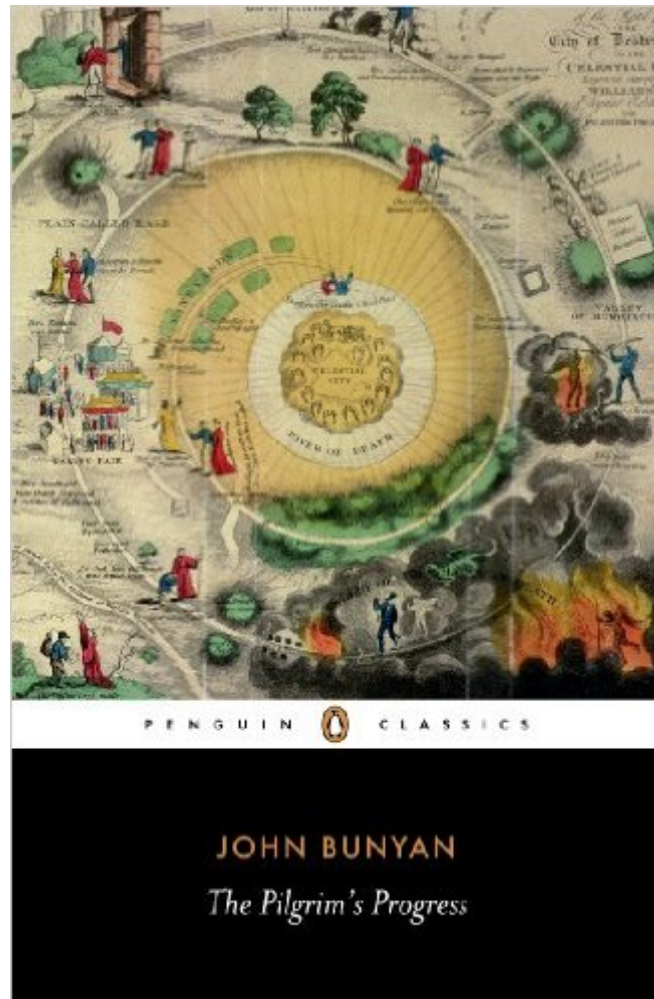


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The Pilgrim's Progress (Penguin Classics)



Synopsis

A new edition of one of the greatest allegorical stories ever written—A masterpiece of the English Puritan tradition, *The Pilgrim's Progress* is rich in its imaginative power and its vivid and heartfelt language. It recounts the story of Christian, who appears to the author in a dream, and his journey to Heaven through the trials and tribulations of life. He meets many like-minded pilgrims on his way, such as Faithful and Hopeful, but before they attain their goal they encounter the Giant Despair and the River of Death itself. Translated into more than one hundred languages, *The Pilgrim's Progress* continues to have an immeasurable influence on English literature. For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (726 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

I was originally going to title this review, "I Can't Believe I Liked This Book!" I started reading *The Pilgrim's Progress* as part of a quest to read history's great novels. After making my way through Cervantes's *Don Quixote* (which took me 82 days), I began reading *The Pilgrim's Progress* in small chunks, and got through the first 100 pages or so in about two weeks... And then I stopped. Four months later, I resumed my quest. This time, I committed myself to reading in longer blocks of time.

After all, *The Pilgrim's Progress* consists of two ~130-page Parts, neither of which is broken down into smaller chapter units, so stopping and starting seriously disrupts the flow. Still, I was having difficulty. The language is so archaic and the allegories are particularly hard to follow for someone (such as myself) with virtually no background in Biblical studies. But then a funny thing happened: in attempting to demonstrate the difficulty of the language to my wife, I began reading aloud... And then everything started to sink in, for me! I offer this as a tip to anyone else who at first has trouble getting into the book. Prior to my experiment with reading aloud, I would often find myself needing to go back and re-read a paragraph or even a half-page. This is not a book that you can read casually -- you must be in deep concentration while reading. The payoff, however, is definitely worth it. This is a tale, after all, that has stood the test of time: the most influential English-language book in all of Christendom. The story of the more-famous First Part centers around Christian, who was formerly known as Graceless.

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