

Pilgrim's Progress

The Lifting of the Burden

By John Bunyan

The Pilgrim's Progress from this world — to that which is to come, in the similitude of a dream

Retold for Children and Adapted to School Reading, by James Baldwin, 1913

Now I saw in my dream, that Christian went on slowly and with great difficulty. For the road was *steep*, and the burden on his back was very *heavy*.

But he toiled on until he came to a hill upon which there was a *Cross*; and at the foot of the hill there was a sepulcher. So, as he climbed the hill and came up to the cross, behold, his *burden* fell from his shoulders and began to tumble; and it rolled downward till it came to the mouth of the sepulcher, where it fell in, and I saw it no more!

Oh, how merry of heart was Christian then. He stood for a while to look and wonder; for it seemed very strange that the sight of the Cross should thus ease him from his burden.

And as he wondered and wept, he saw *three Shining Ones* — who saluted him and said, "Peace be to you."

The first said to him, "I give you a pure heart."

The second stripped him of his rags and clothed him in beautiful garments.

The third set a mark on his forehead, and gave him a *little book* with a seal upon it. "Keep this book with care," he said, "and read in it often as you journey onward. When you come to the Celestial City — show it to the keeper of the gate; it shall be your *passport*."

So the Shining Ones vanished from sight. And Christian was so filled with joy that he leaped three times into the air and then went on, singing —

"Thus far did I come With my burden of sin, And nothing could ease The grief I was in.

But when I came hither The burden I lost; And I found peace and joy At the foot of the cross!"

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