

THE PILGRIM'S PROBLEM

A One-Act Play

by
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PROPERTIES: 3 Chairs or a bench, Bible, stuffed trash bag, rope, apple, two wastebaskets, business card, hood.

CHARACTERS: Narrator - M or F Carla Nallity - F
 Christian - M Mr. Fair-To-See - M
 Evangelist - M Pride - M or F
 Guide - F Hypocrisy - M or F

(Scene opens with Christian, the stuffed trash bag tied to his back, finding the Bible on the floor, picking it up and reading it.)

NARRATOR: (Offstage) This man lives in the City of Destruction, in the middle of a wilderness that is surrounded by mountains. One day he found a book that disturbed him greatly.

CHRISTIAN: (Yelling) What will I do?! (Enter Evangelist)

EVANGELIST: Why are you yelling?

CHRISTIAN: I have found this book, and it tells me that I am doomed to die because of the load here on my back. The book says it is filled with all the evil I have ever done. I have tried to get it off, but I cannot. I must have help, but who can?

EVANGELIST: You must leave the City of Destruction. Accept this Guide, and she will show you the way. She is the only one who can.

(Guide enters, walks to Christian's side)

CHRISTIAN: But where will I go?

EVANGELIST: Your Guide will take you to the Celestial City in the mountains, where all your heart's desires will be fulfilled.

CHRISTIAN: (To Evangelist) At the moment, all I desire is to get this sack off my back. Can you help me?

GUIDE: I will untie it. (Unties the rope and the bag falls to the ground)

NARRATOR: (As Christian stretches) And so for the first time in his life, Christian is able to stand up straight.

CHRISTIAN: This is wonderful! I have never felt so good. I feel like I could fly to the Celestial City.

GUIDE: I am afraid it is a long, hard climb up the mountains before you get there.

EVANGELIST: Yes, but I know you will feel this good from now on. Why don't you wait here? There's a glory-bound Greyhound that passes this way once in awhile. I can't tell you how long you will have to wait, but sooner or later it'll take you where you want to go.

CHRISTIAN: That would be great. Thanks ever so much.

EVANGELIST: Well, I've got to go. I've got a three day crusade over in Hedonism, and I can't be late. It's going to be on television from coast to coast.

CHRISTIAN: What a nice guy! I sure am glad I had the sense to listen to what he had to say. Not many people would have seen the truth in what he said.

GUIDE: I think it is time for us to move on. You have a long way to go.

CHRISTIAN: Yes, (He sits on bench, or chair, center stage behind him) this is the most sensible thing I have ever done. And to think they are sending a bus to take me to the Celestial City. I guess

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somebody realizes how hard I've had to work all my life carrying that burden around. I certainly have done enough work for one lifetime.

GUIDE: (Takes a few steps away) We shouldn't stay here. We are still too close to the City of Destruction.

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