

The Choice

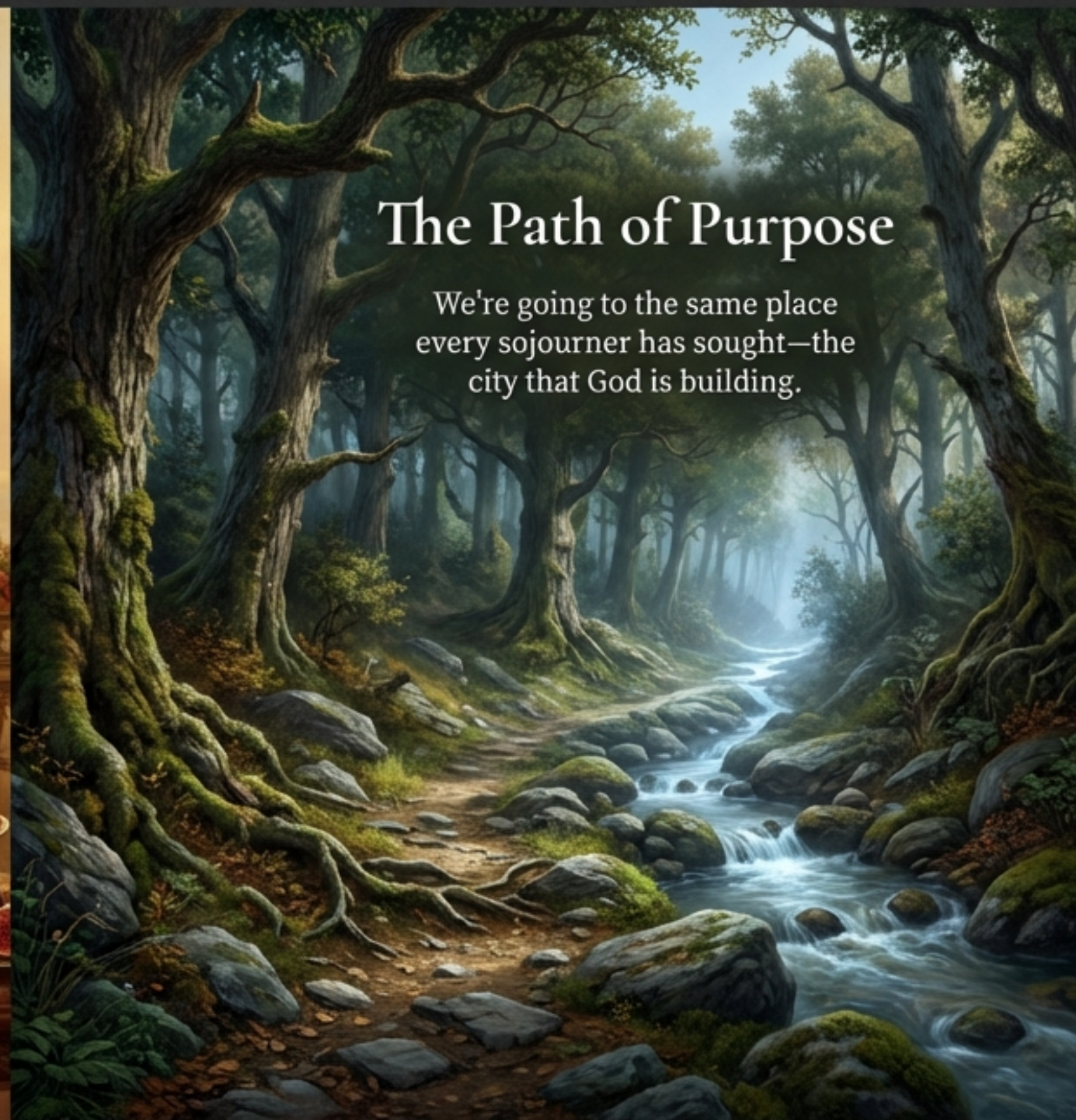


Hundreds were on the beach, and I assumed that several thousand more were on the ship.



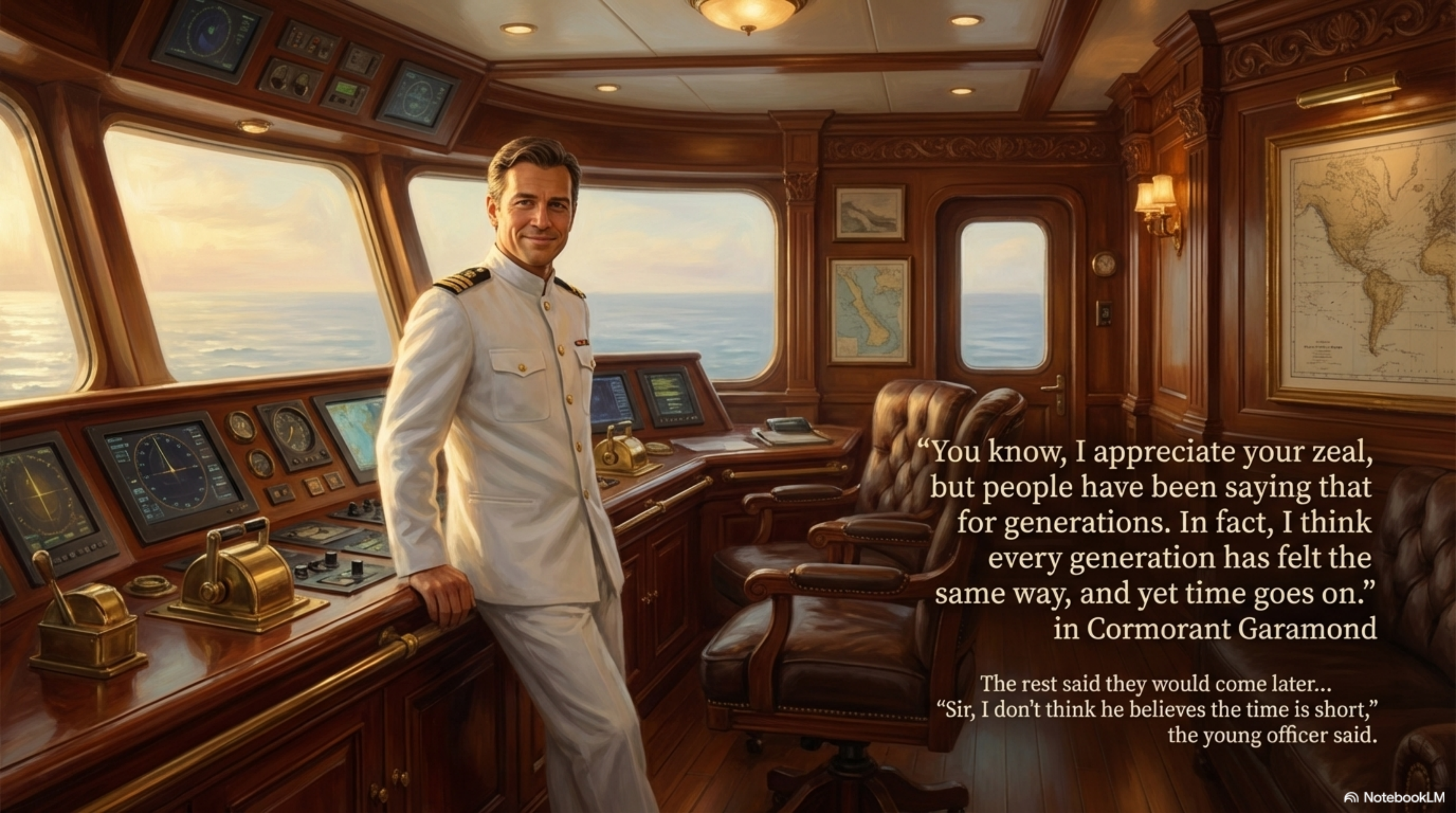
The Path of Comfort

They said they have everything they needed. If they do not stay here, they may just cruise up and down the coast, which is what we've been doing for a long time.




The Path of Purpose

We're going to the same place every sojourner has sought—the city that God is building.




“You know, I appreciate your zeal,
but people have been saying that
for generations. In fact, I think
every generation has felt the
same way, and yet time goes on.”
in Cormorant Garamond

The rest said they would come later...
“Sir, I don't think he believes the time is short,”
the young officer said.

The background image is a detailed illustration of a luxurious interior, likely the lounge of a grand ship. It features high ceilings with intricate gold leaf decorations and several large, arched alcoves containing classical paintings of figures. The space is supported by massive, fluted marble columns with ornate capitals. In the center, a wide staircase with a decorative railing leads to an upper level. The floor is polished and reflects the ambient light. Various pieces of furniture are scattered throughout, including plush red velvet sofas and armchairs, as well as smaller yellow upholstered seats. Large, multi-tiered chandeliers hang from the ceiling, casting a warm, golden glow. The overall atmosphere is one of opulence and historical elegance.


As we boarded the ship, I was in awe of how beautiful it was. Everything was designed for comfort and luxury.

The opulence and luxury were mind-numbing. Everything the captain said seemed so reasonable. My own words seemed empty and unreal on such a great ship.



Before you go, are you sure, that you should not stay here for awhile? I have a perfect position for you. There is not a better place to get healed of your wounds and the hardship you have been through than right here.

I don't remember ever being so tempted in my life. I knew that if I even opened my mouth... I could end up staying. I was running for my life.


A man in a dark, long coat and boots walks along a sandy beach, looking back over his shoulder towards a large, ornate ship. The ship is docked on the left, with its lights glowing. The scene is set at sunset or sunrise, with a warm, golden light. To the right, there are large, gnarled trees and dense foliage. The man's expression is contemplative.

“As great as it was to be on that
ship, my heart was empty,
and I was getting emptier.
I saw good people drifting,
beginning to do things that
should not be done.”

“I knew that if I did not leave that ship very soon I never
would. Then I would live a life of compromise and
defeat.”



“I signed up to serve the Lord, not
not to get rich.
Now this may be what they
are called to, but it is not
I what called
to.”

A man with a beard and short hair, wearing a grey jacket and dark pants, sits on a mossy log in a forest. In the background, a group of five people are gathered around a campfire. The scene is set in a lush, green forest with tall trees and a small stream. The lighting is soft, suggesting a misty or early morning atmosphere.

My life had become empty,
and I was becoming bitter...
I decided that it would be
better to die seeking that
mountain, than to live the
way that I had been living.

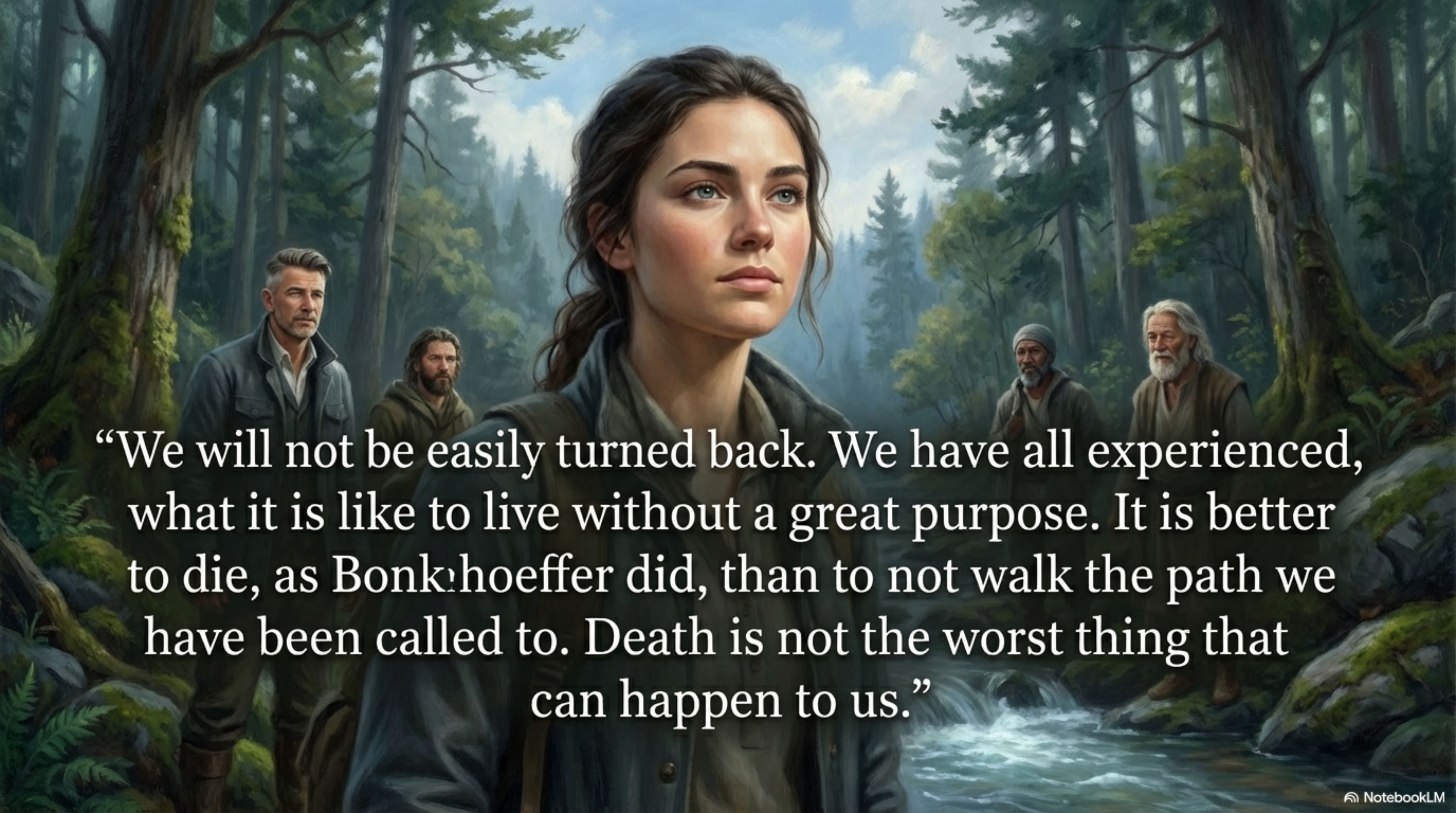
Source Serif Pro

I know now, that the greatest
treasure I could ever find is
purpose, and now that I have
it again I would rather die
than lose it.

“We have not had this water for a long time.
Just one drink is worth leaving all of that.”



“This is the living water. You are right. There is no
treasure on earth that can compare to it.”

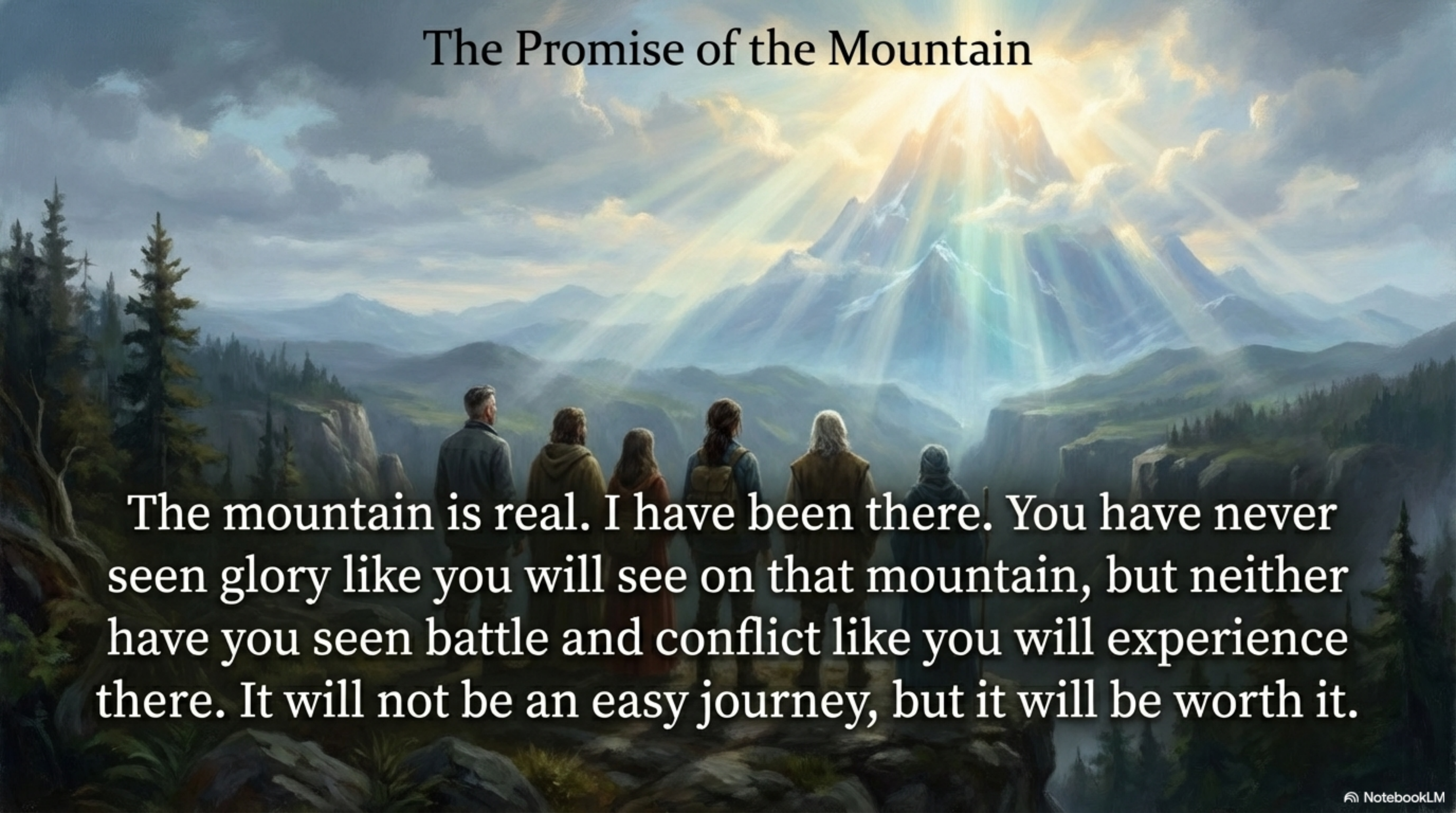


“We will not be easily turned back. We have all experienced, what it is like to live without a great purpose. It is better to die, as Bonhoeffer did, than to not walk the path we have been called to. Death is not the worst thing that can happen to us.”

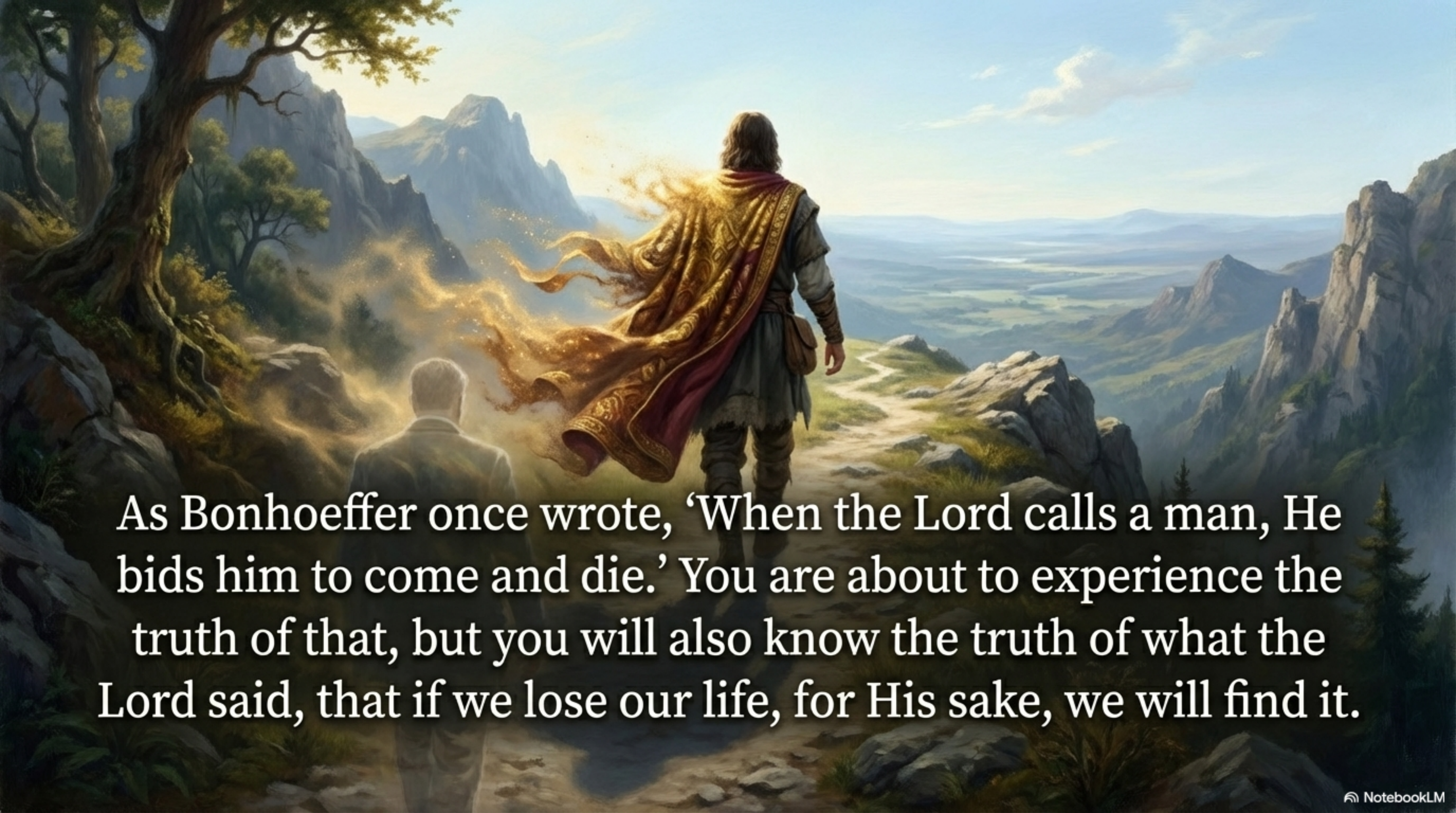
The Nature of the Path

It will not be an easy journey... you will now face the greatest trials you have ever faced in an environment, that is trying every way it can, to stop you. This wilderness is hostile to us in every way. It is dangerous, and many don't make it through.

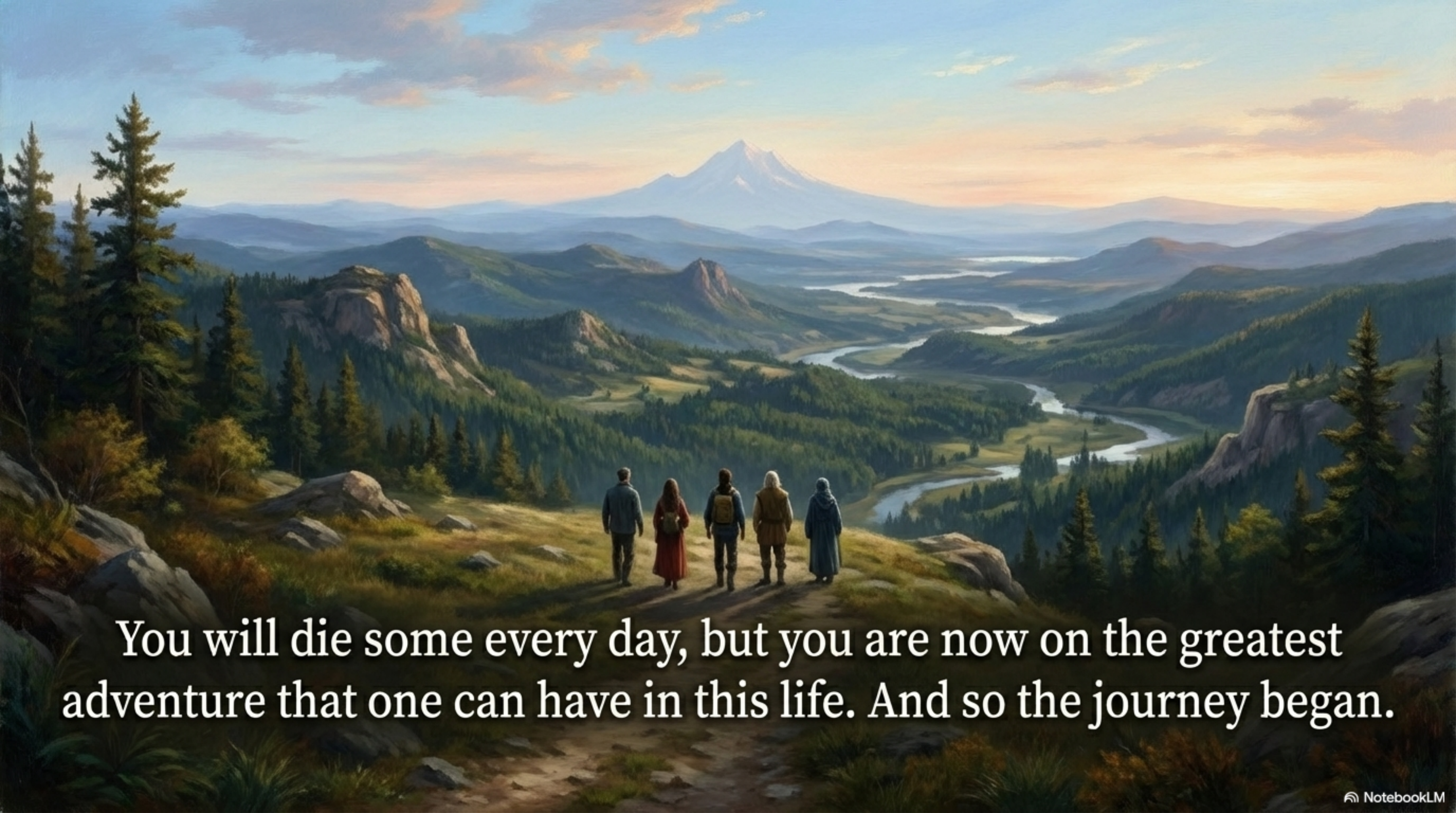
The Promise of the Mountain



The mountain is real. I have been there. You have never seen glory like you will see on that mountain, but neither have you seen battle and conflict like you will experience there. It will not be an easy journey, but it will be worth it.



As Bonhoeffer once wrote, 'When the Lord calls a man, He bids him to come and die.' You are about to experience the truth of that, but you will also know the truth of what the Lord said, that if we lose our life, for His sake, we will find it.



You will die some every day, but you are now on the greatest adventure that one can have in this life. And so the journey began.