PREFACE

Readers of literature are quite aware that the quest for salvation and spirituality is a recurring theme in English literature. John Bunyan’s three narratives *Grace Abounding to the Chief of Sinners, The Pilgrim’s Progress* and *The Holy War* may be termed his ‘spiritual trilogy’ for the simple reason that the central focus in all the three narratives is Bunyan’s undying quest for salvation and spirituality. While the narratives are obviously dissimilar in form, beneath them can be easily discerned, the presence of a particular salvation acting as the generative force of their spiritual impact and providing the spiritual materials which are transformed to make up specific narrative plots.

A closer reading shows that the ‘spiritual trilogy’ is a translation into literary art, into literary termiology, and a bold proclamation of the wonderfully comprehensive message of salvation contained in the scriptures.

In spite of his stress on election, Bunyan sounds more a humanitarian advocating salvation to all who are willing even if they be the chief of sinners, than a Calvinist advocating election or predestination, or a sectarian advocating salvation for a few.

A theological and literary comparative analysis renders the three works as wholesome narratives and literary pieces with a definite teleology, and not failures of a great ambition.

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