the surrenders that our main character, little Surrender-All, makes in his life’s journey from his seed stage to his mature form of being a fully grown stalk of wheat that is capable of reproducing itself.

Once upon a time in Eternity-Past, there were *four* little corn seeds or grains of wheat: a red corn of wheat called Surrender-All; his brother, a brown grain of wheat called Rebellious; and his twin sisters, two little yellow grains of wheat called Jolly and Folly. At first, the little grains of wheat had nothing special to do, so they floated along a pleasant stream on the pleasureable side of the LORD's Scales of Pleasure and Pain.



One bright, sunny day, God's High Priest went out walking along the stream and noticed the four little grains of wheat floating along, so He said, "How many of you would like to follow Me to the New City? Would any of you like to be made one with Me?"

Rebellious immediately asked, "What is so special about the New City?"

"What does the High Priest mean when He says that we can be made one with Him?" piped the twins, Jolly and Folly.

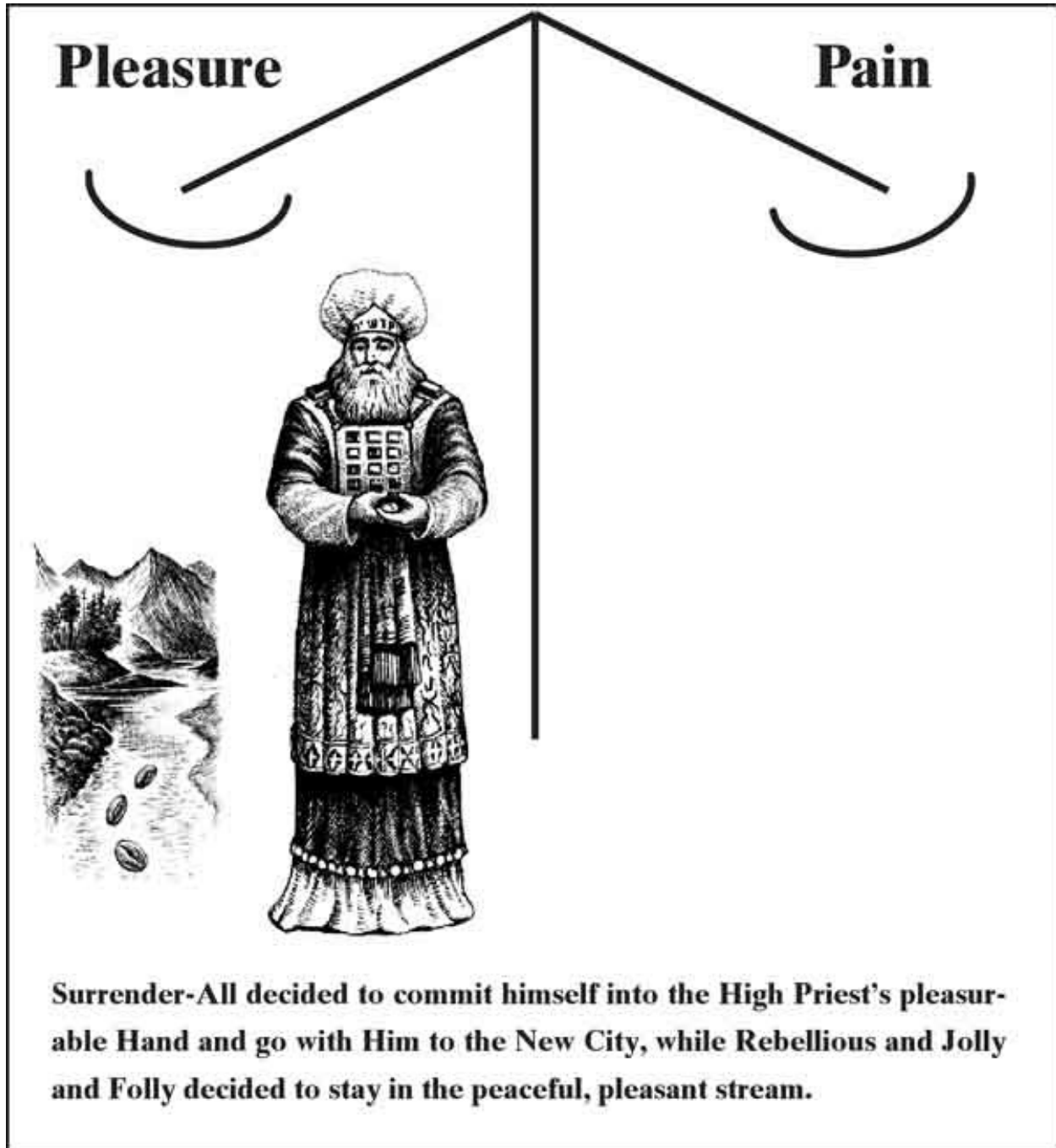
"How can we get to the New City?" asked Surrender-All. "After all, wheat has no special talent for traveling."

The High Priest listened to their questions and comments, but He never clearly defined the meaning of being *made one* with Him. Neither did He describe the steps involved in getting to the New City. He merely told them that they could go if they would entrust themselves to His Hands.

Rebellious toyed with the thought of going to the New City, but he wanted more detailed information before making a final decision because it could mean giving up his known comforts and pleasures. The twins, Jolly and

Folly, liked the pleasant stream and had no desire to change at all. So Rebellious and the little yellow twins told the High Priest that they wanted to stay in the pleasant stream.

Only Surrender-All thought the New City sounded as though it would be a nice place. "I'll go! I'll go anywhere You want me to go, High Priest, because I love You. Just show me what I have to do to get to the New City." And with one giant leap, little Surrender-All thrust himself into the open, pleasurable Hand of the High Priest.

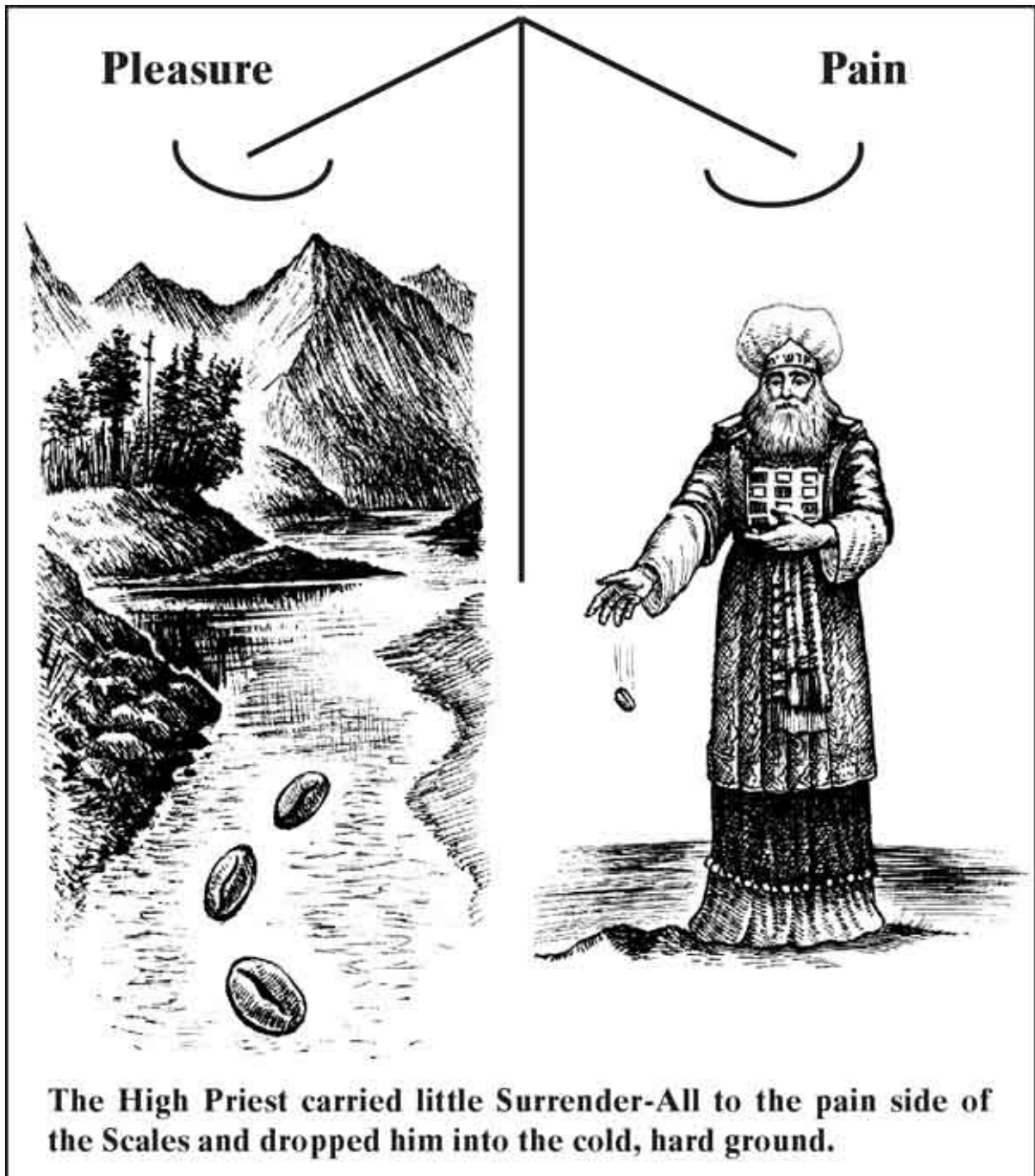


Thus, little Surrender-All made his decision to follow God to the New City, and soon he began to know, by experience, what it meant to commit oneself into the High Priest's pleasurable Hand.

Although it felt good to be in the High Priest's pleasurable Hand, the good feeling did not last long. Knowing, by experience, that a grain of wheat must fall into the ground and die in order to be fruitful, the High Priest carried little

Surrender-All over to the pain side of the Scales and dropped him into the cold, hard ground.

Verily, verily, I say unto you, **Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.** He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal. (John 12:24,25).



Surrender-All started experiencing pain and suffering as soon as he left the High Priest's Hand. Once he had enjoyed the High Priest's Personal Presence and had basked in the radiating rays of His Sun of Righteousness. He had felt the streams of the High Priest's pleasant Waters of Truth washing over him, but now everything had changed. He had lost consciousness of the High Priest's Personal Presence; and, instead of being surrounded by the

warm sunlight of His Love and His crystal clear Waters of Truth, he found himself engulfed in darkness among the cold clods of the damp earth.

“Surely,” thought Surrender-All, “this place cannot be the New City. Surely, this aloneness cannot be the Oneness of Relationship about which the High Priest talked.” Little Surrender-All wept when he remembered the pleasant times he had experienced with his brother and sisters on the pleasure side of the Scales. The pleasure-loving side of his earthly self cried, “What am I doing here, anyway? Why did I not stay in the stream with my brother and sisters? Why did I say I would go all the way to the New City with the High Priest? I must have been out of my mind.”

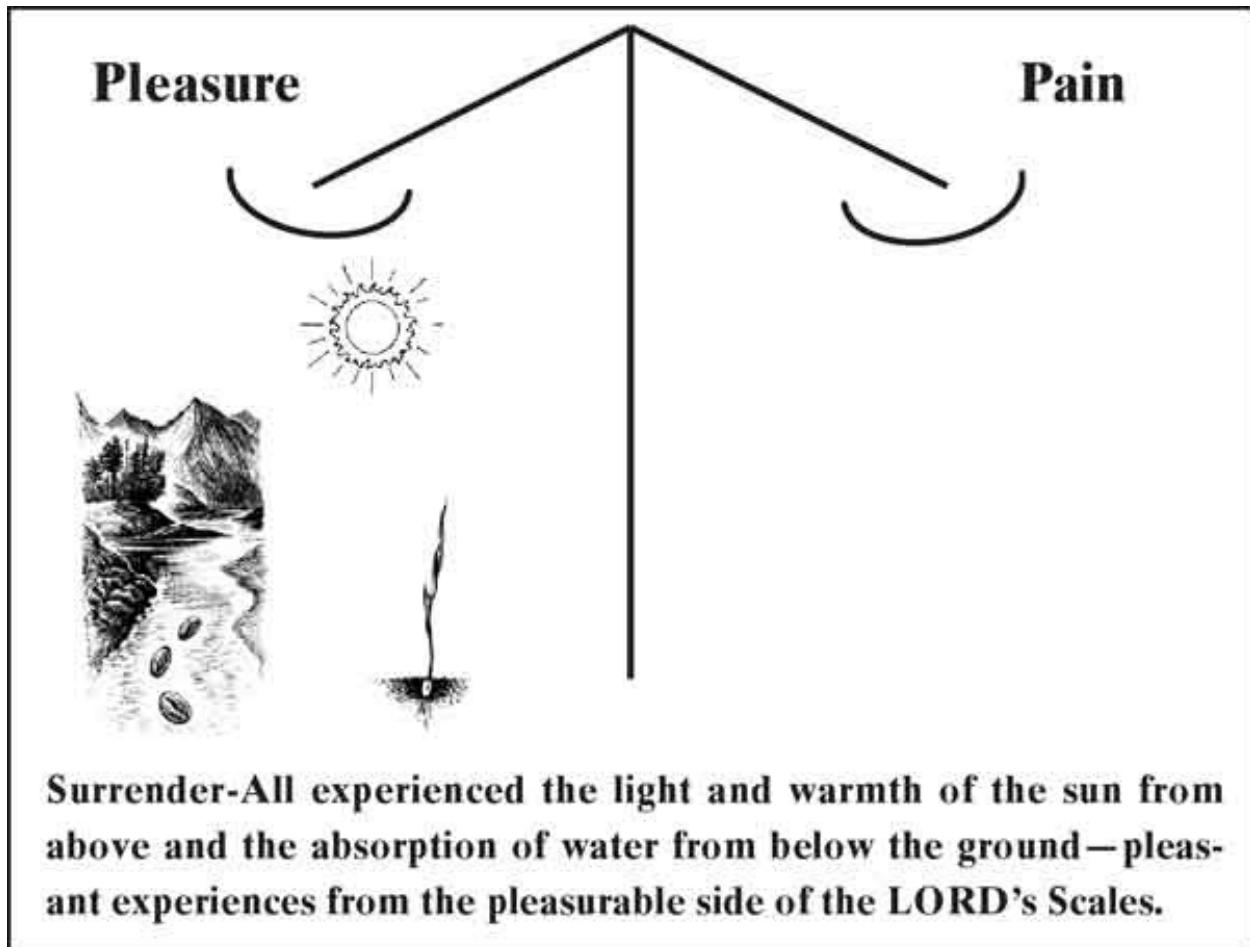
If Surrender-All had continued thinking in this realm, he would have perished without coming to the fruitfulness that the High Priest intended him to experience when He had put Surrender-All in the ground.

Fortunately, Surrender-All started using the Truth to reason within himself. “I know that it is dark, cold, and damp here,” he said. “But, my High Priest is Head over all things, and He makes all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His Purpose. I will stay here until my High Priest shows me the *good* He has for me in this place.”

Soon after making the decision to stay in the dark, cold, damp ground, Surrender-All heard his outer shell crack. He never had felt such agony before. He knew he was dying and wondered if he would ever live again.

As He lay dying under the cold clods of the damp earth, Surrender-All again encouraged himself by using truthful reasoning. “It is evident that I am being crucified and mortified, but my High Priest was crucified, suffering the pain of Death, Hell, and the grave, and *He* came up again on the third day with new Resurrection Life, Power, and Glory. I will trust my High Priest, even though I cannot see nor feel Him right now. He must have something new for me to experience, so I will just praise Him while I am waiting here.”

Surrender-All, the little corn of wheat, fell into the ground and died to his old form. As his outer shell crumbled and fell away, the inner embryo of the spiritual man took root downward and projected a little blade upward through the cold clods of the damp earth.



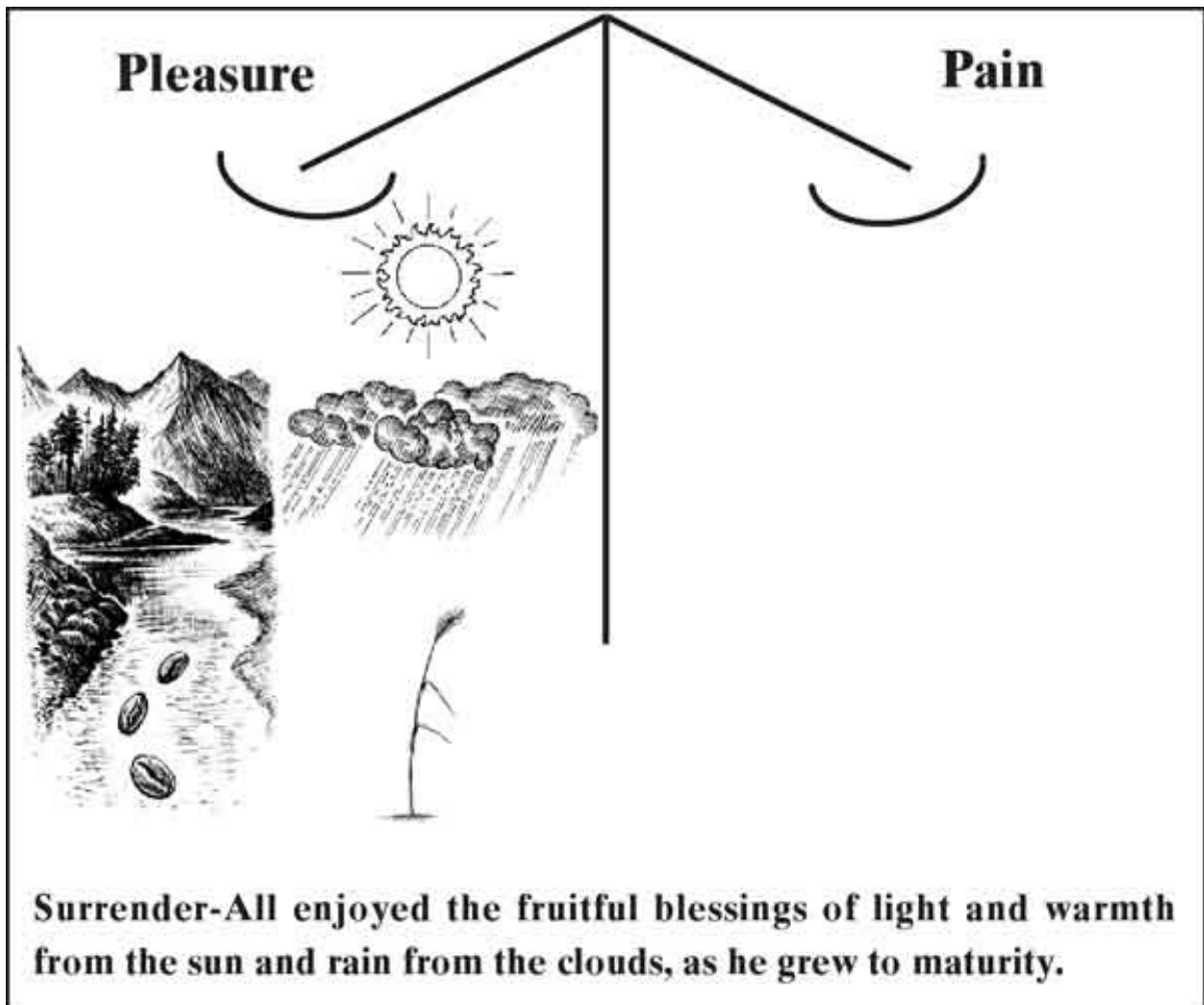
The Book of Psalms tells us about Surrender-All's experience at this point of his journey toward the New City.

Thou visitest the earth, and waterest it: thou greatly enrichest it with the river of God, which is full of water: thou preparest them corn, when thou hast so provided for it. Thou waterest the ridges thereof abundantly: thou settlest the furrows thereof: thou makest it soft with showers: thou blessest the springing thereof. Thou crownest the year with thy goodness; and thy paths drop fatness. They drop upon the pastures of the wilderness: and the little hills rejoice on every side. The pastures are clothed with flocks; **the valleys also are covered over with corn; they shout for joy, they also sing** (Psalm 65:9-13).

In his new form—that of a green blade growing *above* ground— Surrender-All could see the sun again. He could drink water, which he never had done in his dormant stage as a little corn of wheat.

The High Priest had to take him to the pain side of the Scales, bury him in the earth, and let him die to his old form so that he could come up in a new form that was able to drink water through his roots and leaves. Surrender-All also felt the *touch* of the High Priest as He moved the newly sprouted wheat from the pain side of the Scales to a place near the stream on the pleasurable side of the Scales.

God blessed the springing up of Surrender-All's blade, and he grew and grew until he put forth some baby grains of wheat.



From his exalted position, he testified to his brother, Rebellious, and his little, yellow twin sisters, Jolly and Folly, telling them how great it was to go on for God. He told them that they, too, should put themselves into the Hand of the High Priest, but they neither believed nor received Surrender-All's testimony.

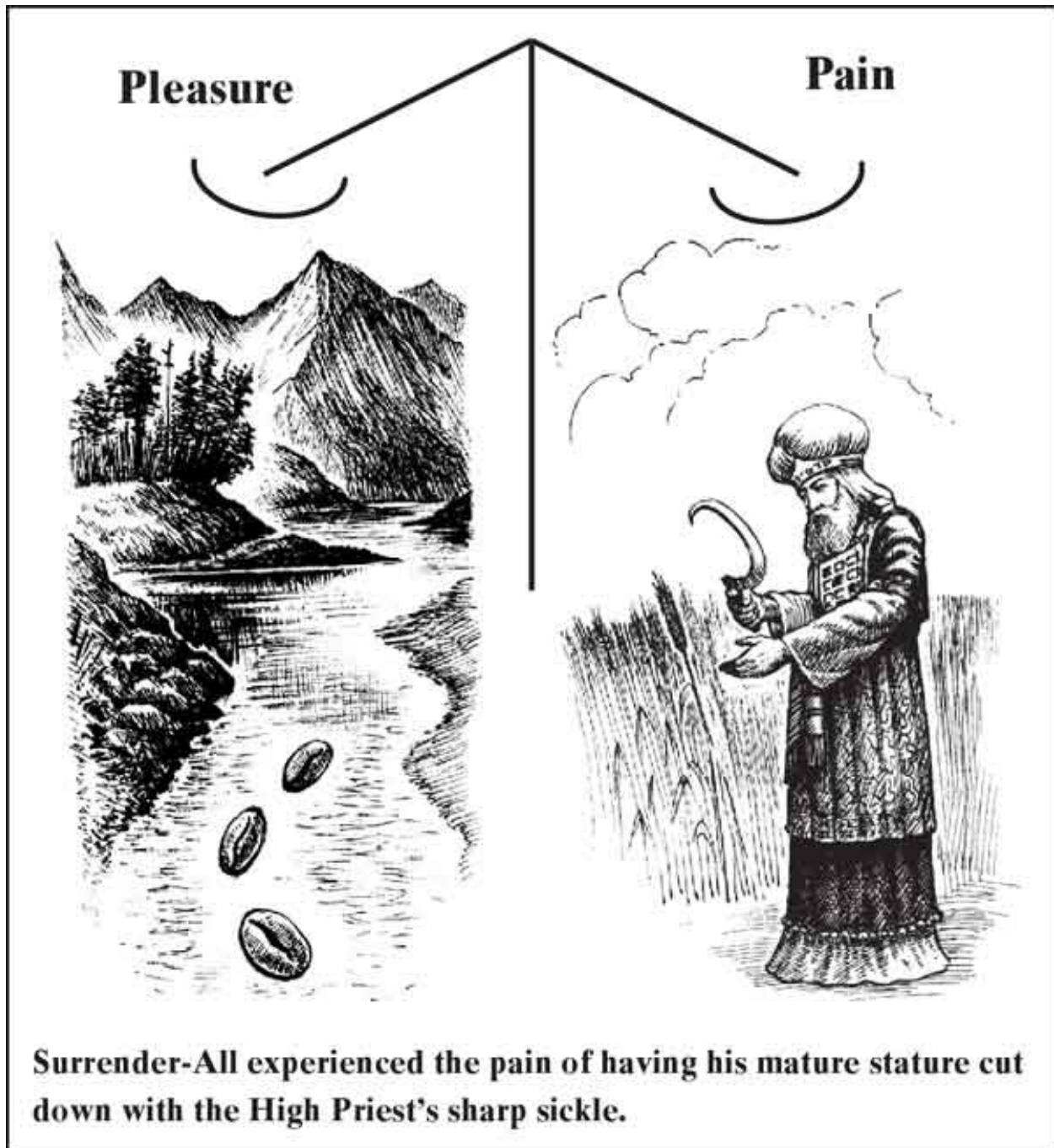
His brother's and his sisters' rejection of his testimony did not keep Surrender-All from being happy and enjoying

the fruitful blessings of the LORD. He knew that he had not been able to shout and sing while he was all dried up. He had had to die to his old form and come up with a new stature in order to praise the LORD God in a new way.

Surrender-All spent the long months of spring and summer drinking in the sunshine and showers, and by autumn he was crowned with maturity. The High Priest kept close watch over Surrender-All's stature, and when He saw Surrender-All's baby seeds grow into mature, ripened seeds, He moved him to the pain side of the Scales, by putting forth His sickle and reaping the grain because it was ready for harvest.

The Book of Job does away with the false theory that mature growth is the end of suffering.

They are exalted for a little while, but are gone and brought low; **they are taken out of the way as all *other*, and cut off as the tops of the ears of corn** (Job 24:24).



Maturity made Surrender-All fit for only more experiences of pain and pleasure with his High Priest. In order for Surrender-All to continue growing, which would bring him to still greater maturity in his relationship with the High Priest, he had to feel the pain of the High Priest's sickle as it cut his newly developed stature down to the ground! Although Surrender-All did not know what his future held, he trusted his High Priest.

So, once again, Surrender-All found himself on the pain side of the Scales, and there he encountered painful situations that tested his trust in his High Priest.

While he was a little corn of wheat on the edge of the stream, he could not surrender any of his stature because he had no stature. He could not surrender his exalted position because he had no exalted position. He could not surrender baby grains of wheat because he had not yet brought forth fruit. But he grew to maturity in stature, and in his mature form, he possessed an exalted position and fruitfulness. Having placed his complete trust in the High Priest when he had surrendered himself into His Hand, Surrender-All was willing, also, to trust his High Priest with all his newly formed stature, his exalted position as an upright, mature stalk of wheat, and his seeds of fruitfulness because Surrender-All realized that everything he possessed had come from his High Priest. However, when, with just one motion of the High Priest's sharp sickle, Surrender-All's new possessions were cut down; now, he faced new surrenders. One moment Surrender-All had been standing tall, in a vertical position of maturity, exaltation, and fruitfulness, but the next moment, he lay prostrate, in a horizontal position of humility upon the ground, bleeding from the sharp cut of the High Priest's sickle.

Confusion moved in to darken Surrender-All's thinking. "I cannot imagine why this has happened to me," he wailed. "I was so tall and beautiful. My stature was so great, and my seed-children and I were nestled comfortably in the field, enjoying the fellowship of all the other stalks of wheat. Now I am in a lowly horizontal position. I just don't understand."

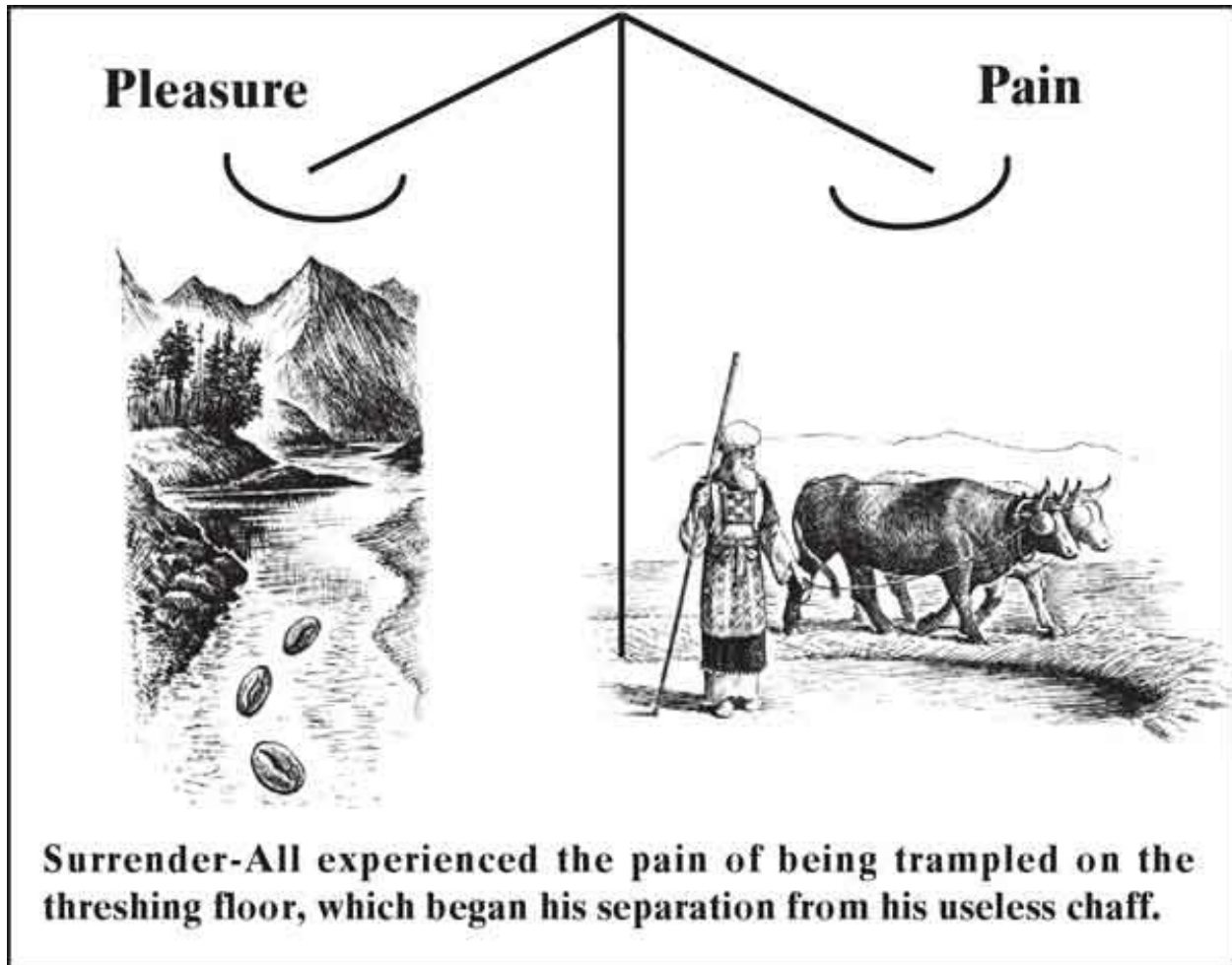
Surrender-All was enveloped in a whole new layer of pain. He was separated from exaltation. He was separated from the other wheat in the field. He was separated from all the fruit he had produced.

God had allowed Surrender-All to be cut off and separated from other creatures because He wanted to see how the little corn of wheat really felt about the Hand of the High Priest. God would know that Surrender-All truly loved the Hand of the High Priest, if he trusted His Hand even when it brought pain and suffering into his life.

There is pain in walking in the Crucified Way, but those who love the Hand of the High Priest will stay under His Hand until He brings them through all the suffering that is necessary to accomplish His Purposive Will in their lives.

The class of suffering Surrender-All experienced at this point of his life is revealed in the Book of Isaiah.

O my threshing, and the corn of my floor: that which I have heard of the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, have I declared unto you (Isaiah 21:10).



God called Israel, His natural Bride, “the corn or grain of His floor.” The Prophet Isaiah described what happened to the corn of the floor—it was threshed or trampled upon by the feet of the oxen until the wheat was separated from the chaff.

So after Surrender-All, the spiritual corn of wheat, had been severed from the field, the High Priest took it out to the threshing floor where the feet of oxen trod upon the grain, separating it from the chaff.

Surrender-All cried, “I don’t think I can bear any more pain. The suffering is too great.” Then, he heard the Voice of the High Priest softly say, “Come, make one more surrender. This threshing and trampling is part of My Master Plan for changing you into broken bread. Remember, you wanted to go with me, and this suffering is part of the Way to the New City. I am the Way; I have gone ahead of you. I am not asking you to do anything that I already have not done for you. It is necessary for the feet of the oxen to trample upon you if you are to reach the ultimate pleasure of being made one with Me in the New City.”

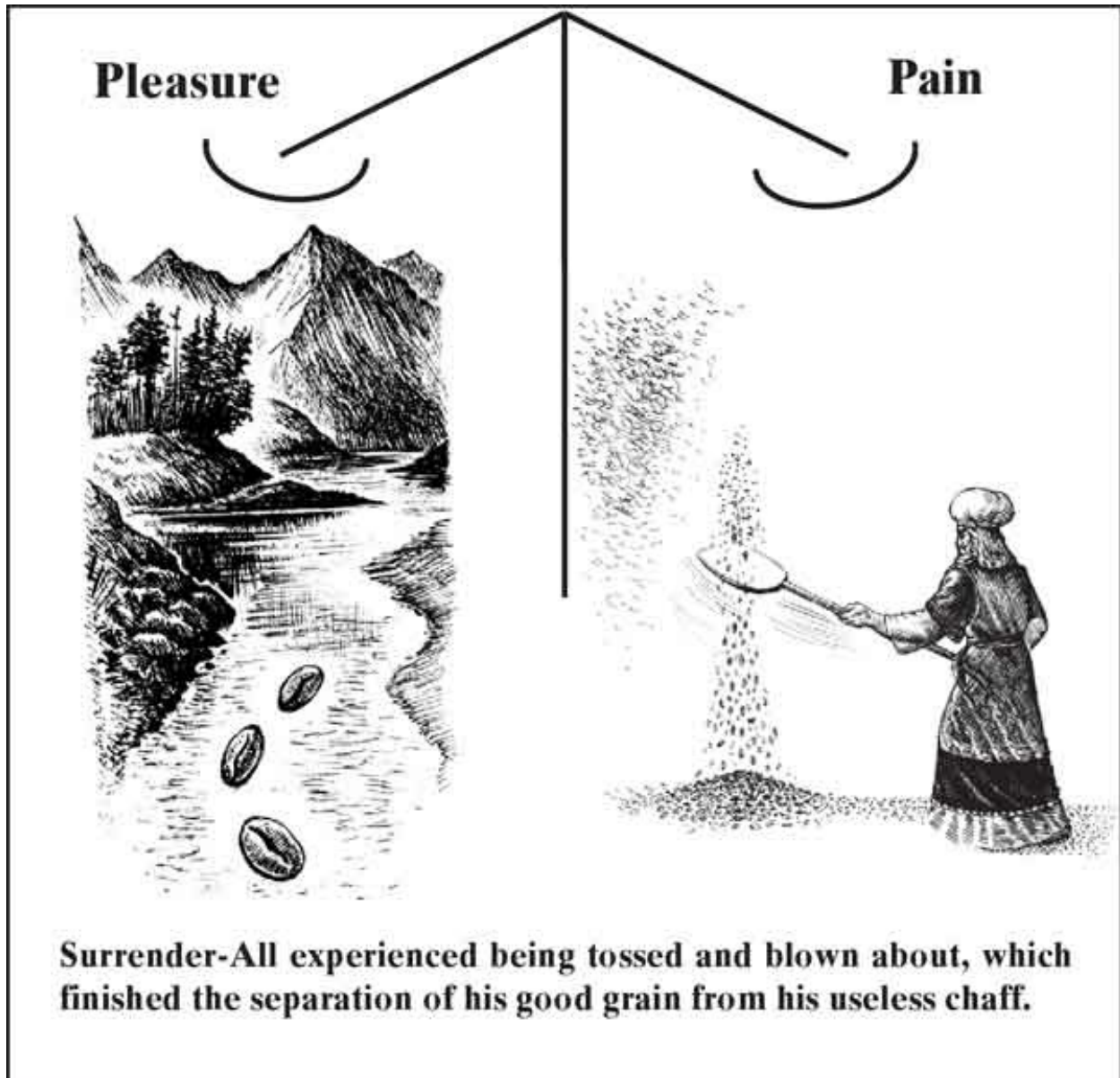
Surrender-All submitted to the pain a little longer and praised the High Priest for awhile; however, when the threshing and the trampling continued, he cried again, “Precious High Priest, are You sure this is where I am supposed to be? I am losing my shape; I am losing my form again.”

The High Priest patiently whispered, “Don’t worry. Everything is all right, Surrender-All. Just remember, I am Head over all things, including this pain. I make all things work together for good to those who love God, to them who are the called according to His Purpose. I am changing your shape because I am leading you on to your eternal shape that never will disappear. Hold on a little longer; surrender a little more. This is the way you must go in order to get your new shape and form.”

As soon as the feet of the oxen stopped treading and trampling upon Surrender-All, the High Priest picked up the crushed, broken pieces and carried them to the winnowing floor.

The Prophet Isaiah explained Surrender-All’s next experience:

The oxen likewise and the young asses that ear the ground shall eat clean provender, **which hath been winnowed with the shovel and with the fan** (Isaiah 30:24).



In olden days, shovels and forks were used to pitch the grain into the air so that the wind could blow away the chaff, producing further separation between the wheat and the chaff. Thus, Surrender-All found himself being tossed up and down and blown to and fro by strong winds.

If we understand God's Principles of Working with His grain, then we will understand Who *really* holds the winnowing fork and Who is in charge of the winds that blow against us.

God may use human beings to toss the grain of our hearts, as it were, into the air, and He may permit the breath of human beings, or even devils, to blow against our grain in order to produce further separation between Christ's Truth and the falsehood of the chaff of the flesh. Yet His Purpose is *good* in both cases. He never wishes to destroy the Grain of Truth in a person's heart. On the contrary, God brings the Grain of Truth to His winnowing floor and allows the strong winds of opposition to blow in order to separate the useful Grain of Truth from the useless chaff of the flesh.

Some people get so discouraged at this point in their spiritual journey that they say, "If this is the kind of pain I

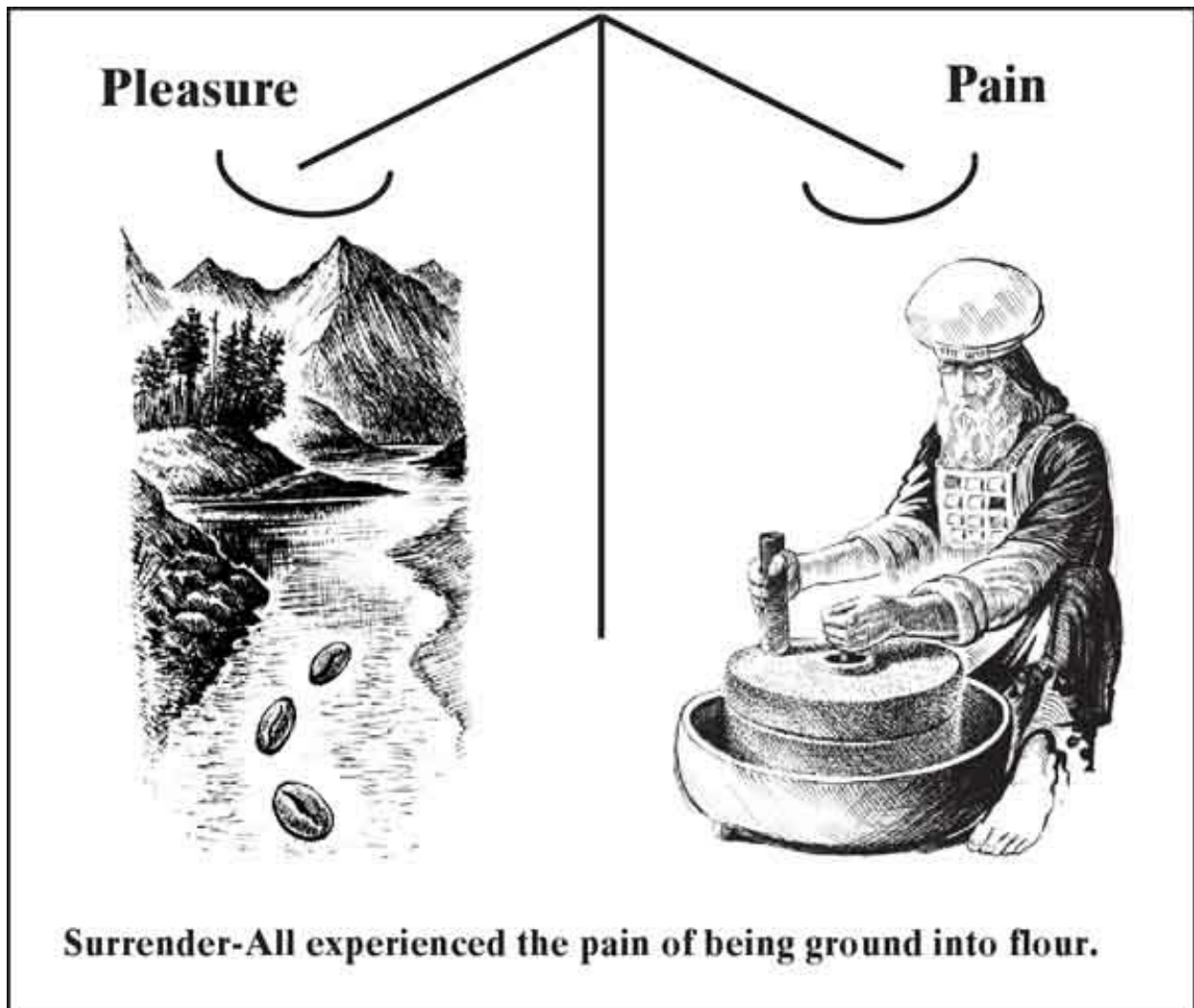
must experience in order to follow Jesus all the way to the New City, then I'll just quit. I am tired of all this pain and opposition."

This is foolish thinking on their part. If they would hold steadfast during the suffering and opposition, the High Priest eventually would bring them to the pleasurable side of the Scales, and, in due season, they would find themselves in the middle of the Scales, the place of Eternal Sabbath Rest.

Going on for God is not *all* pain, suffering, and opposition; it is two-thirds pleasure and rest. Furthermore, born-again believers' present suffering is not worthy to be compared with the eternal glory that is to be revealed in them if they will permit the LORD to work His Perfect Will in their hearts and lives when they are placed on both sides of the Scales. Surrendering to the LORD's Perfect Will, whether it brings pain or pleasure, creates perfect balance in a person's heart and life.

After being threshed and winnowed, Surrender-All was ready for a new experience in the Hands of the High Priest. The Prophet Isaiah also described Surrender-All's next encounter with pain.

Bread corn is bruised; because he will not ever be threshing it, nor break *it with* the wheel of his cart, nor bruise it *with* his horsemen (Isaiah 28:28).



The High Priest did not leave His grain on the threshing floor or the winnowing floor any longer than necessary. As soon as it was separated from the stalk and from the chaff, He started the bruising process, which ground the grain into flour.

Once again Surrender-All was called upon to offer up the form with which he had come to identify himself. This

little corn of wheat had come a long way in his surrenders to the demands of the High Priest's Hands. He had surrendered to die to the seed form he had possessed in Eternity-Past. Then, in order to stay under the Hand of the High Priest, he had surrendered to be separated from his maturity, his exalted position, and the fruitfulness he had produced. He surrendered, further, to the pain of the threshing floor and the suffering of the winnowing floor. But, in all these experiences, he had retained some form or shape, even though the forms had changed from experience to experience. Now, the High Priest was asking him to surrender to become *flour*, a powdery substance without any form or shape of its own.

Surrender-All never had been flour before, so he made no small surrender when he lifted his heart and said, "Dear High Priest, You promised me a long time ago that I could be made one with You, and if becoming flour is part of the price I must pay to be joined eternally to You, then I am willing to go through the mill of suffering. I am willing to become powder in your Hands."

God takes each grain or corn of wheat through its own particular mill of suffering. The mills may be turned by different visible hands, but the end result is the same—the grain comes out as powdery substance so that it has no form of its own.

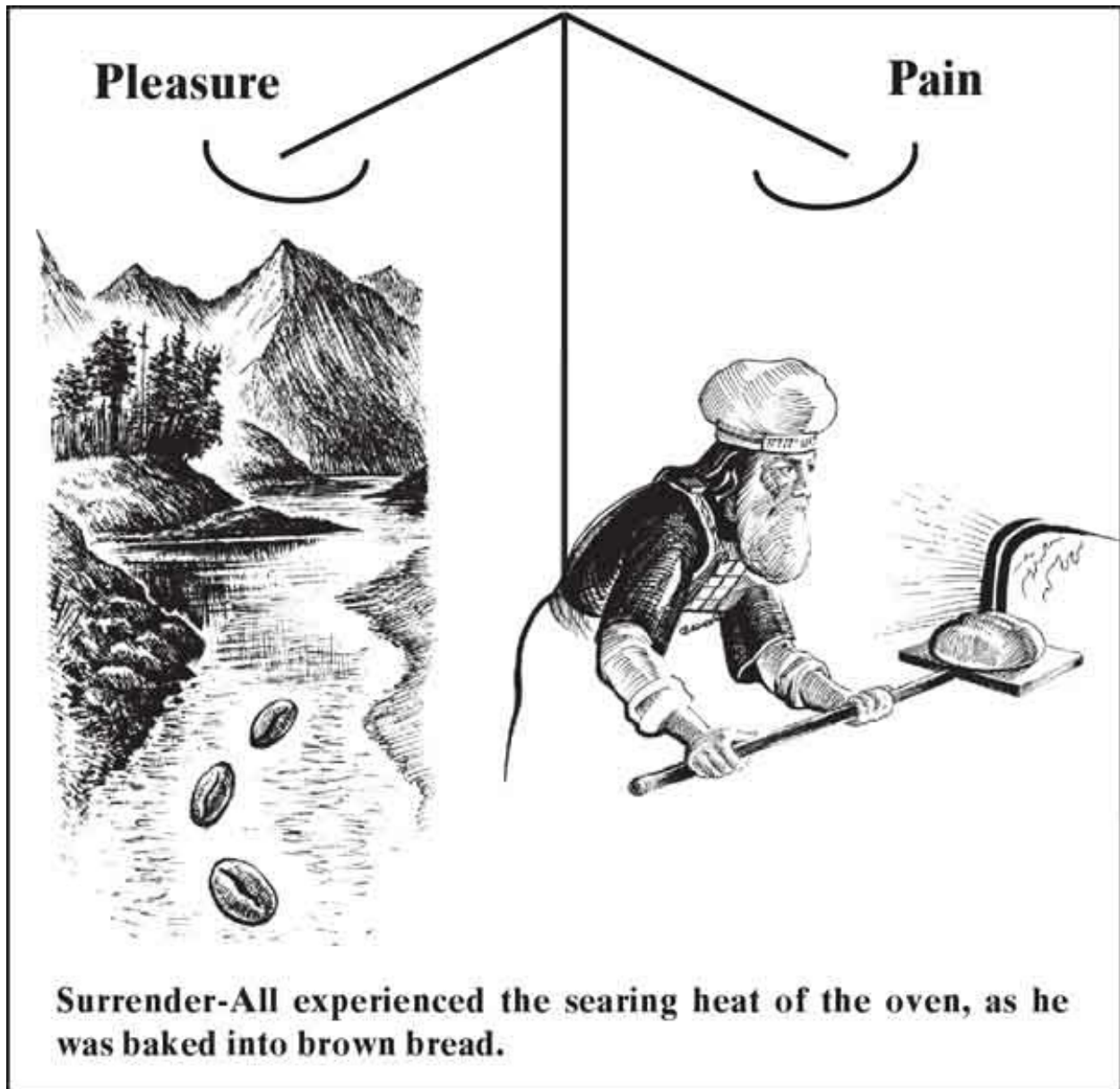
Only when grain has surrendered to the LORD's own varied forms is it pliable enough to be shaped into bread. Surrender-All yielded to go through the mill of suffering; he endured the pain and came out as fine wheat. He had not known, when he had made his initial surrenders, that the High Priest planned to fashion his flour into one of the cakes for the Table of Shewbread in the Holy Place. But the Bible says that the fine flour was used for making the shewbread.

And thou shalt take fine flour, and bake twelve cakes thereof: two tenth deals shall be in one cake. **And thou shalt set them in two rows, six on a row, upon the pure table before the LORD** (Leviticus 24:5,6).

The High Priest worked with the fine flour until it was in exactly the right, powdery condition. Then, He molded and shaped it into a cake.

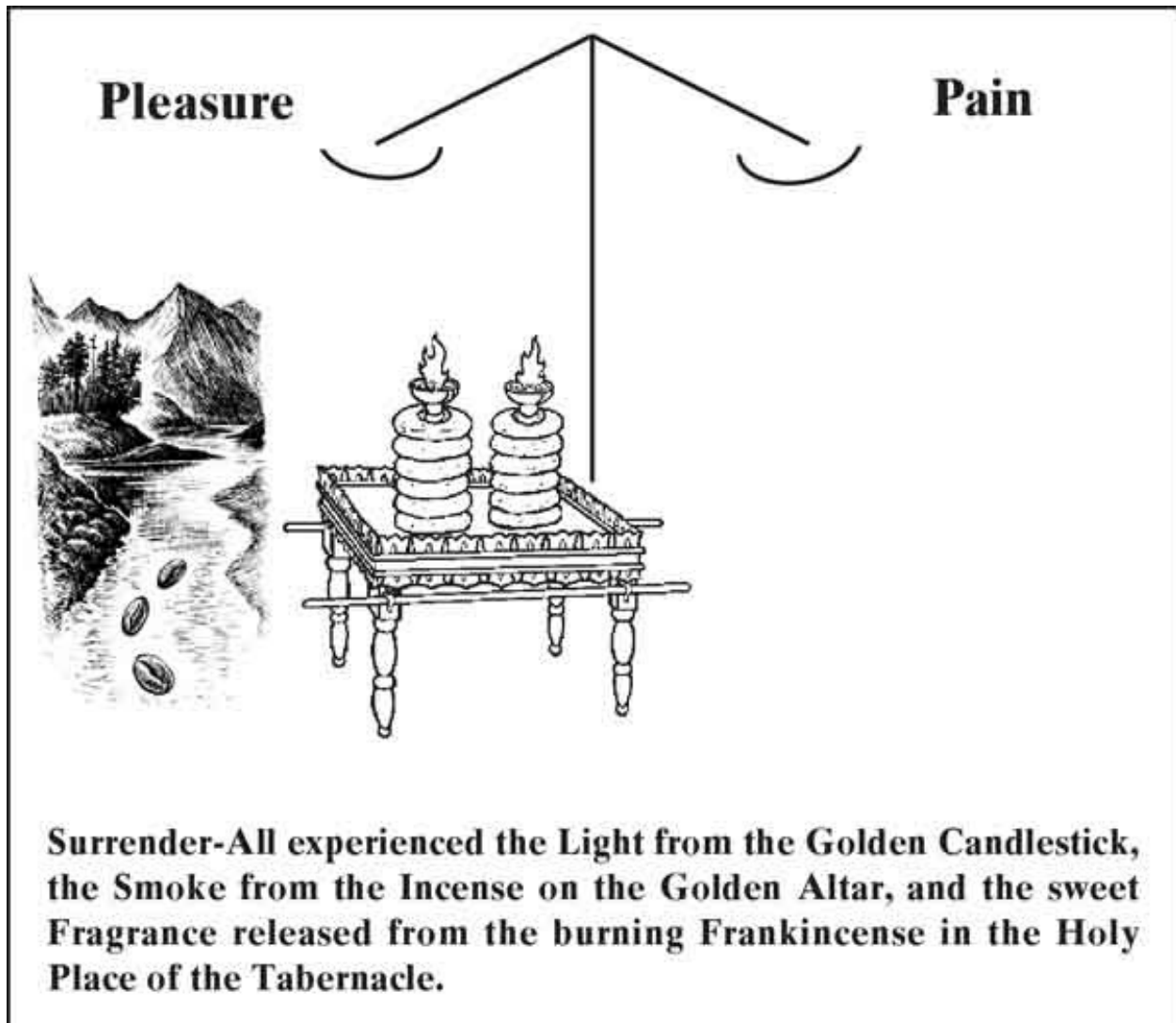


Being weighed and measured had been humiliating; and being kneaded and molded into cakes had brought another class or form produced through a new kind of suffering, but the searing heat of the oven seemed to present the final offense. The High Priest set the cake in a fiery oven so that it could be changed into baked, browned bread.



As the heat increased inside the oven, Surrender-All cried, “Oh, High Priest, this burning heat is destroying me. I cannot bear it.” Through the burning, intense heat of the oven, the soothing Voice of the High Priest ministered to Surrender-All, saying, “Don’t worry. Hold steady. You are not perishing! You are just being perfected. In a little while you will be a beautiful cake of brown bread; then, you will encounter a more glorious experience with a new kind of Fire in my Holy Place.”

And thou shalt put pure frankincense upon each row, that it may be on the bread for a memorial, even an offering made by fire unto the LORD. Every sabbath he shall set it in order before the LORD continually, *being taken* from the children of Israel by an everlasting covenant (Leviticus 24:7,8).

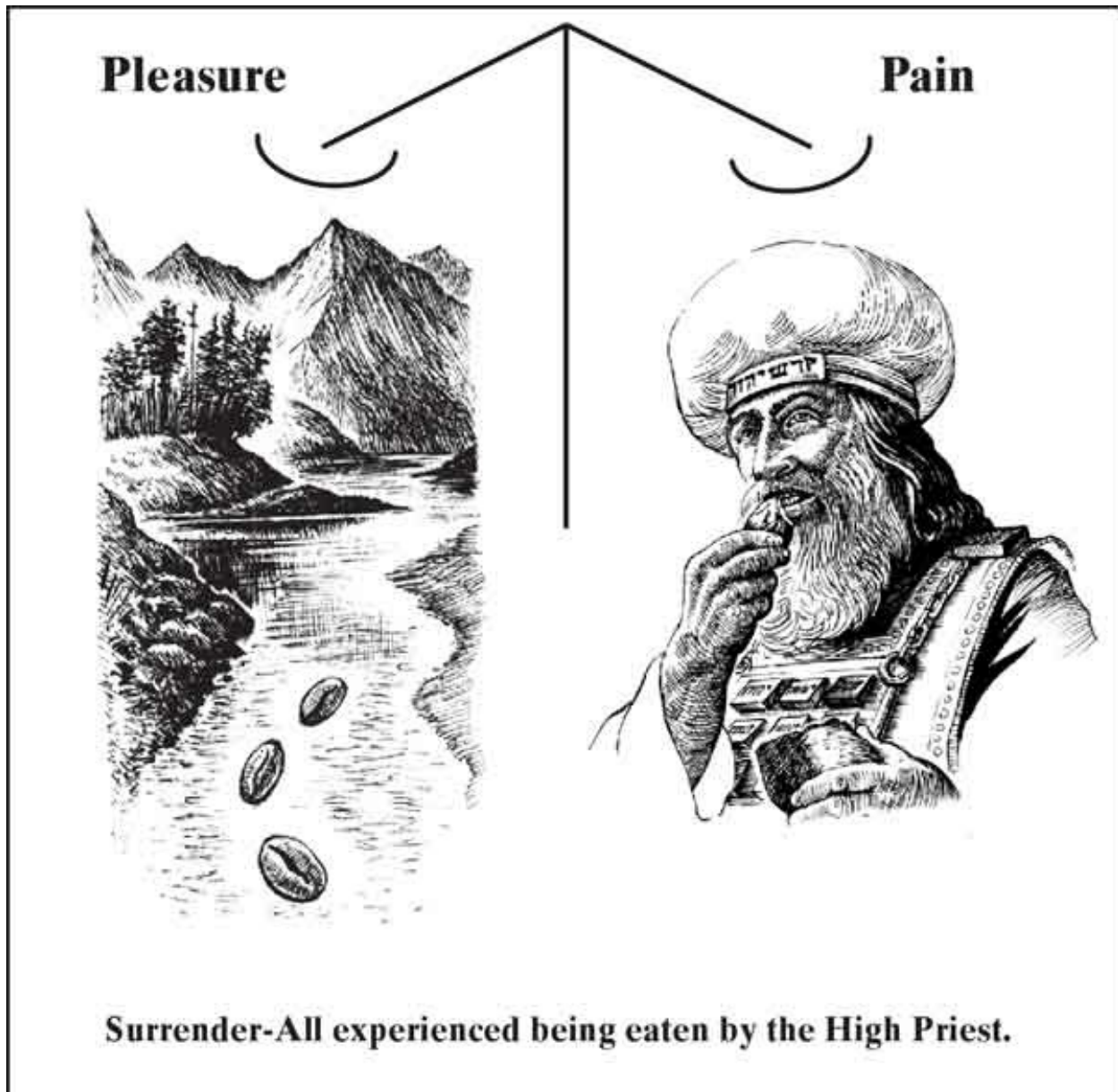


The High Priest let the twelve cakes of Bread set upon the Pure Table in the Holy Place from Sabbath to Sabbath. While there, the cakes absorbed the *rays of the illuminating Light* from the Golden Candlestick, the *smoky Incense* that was offered with the LORD's Fire at the Golden Altar, and the sweet *Fragrance* that was released from the burning Frankincense that rested upon each row of Bread.

Surrender-All reveled in all that he was seeing and feeling while he and the other cakes sat on the Table of Shewbread. He cried, "Oh, this is marvelous. The illuminating Light from the Golden Candlestick is fantastic. I can see so many beautiful things in the Holy Place. I am so thankful that the High Priest brought me here. The Light and Fragrance in this place are worth all the suffering I have endured."

Although Surrender-All would have been content to remain in the Holy Place, the High Priest was not at the end of His journey. Words of praise and thanksgiving for all his blessings had barely escaped Surrender-All's lips when the High Priest came in to change the Bread on the Table. When he left the fresh Bread, He took the old Bread to eat so that the old Bread became One with the High Priest.

Every sabbath he shall set it in order before the LORD continually, being taken from the children of Israel by an everlasting covenant. And it shall be Aaron's and his sons'; **and they shall eat it in the holy place:** for it is most holy unto him of the offerings of the LORD made by fire by a perpetual statute (Leviticus 24:8,9).



Surrender-All again found himself in the Hands of the High Priest. Then, to his amazement, he felt the High Priest tearing his little cake of Bread into small, bite-sized pieces.

Before Surrender-All had time to ask what was going to happen to him, now, the High Priest started chewing the Bread and swallowing it. “Oh, this is the end of me for sure,” said Surrender-All. Never before had he felt the excruciating agony of teeth grinding his Bread, nor had he ever been swallowed. Great waves of fear rolled over him as he dropped down a dark passage into the stomach of the High Priest. “This is terrible,” said Surrender-All. “I am being worked on, and I am losing my form again. There is no way I can get to the New City, now.”

But Surrender-All was wrong. In reality, Surrender-All was having a Sabbath-Day experience in the middle of God’s Scales. He was having a Oneness Experience with the High Priest that fulfilled the very choice he had made when he had started on his journey with the High Priest. In the beginning, he had decided to go all the way to the New City with his beloved High Priest, and this was the only way he could get there—by being joined to Him.

On the second Sabbath Day, when the High Priest ate the Bread, little Surrender-All was changed again. This time, he became part of the Flesh and Bones of the High Priest. He became a part of the rib that lay near the High Priest’s Heart. Surrender-All ended in a new form *inside* the High Priest.

Being that close to the High Priest was more than Surrender-All ever had dreamed was possible, but the best was yet to come. On the Day of Atonement, the High Priest carried Surrender-All into the Holy of Holies with Him. If the little corn of wheat had dared to have gone into the Holy of Holies in his original form, he would have been destroyed instantly by the Cherubims who sat on the Mercy Seat to protect the Righteousness and Holiness of the LORD. But by surrendering to have his form changed over and over until he could be made into Bread, a substance that could be changed into the living Flesh and Bone of the High Priest, Surrender-All was able to be transported safely into the Holy of Holies. Then, through the Oneness of Relationship with the High Priest, Surrender-All was able to experience the Eternal Union with the LORD's *Shekinah* Glory and His *Kaw-bode* Glory.

Surrender-All shouted and jumped for joy. He exclaimed, "This is the greatest thing that ever has happened to me. I would have gone a dozen journeys like the one I have just come through for the privilege of being this near to the High Priest and to the Unbegotten LORD's Glory. I get to be with Him every moment. I get to hear His Intercessory Prayers and feel His Heartbeat of Love. Surely, the suffering is not worthy to be compared with such eternal Unbegotten Glory.

This ends our "once upon a time" story, but it is not the end for those who want to be in the Bride of Jesus Christ.

The believer's Salvation begins when Jesus Christ comes inside him, but perfect rest comes when the believer gets inside Jesus Christ, the High Priest.

Jesus said that we could eat of Him and that He would eat of us. Certainly, it is possible for us to eat of Him, for He is the Corn of Wheat Who fell into the ground and died; He is the Living Bread that came down out of Heaven. But He cannot and will not eat of us unless we become the right kind of Bread.

Jesus Christ eats only the corn of wheat that has fallen into the ground and has died and that has grown to maturity, been reaped, threshed, winnowed, bruised, baked, and, then, has been set in the Holy Place under the Illuminating Light of the Word, under the Holy Ghost Intercession and Travail of the fragrant Incense of His Name, and under the sweet Frankincense of Christ's Faith.

If believers want to know the exquisite delight of being made one with the High Priest on the second Sabbath Day, they must make the same spiritual surrenders and walk in the same pathway as Surrender-All, the little corn of wheat who never allowed his brother and sisters to hinder him in his choice to surrender his All to the High Priest.

Surrender-All's brother, Rebellious, was not interested in making the journey at all, and although his twin sisters, Jolly and Folly, wondered briefly what it meant to be made one with the High Priest, they never found out because they were content to flow lazily along in the pleasurable stream where they met no opposing forces. Consequently, they never discovered the joy of being made One with the High Priest because they never allowed Him to change them into fine flour that was worthy to be molded, baked, and eaten by the High Priest.

This "once upon a time" story about Surrender-All will become every believer's own true-life story if he keeps placing himself, by faith and trust, in the Hands of the High Priest, the LORD Jesus Christ, the Bridegroom.

