

Contents

Figures | vii

Acknowledgments | ix

Conventions | xi

Introduction | 1

Chapter 1:

The Poetics of the Last Pilgrimage

Approximating eternity in the works

of John Donne, Sir Walter Raleigh, and George Herbert | 21

Soteriology, Eschatology, and the Hermeneutics

of Figurative Language | 23

Early Modern Pastoral Care:

ars moriendi literature and the pilgrimage to eternity | 27

John Donne's Holy Sonnet No. 6 | 32

Sir Walter Raleigh's "The Passionate mans Pilgrimage" | 44

The Last Pilgrimage in George Herbert's Poetry | 54

Chapter 2:

"streight way on that last long voiage"

Edmund Spenser's *The Faerie Queene*

and the trajectory of the last pilgrimage | 73

Metaphor, Allegory, and Anagogy in Faerieland | 82

Wandering in Faerieland: defining the last pilgrimage *ex negativo* | 86

The House of Holinesse as a Springboard to Eternity? | 104

Redcrosse's Vision of His Last Pilgrimage

and Its Effects on Earthly Life | 122

The *Cantos of Mutabilitie* as an Ambiguous Access

to Restful Eternity | 127

Chapter 3:

“a death like sleep, / A gentle wafting to immortal Life”

Pilgrimages to eternity in John Milton's *Areopagitica*, *Paradise Lost*, and *Paradise Regain'd* | 137

“new enlightn'd steps”:

Areopagitica and the collective pilgrimage to Truth Divine | 137

“Wandering this darksome Desart”:

Satan's pilgrimage to God's light

and the Fall of Adam and Eve in *Paradise Lost* | 149

“to choose / Thir place of rest . . . / with wandering steps and slow”:

Pilgrimage negotiations in *Paradise Lost*

to palliate the pangs of death | 163

“yet only stood'st / Unshaken”:

Steadfastness as the path to the Kingdoms of Grace and of Glory

in the wilderness of *Paradise Regain'd* | 173

Conclusion:

John Bunyan's *The Pilgrim's Progress*

Recurring topoi on the pilgrimage to eternity | 195

Bibliography | 221

Primary Sources | 221

Biblical Sources | 227

Secondary Sources | 228