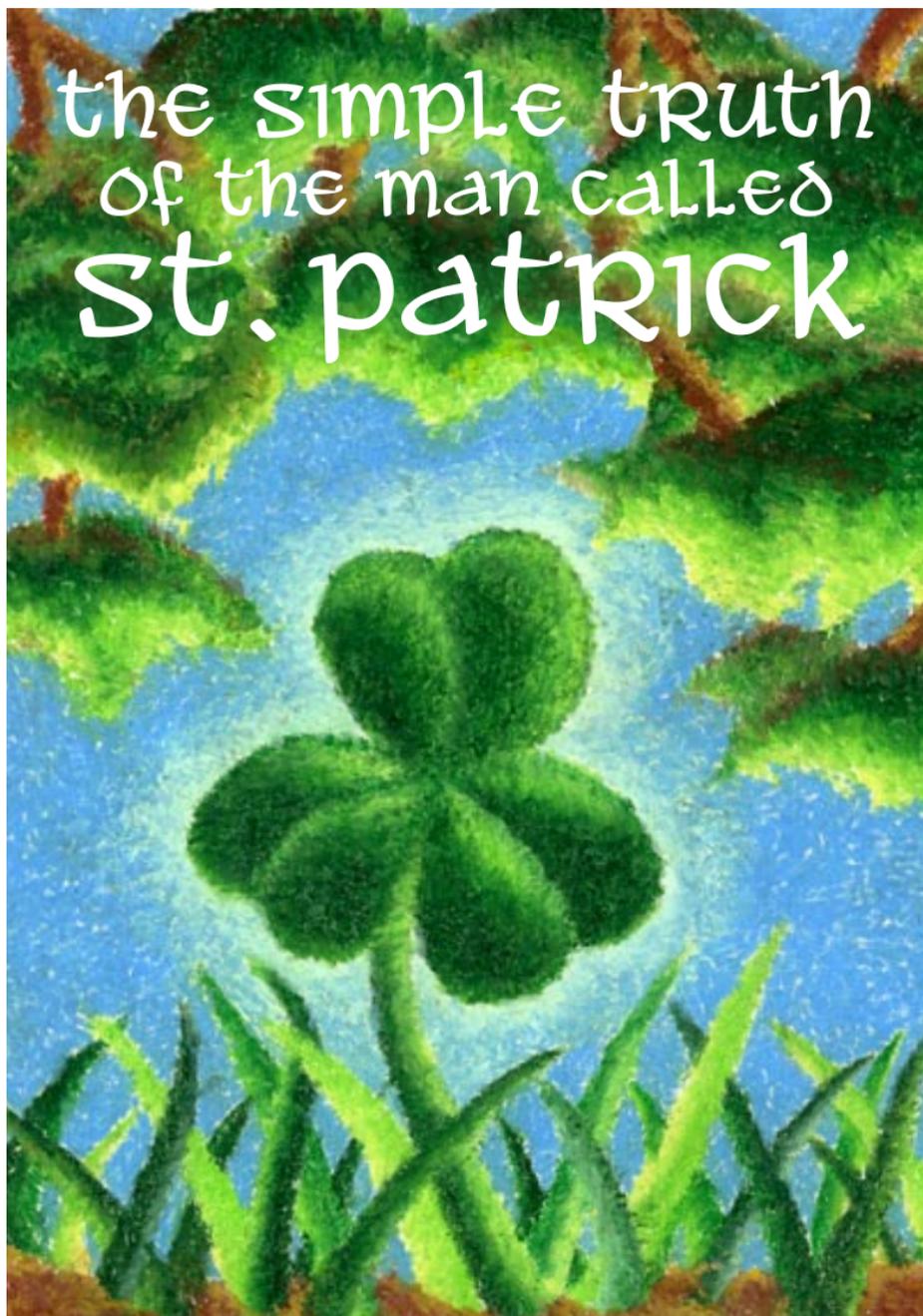


the simple truth
of the man called
st. patrick



The vast and unfathomable truths of life can be understood best by looking intently at the tiniest of creations. Scientists have noted that the order of the universe can be understood by analyzing and observing the tiniest atoms. The great and the small are all organically related. But knowledge is really nothing new. For this is a "wee bit of wisdom" that the man called St. Patrick knew long ago.

It is said that Patrick used simple things in nature like the tiny shamrock to help his listeners understand the deep mysteries of the Almighty. They say that Patrick explained to the people that the three persons of the Godhead could be recognized in something as simple as the three tiny leaves on the clover.

The Irish had rejected the Christian God as presented in the grand cathedrals and complicated doctrines that were springing up all over Europe in





the fourth and fifth centuries. But their admiration for the beauty of nature all around them caused them to stop and listen when this dear, gentle man named Patrick began to explain about the true God in terms that they could relate to.

Though some doubt whether he actually specifically used the little clover leaf in his explanations, the point is clear. Patrick, like the Son of God Himself, was able to make sense out of very complicated issues by using simple examples in nature.

But like many legends, an evolution has occurred in our minds about St. Patrick. If it were not for two remaining historical works written by the very hand of Patrick, it would be difficult to figure out who he really was. But the treasure of his life has been preserved and we can get a real glimpse of his heart from the things he wrote:

“...although I am imperfect in many things, I nevertheless wish that my brethren and kinsmen should know what sort of person I am, so that they may understand my heart’s desire.”

saint patrick ~ 5th century a.d.





So what sort of person was the man we call Saint Patrick? What was his heart's desire?

He certainly has become a famous character in modern day society. Why is that so?

In the "Confessions of St. Patrick," written by his own hand in the early fifth century, you see the heart of a man who earnestly desires to see the reality of true faith. His genuine message won the hearts of the Irish, yet eventually alienated him from the established religion outside Ireland.

Uneducated in the traditional sense of the established church in Europe, Patrick soon faced conflict with them. His simple truth could not stand up to the formal doctrines of the church. A sincere student of St. Patrick must take time to thoroughly study his two remaining works. In reading them it becomes evident the great disappointment he faced in confronting the hypocrisy of the day. In his "Letter to Coroticus" he writes a scathing rebuke to a Christian leader who exhibits obviously very "unchristian" character. Unfortunately, his letter was ignored by the Christian leaders. His own character began to be maligned by them. Patrick's only crime was trying to live out his faith according to the commandments of the Son of God, teaching the standards of love he saw in the Holy Scriptures. Strangely, he found himself at





odds with the very people that should have been his “brothers” in this work. This enigma baffled Patrick.

The irony of all this is that Patrick was censured by those religious leaders, but later made a saint by the same establishment. The obvious genuineness of his selfless life could not be tarnished by their slander. The people in Ireland stood by him and continued to extol his work no matter what was said against him.

Patrick did not let their “smear campaign” dampen his zeal. He courageously stood against the compromises he recognized to be the signs of “false religion.” He was not worried about being honored by men. Patrick writes in one of his letters:

“sufficient is the honour that is not yet seen but is anticipated in the heart. faithful is he that promised; he never lieth. but I see myself exalted even in the present world beyond measure by the Lord, and I was not worthy nor such that he should grant me this. I know perfectly well, though not by my own judgement, that poverty and misfortune becomes me better than riches and pleasures.”

The Irish have never lost their fond memory of Patrick, but with his actual words many are unfamiliar. His two remaining letters “The Testimony (confessions)





of Patrick” and “the Letter to Coroticus” sound little like the happy-go-lucky Irishman with his pot of gold. To the contrary, they reveal the heart of a man torn by the hypocrisy he saw beginning to dominate what should have been a simple faith in the true God that would cause men to love without compromise.



He saw Christian killing Christian, tainted donation money being received in exchange for false promises of a happy eternity, and other contradictions to true faith which Patrick would never tolerate.

May we once again search out the ancient origins of genuine men like Patrick. His heart's desire is clear in what he has written, just as he had hoped it would be. He was calling men to be true. His message: If your faith breaks away from the simple truth, causing compromise even to the point of using the sword to win your arguments, then your faith is worthless.

It is the simple truth.



far from being one of the
educated religious elite,
patrick began life in ireland
as a humble shepherd.





...Like Patrick of old,
I would like for you
to UNDERSTAND
my heart's desire...

Significant Greetings by

