

Pilgrim's Progress (Part 9)

Christiana

Quote: *"We need not, when abed, to lie awake to talk with God, he can visit us while we sleep, and cause us then to hear his Voice. Our heart oft-times wakes when we sleep, and God can speak to that, either by words, by proverbs, by signs and similitudes, as well as if one was awake."* –Christiana

● City of Destruction

- After Christian dies, his wife regrets her treatment of him
 - After beginning her pilgrimage, she calls herself "Christiana"
- Christian's cry of "What shall I do to be saved?" haunts his wife
 - she realizes & confesses her sin
- Christiana dreams of a parchment that has recorded her sins and of Christian in Heaven
- **Secret** visits Christiana
 - brings a message of God's forgiveness
 - brings an invitation to come to Father's house
 - gives Christiana a letter written in letters of gold
 - letter invites her to come to God's city, as Christian did
 - tells Christiana
 - go to the Wicket-gate
 - put this letter in thy bosom
 - read this letter to thyself & to thy children until you know it by heart
 - * Four boys: Matthew, Samuel, Joseph, and James
 - "the bitter is before the sweet"
- Christiana begins to pack
 - four sons are happy to go
 - two neighbors come to call
 - Mrs. Timorous
 - * wife of Timorous who was afraid of the lions
 - * acts like her husband (trying to discourage honest pilgrims)
 - Mercy
 - Mrs. Timorous tries to discourage Christiana but Mercy decides to walk a little way with her
 - Mrs. Timorous goes home & sends for some neighbors:
 - * Mrs. Bat's-Eyes, Mrs. Inconsiderate, Mrs. Light-Mind & Mrs. Know-Nothing

● Slough of Despond

- Christiana had heard of Christian's falling in
 - the King sends laborers to mend the King's highways
 - some pretend & bring dirt and dung instead of stones
- Christiana, Mercy & children used the stepping stones
 - Bunyan called these stones "the promises"¹
 - instead of struggling, we are to rest by faith on the promises

¹ <http://www.chapellibrary.org/johnbunyan/text/bun-pilgrim%27sprogress.part.II.pdf>

- **The Wicket-Gate**
 - They knock & knock
 - hear a great dog barking (they are afraid)
 - they finally knock again
 - they are admitted
 - ask the gate keeper why he keeps a dog that causes pilgrims to fear & perhaps run away
 - gate keeper = Goodwill (Christ)
 - dog belongs to castle nearby (Beelzebub's Castle)
 - purpose of dog is to discourage pilgrims
 - Goodwill feeds them, washes their feet, and sets them in the way
 - just as He did with Christian earlier
- **Beelzebub's Garden**
 - garden = the world
 - fruit = sin
 - branches of fruit trees hung over the wall
 - this was more dangerous than the barking dog
 - notice entrance into the garden wasn't necessary to eat of the fruit
 - Christiana's sons picked and ate of them ("to their hurt")
 - Christiana corrected them but didn't know whose fruit they had eaten
- **Two-Ill Favored Ones**
 - Attacked the two women & children
 - The women cried, "Murder! Murder!"
 - "Some of the house" (at the Wicket-Gate) heard Christiana & sent help
 - Reliever: "he that came in for their relief"
 - attackers fled to Beelzebub's Garden
 - Reliever asked why the women hadn't asked for a "conductor"
 - "Ye have not because ye ask not" (James 4:2).
- **House of Interpreter**
 - Innocent answers the door
 - all within leaped for joy when they heard who was at the door
 - told the Master (Interpreter)
 - Women & children came in to rest
 - supper provided (the Lord's Supper – communion)
 - shown all the lessons Christian was shown
 - man in the cage
 - man and his dream
 - etc.
 - shown a "muck-rake," a spider on the wall, a hen & chickens, a slaughterhouse, the Garden of God, etc
 - lessons taught to Christian were comprehensive
 - why did Christiana need additional lessons?
 - * lessons adapted for a mother & housewife (according to one's situation)
 - Music during the meal
 - thought to reference singing in public worship
 - a custom recently introduced

- very controversial
 - Christians (who met in secret) wouldn't sing at gatherings (dangerous)
 - * As government restrictions relaxed, singing could be added to services
 - * some resisted this – wasn't traditional
- **Bath**
 - thought to represent baptism
 - this was something the "Master would have the women to do"
 - after the bath they were "much enlivened and strengthened" (full of life & made stronger)
 - happens after a discussion with Interpreter of their journey thus far
 - public declaration of salvation and experience
- **White Raiment**
 - robes of righteousness
 - clothed with humility
- **Great-heart**
 - a man-servant of Interpreter
 - a minister of the Gospel
 - took sword, helmet & shield
 - told to conduct women & children to Palace Beautiful
- **The Cross & the Tomb**
 - stopped & praised God
 - "my heart . . . is ten times more lightsome and joyous now"
 - Christiana wishes others were here
 - doesn't realize that not everyone who sees the Cross will feel as she does
 - men stood by & watched Jesus die, unaffected, laughing
- **Simple, Sloth & Presumption**
 - asleep when Christian passed, now are hanged by the neck
 - hung near the highway as a warning
 - not only didn't want to be pilgrims but persuaded others to leave the way
 - Slow-pace, Short-wind, No-heart, Linger-after-lust, Sleepy-head, and Dull
 - told others the Lord was a hard taskmaster
 - brought an evil report of the land
 - called the bread of God husks
- **Hill of Difficulty**
 - spring of grace is defiled (muddy – doctrines of men are mixed in)
 - way has been relatively easy until now
 - hill leads to Palace Beautiful (the Church of God)
 - the way gets much harder when one is placed in the body (visible)
 - Two By-ways (where Formality and Hypocrisy were lost)
 - ways stopped up w/chains, posts, and a ditch
 - yet some still choose these by-ways (have to climb over the obstacles)
 - "The way of the transgressors is hard" (Proverbs 3:15)
 - Bottle of Spirits
 - given to Christiana by Interpreter
 - is forgotten in the Arbor
 - Mercy: "this is a losing place" (Christian lost his scroll here)

- Great-heart: "The cause is sleep or forgetfulness"
 - A Stage
 - the place where Christian met Mistrust & Timorous
 - afraid of lions; tried to persuade Christian to turn back
 - on this stage Mistrust & Timorous were "burned through the tongue with a hot iron, for endeavoring to hinder Christian in his journey"
 - thought to be a reference to a friend of Bunyan (John Child) who gave up his profession and then, overwhelmed by despair, committed suicide²
- **Palace Beautiful**
 - Giant Grim (or Bloody-man)
 - backs the lions
 - slays pilgrims
 - Great-heart cuts off his arm and breaks his helmet
 - lions are still chained
 - Porter (Mr. Watchful)
 - recognizes Great-heart (he's brought pilgrims before)
 - Women & children stay about a month
 - Great-heart leaves
 - Christiana is questioned concerning the spiritual training of her children
 - the Church of God is where a parent can be challenged & taught how to "train up a child in the way he should go"
 - **Matthew becomes sick**
 - the eldest son of Christiana
 - Mr. Skill (approved physician) comes
 - "What diet has Matthew of late fed upon?"
 - Matthew had eaten of the fruit from Beelzebub's garden
 - Christiana had gotten after him but didn't prevent him
 - * now she realizes her carelessness
 - * as parents, we have to do more than scold
 - Matthew has to vomit out the poison (get rid of it)
 - when the Word cleanses us from sin, we must get rid of it
 - (Why did only Matthew get sick from the fruit? Perhaps, the other boys were too young to be held accountable? Perhaps Matthew, as the oldest, led them into sin?)
- **Valley of Humiliation**
 - Great-heart returns to guide them farther
 - walks down Hill Difficulty into the Valley of Humiliation
 - Great-heart tells them there is nothing to be afraid of
 - Found a pillar that says to let "Christian's slips" be a warning
 - Why was this valley easier for the women than for Christian?
 - Remember, pride was one of Christian's faults
 - here the humble man or woman is contented
 - already "little in thine own sight" (1 Samuel 15:17)
 - This valley is free from noise & the hurryings of this life

² <http://www.chapellibrary.org/johnbunyan/text/bun-pilgrim%27sprogress.part.II.pdf>

- nobody walks here but those that love the pilgrim's life
- this is a pleasant place
- some men have met angels here, found pearls here
- in former days, the Lord walked & lived here
 - later we hear of Mr. Fearing who loved this place
 - * "he would lie down, embrace the ground, and kiss the flowers"
 - * he was petrified of the next valley
 - + it is thought there was a special check from God on the enemies of this valley
 - * he was fearful at the Dark River
 - + remarkable – the river was lower than ever seen by Great-heart
 - * "God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able" (1 Corinthians 10:13)
 - * some notes (bass) are more "doleful" (mournful) than others; yet the first string the musician usually touches when tuning his instrument is the bass (Bunyan)
- Great-heart points to the spot where Christian & Apollyon fought
 - just beyond Forgetful Green
 - "take heed . . . lest thou forget" (Deuteronomy 4:9, 23)
 - stones w/Christian's blood, broken darts
 - good to study the fights of former Christians: learn how they won the good fight, how they wore their armor, how they kept the faith
 - monument marks the battle
 - wounded Apollyon moved to the next valley
- **Valley of the Shadow of Death**
 - easier because they had daylight & a conductor
 - difficulty of valley depends on the pilgrim's state of mind, health, spirits, education, etc.
 - James becomes sick (with fear)
 - Christiana has the bottle of spirits and pills from Mr. Skill
 - James revives
 - Lion behind them
 - Great-heart puts himself between the lions & the women/children
 - lion came no further; couldn't sneak up unawares
 - A Pit with a great mist
 - darkness
 - them *"that walketh in darkness, and hath no light? let him trust in the name of the Lord, and stay upon his God" (Isaiah 50:10)*
 - they prayed & God sent light
 - Samuel: "If ever I get out here again, I think I shall prize light and good way better than ever I did in all my life."
 - snares
 - Heedless (flesh torn) had fallen in the ditch (left side)
 - cave
 - Giant Maul
 - * lived in the cave of Pagan & Pope
 - * spoiled pilgrims with sophistry
 - + maul = heavy, long-handled hammer OR to injure by beating

- + sophistry "convincing but misleading arguments"
- * Catholicism had reared its ugly head, becoming more powerful through James II
- * falsely accuses Great-heart of kidnaping
- * fought with Great-heart for about an hour
- + knocks Great-heart down with his club (subtle arguments)
- * Great-heart prayed & was able to kill Giant Maul

- **Vanity Fair**

- stayed at the house of Mr. Mnason (an old disciple)
- there are now some honest people in this town
- neighbors are "more moderate"
 - the blood of Faithful causes them to be ashamed
 - pilgrims aren't burned anymore
 - Christians of this town don't have to hide anymore
- **Monster**
 - like no beast on the earth
 - body like a dragon
 - it had seven heads & ten horns
 - great havoc of children
 - havoc = widespread destruction
 - governed by a woman
 - Bunyan references Revelation 17:3
 - "MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS" (verse 5)
 - this beast is the 8th beast (verse 11) made up of all the other 7 beasts
 - monster propounded (put forth for consideration) conditions to men of the town
 - men who loved their lives more than their souls accepted these conditions
 - slew people of the town & carried away their children
 - Great-heart & others tried to kill this serpent
 - caused him to retreat
 - continually assaulted him
 - in time, he became wounded & lame
 - couldn't cause the trouble he had caused before
 - some believe he will (in time) die of his wounds

- **By-Path Meadow**

- Great-heart, old Honest & Christiana's four sons (now men) went to fight Giant Despair & tear down Doubting Castle
 - Honest cut down Diffidence with one blow
 - Great-heart was Despair's death
 - demolished the castle
 - found Mr. Despondence & daughter Much-afraid
 - Despair's head was set on a pole by the highway side as a warning
 - "Though Doubting Castle be demolish'd And the Giant Despair hath lost his head, Sin can rebuild the Castle, make't remain, And make Despair the Giant live again."

- **Delectable Mountains**

- large group of people by this time
 - Christiana, sons, sons' wives, old Honest, Ready-to-halt, True-heart, Feeble-mind,

Despondency, Much-afraid,

- The Shepherds (pastors)
 - open the palace door
 - feed the weary pilgrims
 - give them a place to rest
 - show the Pilgrims "some rarities"
 - 1st – what they had shown to Christian
 - 2nd – Mount Marvel
 - * Great-grace's son teaches pilgrims how (by faith) to tumble difficulties out of their way
 - * "believe down" mountains – "say unto this mountain, Be thou removed" (Mark 11:23)
 - 3rd – Mount Innocent
 - * Prejudice & Ill-will throwing dirt on a man dressed in white
 - * the dirt would fall off & his garments were as clean as before
 - * this is Godly-man
 - * men such as Prejudice & Ill-will labor in vain
 - 4th – Mount Charity
 - * man is making cloths out of a bundle of cloth
 - + bundle of cloth never gives out
 - + just as the widow's barrel never gave out when she gave to the Prophet
 - + he who labors for the poor will never "want"
 - 5th – Fool & Want-wit
 - * washing an Ethiopian to make his skin white
 - * meaning: all efforts by a vile man to make a good name will only make that name more "abominable" (e.g. Pharisees & hypocrites)
 - + the folly of reforming one's actions without having a heart change
 - By-Way to Hell
 - * Mercy desired to look in
- **Looking Glass**
 - hanging in the dining room of Palace Beautiful
 - look one way & see oneself
 - look another way & see the Prince of Pilgrims
 - it's the Word of God
 - Mercy longed for this Looking Glass
 - the true believer longs for the Word
- **Valiant-for-truth**
 - standing where Little-faith was robbed
 - sword drawn, bloody
 - attacked by three men
 - Wild-head, Inconsiderate & Pragmatic
 - they fought with Valiant & fled
 - Great-heart: "here was great odds, three against one"
 - "it is nothing to him that has the truth on his side; how many did Samson slay with the jawbone of an ass?"
- **Enchanted Ground**
 - great mist fell over them; they walked not by sight

- Great-heart has a map and a light
- map shows a turn to the right
- by following the map, they avoided a pit (made on purpose to destroy pilgrims)
- found a beautiful inn for resting
 - called "The Slothful's Friend"
 - resisted temptation
- another arbor
 - two men were lying within
 - Heedless & Too-bold
 - tried to wake up these pilgrims
 - shook them
 - they talked in their sleep but didn't wake up
 - "when men talk in their sleep, they say anything, but their words are not governed either by faith or reason"
- **Stand-fast**
 - on his knees with hands & eyes lifted up, speaking earnestly to God
 - got up & begin to run toward the Celestial City
 - asked why he was on his knees
 - tempted by Madam Bubble (mistress of the world)
 - very tired & hard to resist her temptations
 - fell to his knees and prayed for help
 - at this time Great-heart & others arrived
 - rightly named Bubble – no substance to her (just as a bubble – you reach out to grab it and it pops)
- **Land of Beulah**
 - rested & were refreshed
 - a message came from the Celestial City for Christiana
 - "the Master calleth for thee"
 - she made ready to leave (set her house in order)
 - the road was full of people to see her journey on
 - "I come, Lord, to be with Thee, and bless Thee"

Main Characters:

1. **Christiana**
2. **Mercy**
3. **Great-heart**
4. **Matthew**
5. **Samuel**
6. **Joseph**
7. **James**
8. **Despondency**
9. **Much-afraid**
10. **Valiant-for-truth**