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Pilgrims progress characters

Last updated on December 10, 2021 First published: part 1, 1678; part 2, 1684Type of work: NovelType of plot: AllegoryTime of work: Any time since ChristLocale: IndeterminateChristian, Pilgrim's Progress, Thean example of all God-fearing Protestants, whose adventures are recounted as events in a dream experienced by the narrator. Originally called Graceless, of the race of Japhet, Christian becomes distressed with his life in the City of Destruction and insists that his wife and four children accompany him in search of salvation. When they refuse to leave, Christian determines to set out alone. Henceforth his life story consists of hardships, sufferings, and struggles to overcome obstaclesphysical, human, and emotional-that beset his path. At the outset, Christian's family and neighbors, Pliable and Obstinate, try to dissuade him from breaking away from his sins of the past. Then Evangelist appears with a parchment roll on which is inscribed, "Fly from the Wrath to Come." On his long journey, Christian finds that human beings he meets offer distractions and hindrance, even bodily harm and violence. Mr. Worldly Wiseman turns him aside from his set purpose until Evangelist intervenes. Simple, Sloth, Presumption, Formalist, Hypocrisy, Timorous, and Mistrust seek to dissuade or discourage Christian because of the rigors of the straight and narrow way. The Giant of the Doubting Castle and his wife beat and torture Christian and Hopeful. In the Valley of Humiliation, Christian is fortunate in having companions who can assist him: Evangelist, who gets him out of difficulties or warns him of impending strife; Help, who assists him to get out of the Slough of Despond; Faithful, who is by his side at Vanity Fair; Hopeful, who comforts him at Doubting Castle and encourages him to give up bravely at the River of Death. In this narrative of a pilgrim's adventures, Christian must constantly overcome temptations and dangers that will thwart his goal, impede his progress toward eternal life, or prevent him from reaching Heaven; but with the aid of his religious fervor and the advice and counsel of a few true friends, he achieves salvation. Evangelist, Christian's adviser and guide, particularly in times of danger. Evangelist shows him the way to avoid destruction, directs him to the Wicket Gate, and warns him of such people as Mr. Worldly Wiseman and of the dangers at Vanity Fair. Apollyon (uh-PAHL-yuhn), the fiend in the Valley of Humiliation. Apollyon has scales like a devil in his attempt to persuade Christian from honoring his religion. Giant Despair, the giant owner of Doubting Castle. He imprisons Christian uses a key of Promise to make their escape. Faithful, Christian from honoring his religion. Giant Despair, the giant owner of Doubting Castle. He imprisons Christian and Faithful, beats them, and threatens them with death until Christian uses a key of Promise to make their escape. Faithful, Christian from honoring his religion. Vanity Fair, he is transported to the Celestial Gate in a chariot. Hopeful, another wayfarer. He joins Christian at Vanity Fair and accompanies him through various adventures on the way to eternal salvation. Good-Will, who tells Christian at Vanity Fair and accompanies him through various adventures on the way see a vision of the Day of Judgment. Ignorance, a native of the country of Conceit. Refusing to accept the beliefs of Christian and Hopeful, he continues on the journey until he is seized and thrust into Hell.Mr. Worldly Wiseman, a dweller in the town of Carnal-Policy. He advises Christian to go to Legality and get relief from the burden of sins that Christian carries on his back. Three Shining Ones, who clothe Christian with new raiment after his burdens fall off before the Cross. Obstinate remains behind, but Pliable goes with Christian until he deserts him at the Slough of Despond. Interpreter, who instructs Christian in the mysteries of faith. Discretion, Prudence, Piety, and Charity, virgins who arm Christian must pass after reciting verses from the Psalms to protect himself from devils issuing from one of the gates of Hell. Knowledge, Experience, Watchful, and Sincere, shepherds who point out the Celestial Gate to Christian and Hopeful. Bunyan, John. Grace Abounding to the Chief of Sinners. Edited by Roger Sharrock. London: Oxford University Press, 1966. This earlier autobiography (1666) lays the foundation for Bunyan's allegory. Collmer, Robert G. Bunyan in Our Time. Kent, Ohio: Kent State University Press, 1989. A collection of distinguished literary criticism and appraisals of Bunyan. Includes essays on his use of language, satire and its biblical sources, and The Pilgrim's Progress as allegory. 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A wonderful collection of concise essays. Views. Liverpool, England: Liverpool University Press, 1980. Brings together critical essays on The Pilgrim's Progress to provide fresh, detailed, and varied approaches to this work. Discusses the tension between allegory and naturalism and Bunyan's handling of the language and values of the people. Indispensable to the serious scholar of this work.Sadler, Lynn Veach. John Bunyan. Boston: Twayne, 1979. Good summation of Bunyan's life with excellent explanations of Pilgrim's Progress. Includes an extensive bibliography and chronology of Bunyan's life. Wakefield, Gordon S. Bunyan the Christian. London: HarperCollinsReligious, 1992. Perhaps the best commentary on the work, addressing stylistic, historical, social, and especially evangelical issues. Bibliographical references, index. Minor Characters Obstinate decides Christian to return home. When Christian is insane to leave the world behind and returns to the city. Help When Christian is struggling in the Slough of Despond, Help appears and pulls him out. Civility is Legality's son. Like Legality's son. Like Legality he purports to help remove people's burdens but instead just increases them. Interpreter After passing through the Wicket-gate, both Christian and Christian visit the Interpreter's House, where the Interpreter shows them various signs and curiosities whose meanings help the pilgrim who flees the lions in the path and tries to get Christian to turn back. Porter/Mr. Watchful The Porter, or Mr. Watchful, guards the entrance to Palace Beautiful and encourages Christian not to fear the lions along the path. Discretion Discretion Discretion is a girl who interviews and admits Christian to Palace Beautiful who encourages guests with her hospitality and conversation. She is especially focused on religious reverence. Prudence Prudence is a resident of Palace Beautiful who encourages guests with her hospitality and conversation. She is especially focused on wise judgment. When Christiana's sons catechism questions to test their religious understanding. Charity is a resident of Palace Beautiful who encourages guests with her hospitality and conversation. She is especially focused on love. Shame Shameful is a figure whom Faithful meets while passing through the Valley of Humiliation. Shame tries to convince Faithful that it's shameful to be religious in the current day and age—after all, most of the rich and powerful don't worry about religion, but only the poor and ignorant. Beelzebub Beelzebub, a devil, is the King of Vanity. Envy Envy witnesses against Faithful in his trial in Vanity Fair. Superstition Superstition Superstition witnesses against Faithful in his trial in Vanity Fair. Demas Demas leads pilgrims astray by inviting them to dig for treasure in his silver-mine in the hill called Lucre. Diffidence Diffidence Diffidence Diffidence is Giant Despair's wife. She eggs on Giant Despair in his cruelties toward Christian and Hopeful to the Celestial City but actually takes them in the opposite direction, getting them helplessly lost. The Shepherds had warned the pilgrims are headed to the Celestial City. Atheist claims that he spent 20 years searching for the Celestial City and never found any sign of it. Mr. Sagacity When the narrator begins dreaming the second part of the book, he initially journeys with a figure who visits Christiana in the City of Destruction with a letter from the King of the Celestial City, inviting her to follow in Christian's footsteps. Mrs. Timorous Mrs. Timorous is Timorous is Timorous is Timorous on a pilgrimage, arguing that the hardships are too great. Ill-Favored Ones The Ill-Favored Ones attempt to assault the women pilgrims (Christiana and her group) soon after the latter depart from the Wicket-gate, until they are chased off by a Reliever. Reliever comes from the Gate-House to rescue the women pilgrims from the Gate-House to rescue the women pilgrims from the Ill-Favored Ones. Mr. Great-heart Mr. Great-h Interpreter's House all the way to the banks of the River of Death. He defeats giants, leads and protects the women, and gives spiritual advice. James Christian's and Christian's second-youngest son and Matthew, Samuel, and James's brother. He later marries Martha Mnason. Samuel Samuel is Christiana's second-oldest son and James, Joseph, and Matthew's brother. He later marries Grace Mnason. Matthew is Christiana's eldest son and James, Joseph, and Samuel's brother. He gets deathly ill after eating some stolen fruit, but a doctor named Mr. Skill saves him. While staying at Gaius's Inn, he marries Mercy. Mr. Brisk Mr. Brisk Mr. Brisk Mr. Brisk Mr. Brisk Mr. Brisk Mr. Skill is a doctor who makes a purgative potion for Matthew. Maul Maul is a giant whom Mr. Great-heart defeats in the Valley of the Shadow of Death. Mr. Honest is an elderly pilgrim who joins Christiana's group. He comes from the town of Stupidity. Mr. Fearing journeyed with him for a while. Mr. Fearing Mr. Fearing Mr. Fearing is a pilgrim who joins Christiana's group. He comes from the town of Stupidity. Mr. Fearing journeyed with him for a while. Mr. Fearing Mr. Fearing is a pilgrim who joins Christiana's group. He comes from the town of Stupidity. Mr. Fearing journeyed with him for a while. Mr. Fearing journeyed with him for a while is a giant whom Mr. Great-heart defeats in the Valley of the Shadow of Death. Mr. Fearing journeyed with him for a while is a giant whom Mr. Great-heart defeats in the Valley of the Shadow of Death. Mr. Fearing journeyed with him for a while is a giant whom Mr. Great-heart defeats in the Valley of the Shadow of Death. Mr. Fearing journeyed with him for a while is a giant whom Mr. Fearing journeyed with him for a while is a giant whom Mr. Fearing journeyed with him for a while is a giant whom Mr. Fearing journeyed with him for a while is a giant whom Mr. Fearing journeyed with him for a while is a giant whom Mr. Fearing journeyed with him for a while is a giant whom Mr. Fearing journeyed with him for a while is a giant whom Mr. Fearing journeyed with him for a while is a giant whom Mr. Fearing journeyed with him for a while is a giant whom Mr. Fearing journeyed with him for a while is a giant whom Mr. Fearing journeyed with him for a while is a giant whom Mr. Fearing journeyed with him for a while is a giant whom Mr. Fearing journeyed with him for a while is a giant whom Mr. Fearing journeyed with him for a while is a giant whom Mr. Fearing journeyed with him for a while is a giant whom Mr. Fearing journeyed with him for a while is a giant whom Mr. Fearing journeyed with him for a while is a giant whom Mr. Fearing journeyed with him for a while is a giant whom Mr. Fearing journeyed with him for a while is a giant whom Mr. Fearing j God, thus making his journey needlessly difficult. God mercifully removed many obstacles throughout his pilgrimage, and his crossing of the River was easy. Mr. Self-Will Mr. Self-Will Mr. Self-Will was a genuine pilgrim. Gaius is a kindly innkeeper who houses Christiana and her group for a month, having known Christian's family for a long time. He advises Christiana to find godly wives for her sons and even encourages a match between Matthew and Mercy. He warmly praises women's faithfulness as pilgrims. Slay-good Slay-good is a fearsome, flesh-eating giant who almost eats Feeble-mind before being slain by Great-heart. Phebe Phebe is Gaius's daughter, who marries James. Mr. Ready-to-halt Mr. Ready-to-halt is a pilgrim who is infirm and uses crutches; he joins Christiana's group of pilgrims as they're setting out from Cyprus who lives in Vanity. Christiana and her fellow pilgrims lodge in his house during their extended stay in that town. He has daughter, who marries Joseph. Mr. Contrite is Mr. Mnason's friend, who lives in Vanity and helps Mr. Great-heart slay the dragon that harasses the town. Mr. Dispondency, Much-afraid's father, is a pilgrim who, with her father, Mr. Dispondency, is found imprisoned in Doubting Castle and taken under Mr. Great-heart's protection. When the time comes for her to cross the River of Death, she sings a joyous song. Mr. Valiant-for-Truth Mr. Valiant-for-Truth is a brave pilgrim from Dark-land whom Christiana's group meets just beyond the Delectable Mountains. Despite his family's opposition, he embarked on his pilgrimage after hearing about Christian. Before Christiana's group in the Enchanted Ground, escaping Madam Bubble is an evil witch who has led many pilgrims astray in the Enchanted Ground, though Standfast escapes her temptations. Little-faith Little-faith Little-faith is a character in a story Hopeful tells, who was robbed on his pilgrimage and spent the rest of his journey discouraged, though he made it to the Celestial City. The Narrator The book's unnamed narrator falls asleep and dreams of Christiana's respective journeys. These dreams make up the bulk of Pilgrim's Progress. John Bunyan is the author of Pilgrim's Progress. In the "Apology" at the beginning of the book, he offers a self-defense for writing about religious themes in a fictional and allegorical style.

