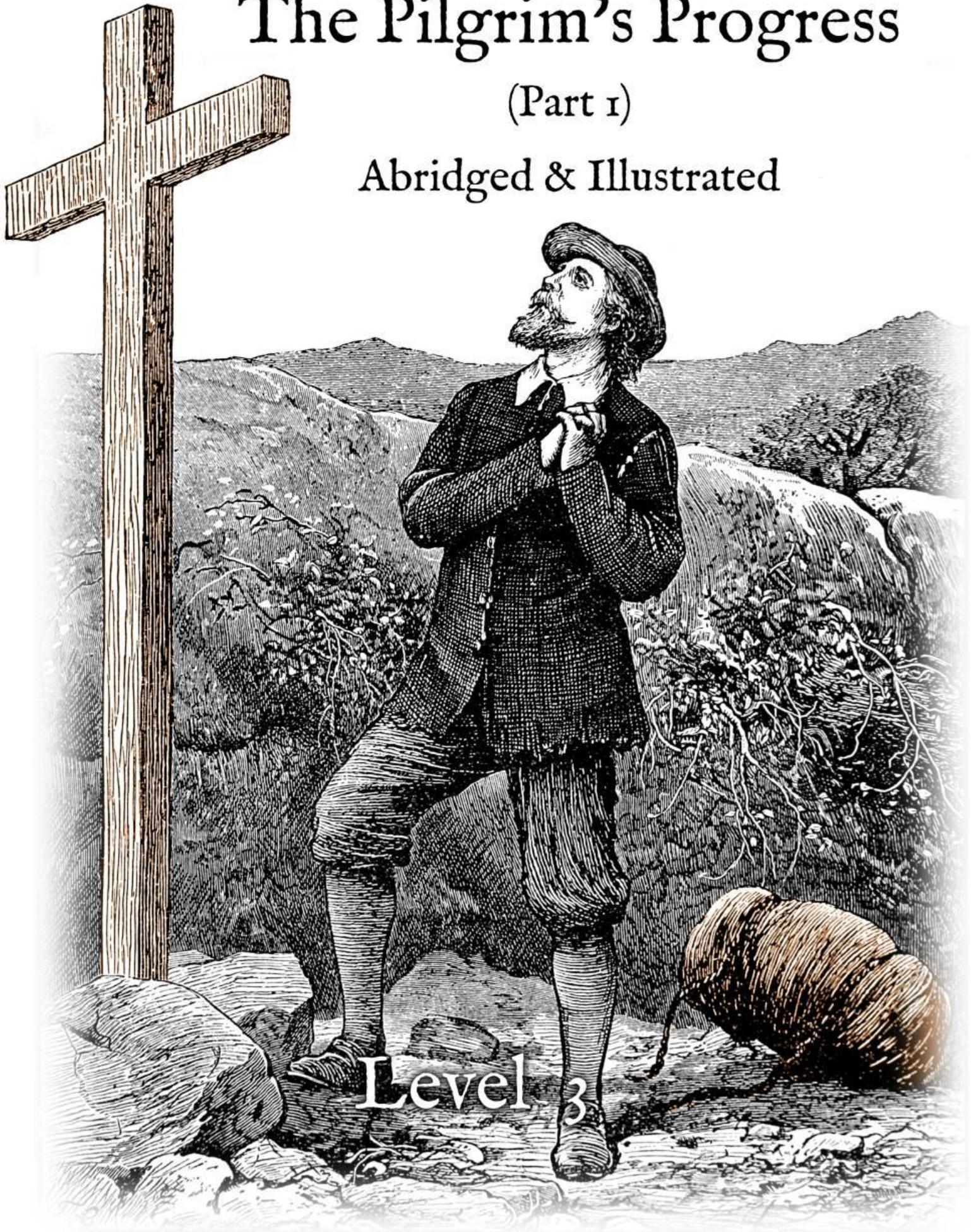


The Pilgrim's Progress

(Part 1)

Abridged & Illustrated



Level 3

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The Pilgrim's Progress was written by John Bunyan in 1678.
This version was simplified by Greenfield Education.

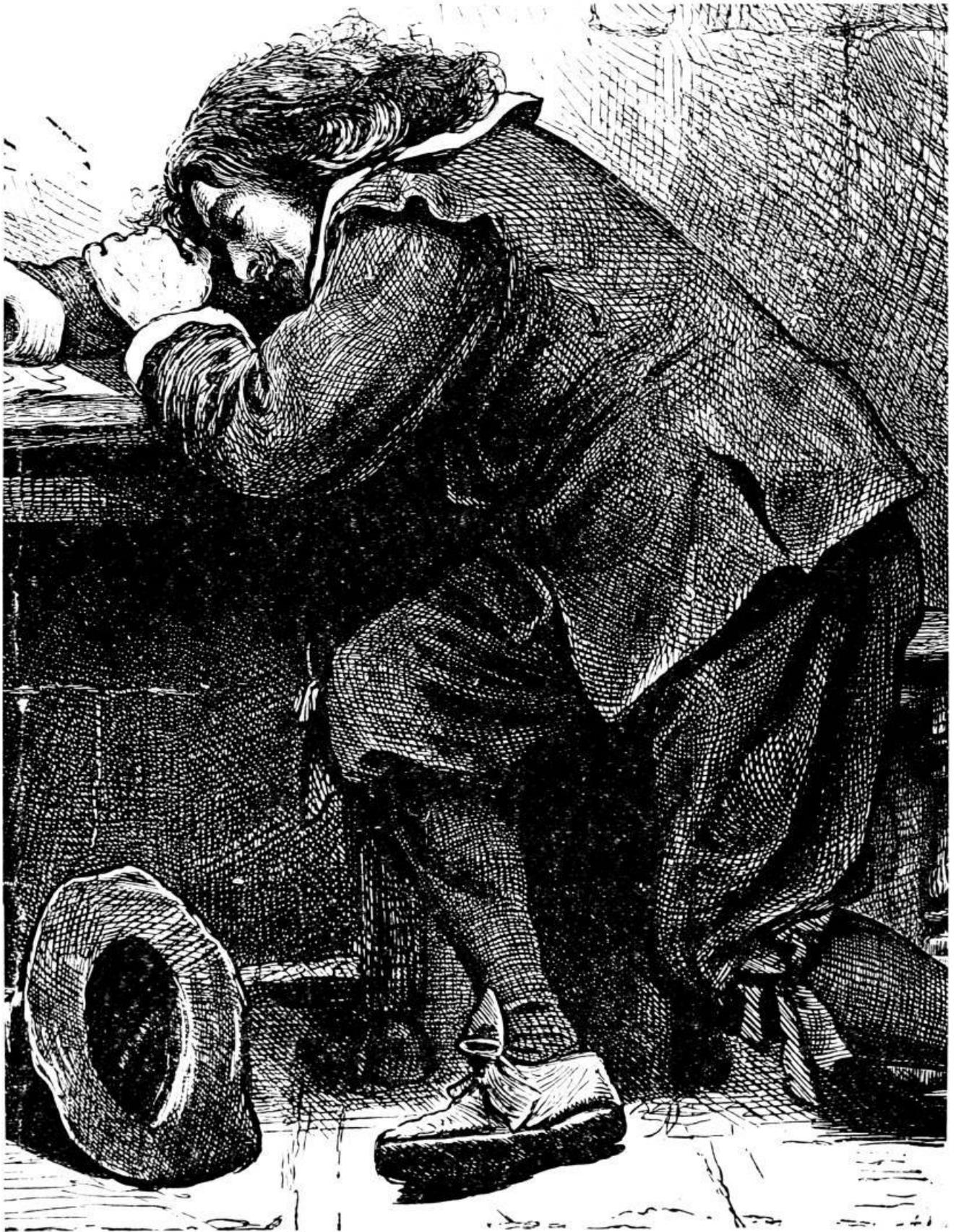
The Author's Defense for His Book

*When I began to write this little book,
A very different story it did look.
I did not think I'd write an allegory
Where right and wrong are mixed inside a story.*

*Some people said I should not write this way;
They think I have no useful thing to say.
But if you look inside the Word of God,
You'll see that metaphors are not so odd.*

*This book is full of fables, it is true,
But if you take the time to think them through,
A greater truth beneath them you will find,
Which will instruct your heart and soul and mind.*

*This book will make a traveler of you,
If you like Christian flee destruction too.
It will direct you to the holy place
That only can be reached by saving grace.*



The Pilgrim's Progress: In the Similitude of a Dream

As I walked through the wilderness, I came to a place where I found a shelter. And I laid down and slept. And as I slept, I dreamed a dream.

In my dream, I saw a man clothed in rags. He was facing away from his house. He had a book in his hand, and he had a great burden upon his back.¹ As I watched him, he opened the book and read it. While he read, he wept and trembled. Finally, he tearfully cried out, "What should I do?"²



Then he went home, and he tried to not cry around his wife and children. But at last, he could not hold his grief in. He talked to his wife and children.

"Oh my dear wife," he said, "and you, my children. I am miserable because of this burden on my back. And not only that, I have learned that our city will be burned with fire from Heaven. We will all be destroyed unless we can find a way to escape. But I don't know where we can escape to.

When his family heard this, they were shocked. They were not shocked because they believed him but because they thought he was dreadfully sick.

They hoped that sleep might make him feel better, so they got him to bed. But he was just as sad in the night as he was in the day. Instead of sleeping, he spent the night crying.

1 Isaiah 64:6; Luke 14:33; Psalm 38:4; Habakkuk 2:2; Acts 16:30-31

2 Acts 2:37

In the morning, they asked him how he felt. He told them, "Worse!" Then he tried to talk to them again, but they wouldn't listen to him. They thought maybe they could get him to snap out of it by yelling at him. But that didn't work. So, they ignored him. But he would just go to his room where he prayed for them. Sometimes, he would walk outside in the fields alone. While he walked, he prayed and read his book. He did this for several days.

One day, when he was walking in the fields and reading in his book, he was even more distressed than usual. Suddenly he cried out, "What should I do to be saved?"



I also saw that he looked back and forth trying to figure out where he could escape to. But while he looked, I saw a man named Evangelist come to him and ask, "Why are you crying?"³

He answered, "Sir, this book tells me that I am condemned to die and after that to be judged!"⁴

Then Evangelist said, "Why are you standing still?"

He answered, "Because I don't know where to go."

Then Evangelist gave him a scroll with the words written, "Flee from the wrath to come."⁵

The man read it and then said, "Where can I flee to?"

3 Job 33:23

4 Hebrews 9:27

5 Matthew 3:7



Then he pointed to a wide field and said, "Do you see a wicket-gate?"⁶

6 Matthew 7:13-14

The man said, "No."

"Do you see a shining light?"⁷

He said, "I think so."

Then Evangelist said, "Keep looking at that light, and go there directly. At the gate, when you knock, someone will tell you how to get to the Heavenly City."

*Dear Christian leaves his home and meets a man
Who helps him like no other person can.
He tells him how to flee the wrath of God
By showing him the narrow path to trod.*

⁷ Psalm 119:105; 2 Peter 1:19

Obstinate and Pliable

So I saw in my dream that the man began to run.

Now, before he had run far from his house, his wife and children saw him and shouted at him make him return. But the man put his fingers in his ears and ran on. As he ran, he shouted, “Life! Life! Eternal life!”¹ So he ran towards the middle of the plain and didn’t look back.²

Some of his neighbors also came out to see him run.³ As he ran, some mocked, others threatened, and some shouted at him to get him to come back. Two men decided to try to bring him back by force. One was named Obstinate, and the other was named Pliable. Now, by this time, the man was a long way away, but they were determined to bring him back and ran until they caught him.

Then the man said, “Neighbors, why are you following me?”

They said, “To get you to come back with us.”

But he said, “I won’t come back! I was born in this city, the City of Destruction, and I know that it will be destroyed. All who live there will die and, sooner or later, sink into a place that burns with fire and brimstone. Why don’t you come with me instead?”

“What!” said Obstinate, “and leave our friends and our comforts behind?”

“Yes,” said Christian (for that was the man’s name), “because that all that you leave is not worthy to be compared with even a little of what I am seeking to find.⁴ And if you will go along with me, you will receive the same thing. Where I am going, there is more than enough.⁵ Come, and see for yourselves.”

“What things will you find,” said Obstinate, “since you are leaving all the world to find them?”

1 Luke 14:26

2 Genesis 19:17

3 Jeremiah 20:10

4 2 Corinthians 4:18

5 Luke 15:17



“I seek a reward that cannot be destroyed and that will never fade away.⁶ It is safely stored up in the Heavenly City⁷ to be given to those that diligently seek it. You can read about it in my book if you want.”

“Bah! I don’t care about your book. Will you go back with us?”

“No, I won’t,” said Christian, “because I have put my hand on the plow.”⁸

“Come on, Pliable. Let’s go home without him. You can’t reason with people like this.”

Then Pliable said, “Don’t judge too quickly. If what Christian says is true, the things he looks for are better than ours. I think I will go with him.”

“What! You too! Listen to me. Who knows where this freak will lead you? Be wise, and come back.”

Then Christian said, “No, come with me, Pliable. You’ve just begun to hear about the wonderful things that I am looking for. If you don’t believe me, read about them in this book. The truths in this book have been confirmed by the blood of Him that wrote it.”⁹

“Well, neighbor Obstinate,” said Pliable, “I intend to go with this good man. But, Christian, are you sure you know how to get there?”

“Evangelist told me where to go. He said I will receive more instructions at a gate a little ways ahead.”



6 1 Peter 1:4

7 Hebrews 11:16

8 Luke 9:62

9 Hebrews 9:17-22; 13:20

“Well then, good neighbor, let’s go.”

So, those two went on together. Obstinate, on the other hand, went back, not wanting to associate with fanatics.

Now, I saw in my dream, that when Obstinate was gone back, Christian and Pliable talked as they walked through the plain together.

“I am glad you decided to come with me, Pliable. If Obstinate had felt the terror that I have felt, he wouldn’t have turned back so quickly.”

“Now that we are alone, tell me more about what things are ahead of us.”

“It’s hard to even talk about how wonderful they are. The things of God are unspeakable, but since you want to know, I’ll read some of my book to you.”

“Are you sure the words in that book are true?”

“Yes, for it was written by Him that cannot lie.”¹⁰

“I see. Well, what does it say?”

“There we will live forever in the kingdom of God.”¹¹

“Wow! What else?”

“There we will be given crowns and glory. We will also have clothes that shine like the sun.”¹²

“That sounds wonderful. What else?”

“There will be no more crying or sadness because the King of that place will wipe all tears from our eyes.”¹³

“Who else will live there?”

10 Titus 1:2

11 Isaiah 45:17; John 10:28–29

12 2 Timothy 4:8; Revelation 3:4; Matthew 13:43

13 Isaiah 25:6–8; Revelation 7:17; 21:4

“There we will be with the angels, who will dazzle your eyes to look on them.¹⁴ There will also be millions of others who have gone before us to that place. No one there is evil. Everyone is loving and holy. There they walk in the sight of God and stand before Him.¹⁵ There we will see the elders with their golden crowns.¹⁶ And there we will see the men and women that were killed because of their love for God. They are all happy there and live for ever.¹⁷

The Pliable said, “Just hearing about this makes me excited. But how do we get to share in these things?”

“The Lord, the King of the City, has promised to give it freely to those who seek it.”¹⁸

“I’m glad to hear these things, Christian. Come on, let’s hurry.”

“I’m trying, Pliable, but I cannot go as fast as I want to because of this burden that is on my back.”

14 Isaiah 6:2

15 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; Revelation 5:11

16 Revelation 4:4

17 John 12:25; 2 Corinthians 5:4

18 Romans 3:24; Matthew 7:7-8



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