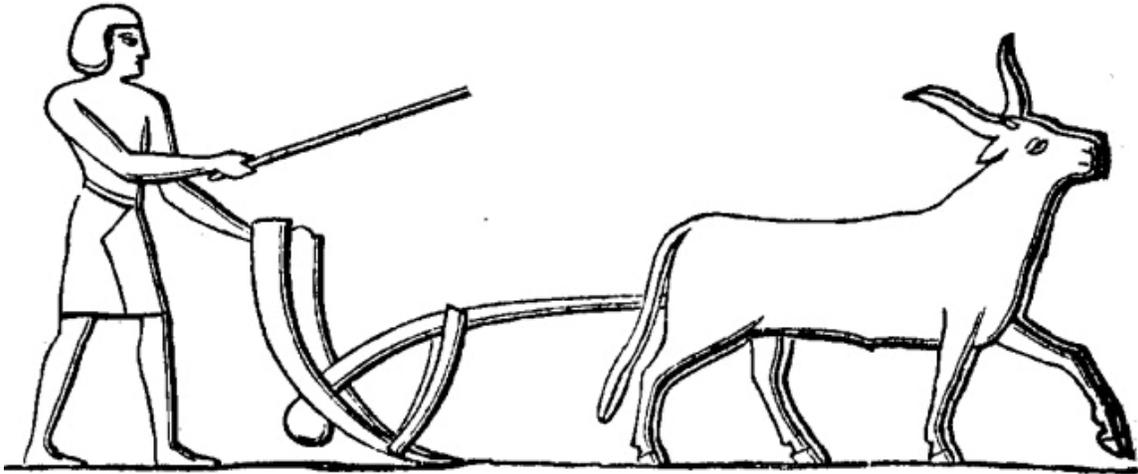


"Kicking Against the Pricks"

(Acts 26:14)

And when we were all fallen to the earth, I heard a voice speaking unto me, and saying in the Hebrew tongue, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? It is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.



"It is hard for thee to kick against the pricks."

The plowman in the Bible Lands carries in his hand a long pole or goad, with a sharp metal point or prick on one end of the pole and at the other there is a flat piece of iron which is used to clean the plowshare. Quite often the young ox, probably not well broken in, will kick, because he does not like his work. The plowman then holds the pole or goad in such a position that when the ox kicks again, he will kick against that prick or sharp point, and thus the animal will learn it doesn't pay.

Paul, kicking against the plan of God, learned his mistake. "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? It is hard for thee to kick against the pricks."

Old and New Testament Orientalisms Teachings of Bishop K. C. Pillai transcript
Acts 26:14, p. 496.

ACTS 26

Verse 14 (Hosea 4:16; II Corinthians 6:14) A heifer is a young cow which has not been calved. Very seldom is it put to the yoke for plowing. It is illegal to put it by the side of a bull for plowing. But if a man is poor and only has one bull and he can't plow with just one, he will use a heifer even though it's illegal.

II Corinthians 6:14, one pulls one way and one another. A Christian who is born again, lost his old feathers and is walking, must marry a woman like that. The heifer refuses to bear the yoke and thinks, "My neck will be broken; if I give in they'll have me for life; I better dodge it now." The farmer hooks her up and ties a rope to her horn and stands behind her with a goad. She kicks at it and gets pricked more. [Acts 26:14] Then the heifer begins foaming and breathing heavy. It's afraid to go forward. It gets beaten and falls down. Christians are afraid to walk with Jesus and look horrible from the beating. Jesus Christ said my yoke is light. Israel was afraid, like they were afraid to go into the promised land. Pagans must do horrible things—hurt their bodies, etc., in their worship. The yoke of Jesus Christ is easy.

Hos. 4:16b. The lambs of the first year are fed near home. After that they go out in the wilderness and wander here and there finding grass. There are lots of dangers, etc.

"Kick against the pricks." When the oxen goes out of a straight path the man pokes it with the sharp point on the edge of the goad. .When the ox is young it will kick against the pricks but it learns not to do this as it grows older.

See Luke 9:62.

(Acts 9:5). It is hard for thee to kick against the pricks. Prick is goad (is God's Word). When God convicts us with the Word, we kick back. The more we kick back, the worse the pricks hurt. If you go forward thanking him for the yoke, you'll have no pricks and only go forward.

Cultivation. In the East is done by small plows. They have a pair of bullocks. The wooden plow won't do more than 2" of ground at a time. The man holds a goad—stick—(2' long, needle at its end) in one hand; he holds the plow in the other. If the man doesn't goad the oxen, they won't go straight. If they won't go straight, the furrows go all wrong. We must look forward with our eyes ahead, on Him. If we refuse to follow God, looking back, there is no plowing. Our victory is in our walk, with a forward outlook and this is where our prosperity and success. Why worry?

Luke 9:62 The goad is needed in the East because oxen go around.

Acts 9:5; 26:14. An ox is paired with another under the yoke. One ox wants to be a little naughty, does not want to go straight, so as he tries to turn, then only the man pricks, when you prick, the ox kicks back. Why? Because he kicks back to the prick again, cause the man leaves the prick down there. Paul, it's hard to kick against the pricks—you cannot fight God and His truth. The more you fight it, the more you kick against the pricks.