

Pilgrim, the pioneer traveller of earth, Who descended from Heaven to come to the aid of man. Having been his companion in mortal guise during His Human life, the divine Raphael accompanies him still under the form of the Blessed Sacrament, to point out to him the road to Heaven, to lessen the fatigue of the journey and to guard him from the perils of the way. And the loving and tender guidance of Jesus will never fail, but will endure until the end of time, until the last pilgrim in this valley of tears shall have crossed its boundaries of shadow and entered into the eternal Home. It is difficult to divide the story of Tobias into distinct parts. We will, therefore, relate it in detail, pausing at each important incident, where the radiant likeness of Jesus shines through the features of the Archangel. Such is indeed the intention of the heavenly messenger. "Thank God", he says, when Tobias falls at his feet overcome with gratitude; "It is He to Whom praise is due. I am but His shadow and the instrument of His will, and thy praise should rise to Him alone." *Ipsium benedicite et cantate illi.*

Nevertheless, to impress upon our readers the comparison between this mission of Raphael and the loving and tender mission of Jesus we bid them notice:

- 1st. The connection between the journey of Tobias, undertaken to secure an earthly treasure of which he is the rightful heir, and the Journey of Life, the end of which is the acquisition of the treasure of eternal felicity;
- 2nd. How necessary it is for us, as it was for Tobias, to have a faithful guide, and how Jesus, far more truly than Raphael, is the Guide we need.

One must notice also, in the course of the story, how manifest it is that the graces accorded to Tobias by his celestial companion are far inferior to those we receive from Jesus in the course of our lives, if we abandon ourselves to His guidance and follow Him perseveringly to the end. The conclusion is evident, that if a guide on the journey of life is imperatively necessary, and if Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is above all others the most tender, most loving, most devoted, most powerful of guides, the Guide who sends us all other helpers, the Guide who can never be deceived Himself, nor lead us astray, the Guide

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