

Appendix

1. Biography

John Bunyan was born on November, 1628 in Elstow, England. He was the son of a brazier, a travelling tinker. He tells us that his parents put him to school, where he learned to read and write, “according to the rate of other poor men’s children,” and he followed his father’s trade. It seems that good fortune has not come to Bunyan. In his miserable life, his mother died on June, **1664** and it was followed by his sister’s death. He was very sad and his emotion was very “labil”. Soon after that, he joined the army as a soldier. As a soldier of Cromwell who holds the Puritan’s values, he finally formed a new personality for himself.

In **1675**, he was imprisoned in Bedford, the result of refusing to declare formal allegiance to Charles II and the Church of England. While serving this particular sentence, Bunyan produced his most significant piece of prose, The Pilgrim’s Progress. His creative fever ultimately led to his crowning literary achievement at the end of his imprisonment. It was as if all the conflicting desires within his soul, the swirling ideals and memories in his mind, and the genius faith found in his heart were projected outwards in the form of an allegorical journey to heaven full of characters of every type, titled The Pilgrim’s Progress.

Bunyan died on August 31, **1688**, at the London house of his friend, John Strudwick, a grocer and Chandler. He was buried in Bunhill Fields, the burial ground of London Dissenters.

2. Synopsis

Christian seeks a way of escape from the destruction impending for his city. He tries to impress his wife and children with the fate awaiting them if they do not escape with him, but all to no purpose, so he sets off on his own. Pliable, one of his neighbors, accompanies him. Outside the city Evangelist shows him the way, pointing out a Wicket-Gate he should make for. The first difficulty that they find is The Slough of Despond. In this place, Pliable scrambles out and runs back home, leaving Christian alone. His burden weighed him down so that he finds it heavier, but while he is striving a man called Help appears, gives him a hand and sets him on firm ground. In a short time, Christian meets Mr. Worldly-Wiseman who after some talk with him, tells him an easy way to be rid of his burden. He recommends Christian to go to an expert in relieving people of their burdens – Mr. Legality, of the village of Morality, and directs him to his house. But on the way, Christian notices that the hill by which he is walking seems to overhang dangerously, and flashes of fire leaps from it. Evangelist explains to Christian why the counsel of Mr. Worldly-Wiseman is to be abhorred, but ultimately bids him God-speed with a smile and assures him that he would be received at the Wicket-gate. He sees Cross, and just as he comes up to it, his burden falls from his shoulders and rolls down into a Sepulchre. In the Valley of Humiliation, Christian has a fierce fight with the foul fiend Apollyon. After this, Christian meets his neighbor, Faithful and they exchange experiences as they walk along.

Presently the two pilgrims see the town of Vanity Fair before them, a large and old-established fair. Their clothing and speech in the Fair cause a commotion, so

that they are brought to ` as distributes of the peace. In this Fair, Faithful is dead but his death is not in vain. Among those whom his example inspired to go on pilgrimage is one Hopeful, who soon joins himself to Christian.

In order to get into the Celestial City the Pilgrims has to cross the River **of** Death, over which there is no bridge. Eventually they both cross to the other side and are led to the gate of the City. Nearer to the gate a company of the heavenly host come out to greet them. At the gate they hand in their certificates and the King commands that they should be admitted. As they enter they are transfigured and clothed in **shining** raiment, and **all** the bells of the City ring again for joy.