

DRAMA (1): WITH THE SHEPHERDS

Cast: Narrator, Christian, Shepherd, Hopeful, Miss Stake and Mr Smug

Props: **The Door in the Hillside artwork** (*printed and enlarged and put where it can be seen*)

Binoculars - called spyglass (if you don't have binoculars, shape your hands around your eyes to look like binoculars)

Christian: (*Turning to the shepherd*)
Where exactly are we?

Shepherd:
On the King's territory, sir, on the Delectable Mountains. The sheep you see are the King's sheep and we are the King's shepherds.

Hopeful:
Are we going the right way for the Golden City?

Shepherd:
You are, if you don't turn aside from it.

Christian:
How much further is it?

Shepherd:
Too far – except for those who get there.

Hopeful:
Is the way ahead safe?

Shepherd:
Safe for those who come to no harm.

Narrator:
Christian smiled wanly and scratched his head. He did not venture to ask about a bed for the night; he was not sure he would understand the answer.

The shepherds invite them to stay at their home. On the way down the hill they pass a gate in the hillside....it looks frightening. There is a chute of blackness and a tunnel falling away into nothingness....a fast route to nowhere.

Shepherd:
Many's the Pilgrim who comes within sight of the Golden City only to end his journey there. (*Shepherd points to the door in the hillside picture*)

Hopeful:
Are we within sight of the Golden City?

Shepherd:

You can see it from here with the help of this spyglass...here...see for yourselves.
(Shepherd passes the spyglass to them to have a look)

Narrator:

The shepherd passes the spyglass to them. They are so excited to have the opportunity for a glimpse of the City of Gold, but are disappointed because they cannot see it clearly...all they can see is a brightness.

They arrive at the shepherd's home, which is beside a bubbling brook. The beds have warm, clean fleeces on them...there is broth cooking over a turf fire. Two other Pilgrims look up when Christian and Hopeful enter. Christian recognises them immediately - Mr Smug and Miss Stake. Hopeful had never met them.

Christian: *(Turning to Mr Smug and Miss Stake)*

How are you? I was worried when you went in the wrong direction at the hill.

Mr Smug: *(as smug as ever)*

The important thing was to be on the way. It doesn't really matter how you get there.

Christian:

Have you got your Scrolls yet for the Golden City?

Miss Stake:

I am a good woman and there is no need for a Scroll. I will get in all right.

Narrator:

Next morning...Hopeful and Christian rose early and wanted to get going before the other two were awake, but the shepherd advised them differently.

Shepherd:

There are dangerous gangs of robbers on the way...it would be better to travel together.

Narrator:

The shepherd goes on to tell them of the King's Champions, who everyone fears. He tells them that when Pilgrims are in trouble they need only whistle and the King's Champions will come to their aid.

He goes on to tell the story of Little Faith who was attacked and beaten. Fortunately, she had her Scroll sewn inside her coat otherwise it would have been stolen from her. She could have whistled for the King's Champions, but she didn't have enough faith.

Christian thought about Little Faith; he didn't think he was good enough or had enough faith either. Hopeful wasn't sure...but she was certain that Faithful would have summoned the King's Champions for help...if he was here.

Mr Smug is in no doubt...he is so sure that the King's Champions will be ready and waiting for him at any time. So he whistles for their help even when he doesn't need it.

He gets more than he bargained for...as the King's Champions come...more than one of them...and carry him away in chains. They deposit him in the Door in the Hillside.

When Christian and Hopeful see this they are shocked and sorry for Mr Smug, but Miss Stake couldn't care less and is doubly sure she will be OK.

(End of Drama)