# Pushing Against the Rock

There was a man who was asleep one night. Suddenly his room filled with a great light and he heard a voice. *The Voice* told the man he was to do a very important job. *The Voice* showed him a large rock in front of his house. *The Voice* explained to the man he was to push against the rock with all his might. The man did this day after day. For many years he toiled from sun up to sun down, his shoulders set squarely against the cold, massive surface of the unmoving rock pushing with all his might. Each night the man returned to his bed sore and worn out, feeling that his whole day had been spent in vain. Seeing that the man was showing signs of discouragement, a *Dark Voice* decided to enter the picture placing thoughts into the man's mind such as; "*You have been pushing against that rock for a long time and it hasn't budged.*

*Why kill yourself over this? You are never going to move it?*"

The man started to believe in his heart that the task was impossible and that he was a failure and unable to perform the task *The Voice* had given him to do.

These thoughts discouraged and disheartened the man even more. "Why kill myself over this?" he thought. "I'll just put in my time, giving just the minimum of effort and that will be good enough."

Then he cried out, "I have labored long and hard in your service, putting all my strength to do that which you have asked. Yet, after all this time, I have not even budged that rock. What is wrong? Why am I failing?"

To this *The Voice* responded compassionately, "My friend, when long ago I asked you to serve me and you accepted, I told you that your task was to push against the rock with all your strength, which you have done. Never once did I mention to you that I expected you to move it. Your task was to push. And now you come to me, your strength spent, thinking that you have failed. But, is that really so? Look at yourself. Your arms are strong and muscled, your back brown, your hands are callused from constant pressure, and your legs have become massive and hard.

Through opposition you have grown much and your abilities now surpass that which you used to have. Yet you haven't moved the rock.

BUT, YOU HEARD MY VOICE WHEN I WAS CALLING.

YOU FOLLOWED MY COMMANDS.

YOU WERE OBEDIENT. EVERYDAY YOU TRUSTED ME AND MY WISDOM. Because you have done this, my friend, I will now move the rock.