

**THE STORY OF THE
WANDERER: A
SCRIPTURAL ALLEGORY**

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The Story of the Wanderer: A Scriptural Allegory by Anonymous

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ANONYMOUS

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WANDERER: A
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THE
STORY OF THE WANDERER,

A SCRIPTURAL ALLEGORY,

SHOWING

HOW HE LEFT HIS HOME,
HOW HE SOJOURNED IN THE CITY OF EARTHLY-DELIGHT,
HOW HE TRADED IN THE TOWN OF MANSMERT,
HOW HE FARED IN THE FAR COUNTRY,
AND HOW HE RETURNED.

BY

THE AUTHOR OF "DOWN IN DINGYSHIRE"

WITH EIGHT ILLUSTRATIONS.



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P R E F A C E .

An endeavour to present Divine truth under a figurative form needs no apology, for it has the sanction of Divine precedent. Nevertheless, some few words may not be altogether uncalled for, as a preface to the present work. For any allegory, which sets forth a spiritual history under the emblem of a journey, necessarily seems to occupy ground already sufficiently occupied by the *Pilgrim's Progress*; and its author is consequently bound to attempt to justify his presumption.

The writer would therefore venture to point out, in the first place, that John Bunyan's inimitable parable—inimitable both in design and execution—does not exhaust the earthly history of the believer. It brings before its readers, with marvellous power, and with a profound knowledge both of the word of God and of the human heart, the heavenward struggles of the converted sinner. But it hardly touches upon that portion of the history of the redeemed soul which precedes its reception of a lively faith.

And further. Holy Scripture only indirectly sets forth the life of the Christian under the emblem of a pilgrimage; whereas it brings before us continually,

and under many forms, the idea of a child who, having wandered away from the home of a Father's love, is by His grace brought back again. This idea everywhere underlies the sacred record of God's dealings with His covenant Israel; it comes conspicuously forward in the threefold parable of the strayed sheep, the lost coin, and the prodigal son.

The pages which succeed this are therefore meant to be regarded as an attempt to expand this idea, with especial reference to the last of the similitudes just mentioned; and not as in any way presuming to compete — however inefficiently — with the *Pilgrim's Progress*. They seem to the writer to travel altogether upon other lines, and if in any way they are connected with that precious parable, to have only a supplementary or prefatory connection.

May the Author of the Divine framework, in which an imperfect human picture is thus set, bless its teachings, to the glory of His name and the extension of His kingdom!

THE
STORY OF THE WANDERER.

CHAP. I.

INCONSTANT'S EDUCATION, HOME, AND FRIENDS.

As you go down from the heights of Celestial Glory, and draw near to Humanity Plains, you cannot fail to observe the renowned mansion of Zion Towers. The house itself is four-square, built upon twelve foundations, which are joined into one single corner-stone. Its very stones are precious, and of a rich sardine colour, picked out by the builder one by one, and from many quarters. It has upper and lower chambers, court-yards refreshed by perpetual fountains, a banqueting-room hung with banners, store-rooms filled with provisions, resting-places in quiet recesses for the weary, and a library of the choicest for the studious. Upon the front of the building shine the early rays of the morning sun, and its hinder windows look up the moun-

tain. All around are fertile and spreading meadows, watered by pleasant streams, and pastured by innumerable flocks of sheep. In that and this direction may be seen folds wherein the sheep may lie, but all within sight and sound of the shepherd's homestead. A garden enclosed encircles the house; and therein, by reason that it lies in a south land, sloping to a warm sun, and sheltered to the rear by the lofty mountains of Grace (at the foot of which the mansion itself stands), all manner of lovely flowers abound, as also sweet-scented herbs and delicate-tasted fruits. Very pleasant is it to wander through this garden, and various and enchanting is the prospect thence. On the one side you may behold Humanity Plains, dotted with populous cities, and alive with a perpetual activity. On the other side, you are refreshed by the quiet beauty of the solemn hills, and sometimes (when the wind is southerly) you may even catch a distant glimpse—far away—of the heights of Celestial Glory. Beautiful for situation, and the joy of the whole earth, is Zion Towers. The mountains stand around her, and under her is the Rock of Ages.

In this mansion of Zion Towers dwelt one while the two sons of its owner, under the care of certain appointed guardians. It may perchance occasion some surprise that so magnificent a mansion, not to speak of the children themselves, should thus be left to the care of deputed stewards, however able and trustworthy. But grave reasons exist for the course adopted, and without enquiring into these, it is

sufficient here to observe that Zion Towers is but one of its Owner's innumerable possessions, and that a perfect code of rules for ordinary use, as well as a system of rapid communication with the Master of the domain, enable His will on all occasions to be at once ascertained.

The characters of the brothers thus dwelling in Zion Towers were entirely unlike. Fairseeming, who was by some years the oldest, had been sent by his guardians to the famous academy of Dr. Prudence, in the town of Manserit, and thence had proceeded to the college of St. Severus. Throughout all his educational courses, whether at school or college, his conduct had been without stain, nor was he slow to remember this, and ever and anon to speak of it openly. The great advantages which he had thus enjoyed in his early life had also qualified him to hold expert disputations, and to propound correct opinions on all subjects with a scrupulous exactitude. Nor was he behindhand in the matters of common life. He had a pretty turn for building, and a good eye for land and cattle. His foresight had already extended the property some distance into Humanity Plains, and he had succeeded in producing a cross-breed between the sheep and the goat which had been much admired by competent judges, and of which he was naturally proud. The tenants of the estate therefore regarded this young gentleman with a favourable eye, and were not unwilling, in the case of one so practical, to pardon a certain absence of the warmer affections, and an occasional harshness of manner. The servants also, to whom he was by