Chapter Seven

The Study, Armory, and Delectable Mountains

In the morning they all got up. After they talked further, they told Christian that he should not leave until they had showed him the rare items that were in the house. First, they brought him into the Study where they showed him very old records. As I remember in my dream, they showed him the genealogy of the Lord of the Hill, that he was the Son of the Ancient of Days and came by eternal generation. Here also were recorded in detail the acts which he had done, the names of hundreds of people whom he had brought into his service, and how he had placed them in homes that could not be destroyed, either by age or decay.

Then they read to him some of the noteworthy acts that some of the Lord’s servants had done. They had “through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies.”

Then they read again in another part of the records where it demonstrated how willing their Lord was to receive into his favor any – again, any - although in their past they had greatly offended him. Here also were several other histories of many other famous things. And Christian got to see them all: things both old and modern; prophecies and predictions that bring dread and amazement to God’s enemies and offer comfort and solace to pilgrims.

The next day they took him into the Armory where they showed him all kinds of protective armor which their Lord had provided for pilgrims: sword, shield, helmet, breastplate, all-prayer, and shoes that would not wear out. There was enough armor here to equip as many people for the service of the Lord as there are stars in the heavens.

They also showed him some of the implements with which some of his servants had done wonderful things. They showed him Moses’ rod; the hammer and nail with which Jael killed Sisera; the pitchers, trumpets, and lamps also with which Gideon routed the armies of Midian. Then they showed him the ox’s goad by which Shamgar killed 600 men. They also showed him the jawbone with which Samson did such mighty deeds. They showed him the sling and stone by which David killed Goliath of Gath and the sword with which their Lord will kill the man of sin, in the day that he engages him in battle. They showed him many excellent things which filled Christian with joy. Having done this, they went to bed for the evening.

1. Heb. 11:33-34.
Then I saw in my dream that in the morning he got up to go on his way. But they encouraged him to stay one more day so they could show him (if the day was clear) the Delectable Mountains. They told him the view would further add to his comfort because the mountains were nearer his destination than where he was at present. So he agreed to stay. In the morning, they took him to the top of the house and told him to look south. So he did. To his amazement, he saw a beautiful mountainous country far in the distance: beautiful with woods, vineyards, fruits of all sorts, and flowers. There were springs and fountains, delightful to behold. Then he asked the name of the country. They said it was Immanuel’s Land and that it belonged to all the pilgrims in the same way that this hill did. “And when you arrive there,” they said, “you will be able to see the gate of the Celestial City. The shepherds who live there will guide you.”

Now he thought about going on his way; and they were in agreement with him. “But first,” they said, “let us go again into the Armory.” So they did. When they came there, they harnessed him from head to foot with the equipment in case he should meet with attacks from the enemy as he traveled on his way. And having put on the full armor of God, he walked out with his friends to the gate and asked the porter if he had seen any pilgrims pass by. The porter answered, “Yes.”

**Chr.** “Did you know him?”

**Watchful, the Porter.** “I asked him his name and he told me it was Faithful.”

**Chr.** “Oh, I know him. He is from my own town; he lived close to me. He comes from the place where I was born. How far do you think he may be ahead of me?”

**Watch.** “By this time he will be at the bottom of the hill.”

**Chr.** “Well, good porter, the Lord be with you and add to all your blessings for the kindness that you have shown to me!”

Then he began to go on his way. **Discretion, Piety, Charity,** and **Prudence** had planned to accompany him down to the foot of the hill. So, they went on together, remembering discussions of the previous days, until they came to the crest of the hill. Then Christian said, “As it was difficult coming up, so (as far as I can see) it is dangerous going down.”

“Yes, it is,” said Prudence. “For it is hard for a man to go down into the Valley of Humiliation, as you are about to do, without slipping. “Therefore,” they said, “we have come with you to accompany you down the hill.” So he began to go down, but very cautiously. Yet, even so, he slipped a couple of times.

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2. “This is the man who will dwell on the heights, whose refuge will be the mountain fortress. His bread will be supplied, and water will not fail him. Your eyes will see the king in his beauty and view a land that stretches afar” (Is. 33:16-17).
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