Chapter Twenty-Five

Ignorance and the King

Now while I was gazing upon all these things, I turned my head to look back and saw Ignorance approach the river. It didn’t take him long to get to the other side, and he didn’t encounter half the difficulty that Christian and Hopeful had. The reason had to do with a ferryman named Vain-hope who helped him over in his boat. So, like the other men, when he came to the other side, he ascended the hill and came up to the gate - only he came alone. No one met him with the least encouragement. When he had come up to the gate he looked at the writing inscribed above him and began to knock, supposing that the entrance would be quickly opened to him. But he was asked by the men who looked over the top of the gate, “From where have you come?” and “What do you want?” He answered, “I have eaten and drunk in the presence of the King, and he has taught in our streets.” Then they asked him for his certificate, so that they might go in and show it to the King. He fumbled in his coat for one but did not find it. Then they said, “Do you not have one?” But the man did not answer one word. So they told the King. He would not come down to see Ignorance but commanded the two Shining Ones, who conducted Christian and Hopeful to the City, to go out and take him, bind him hand and foot, and take him away. Then they took Ignorance and carried him through the air to the door that I had seen in the side of the hill and put him in there. Then I saw that there was a way to hell, even from the gates of heaven, as well as from the City of Destruction.

So I awoke and, behold, it was a dream!