

# [The path to rome by hilaire belloc](https://assignbuster.com/the-path-to-rome-by-hilaire-belloc/)

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The Path to Rome By Hilaire Belloc. Hilaire Belloc's The Path to Rome described his journey as a personal pilgrimage on   
  
foot as he walked from France to Rome. He wrote on his views of western Europe before   
  
the World Wars. He wrote in epigrams; consisting of short, witty observations about   
  
western civilization. His sayings of commonplace truths have become so popular that he   
  
has been attributed as a proverb maker. He used paradoxes to illustrate his points. He   
  
wanted to convey that although western civilization had good resources like good wine   
  
and verse, they should not misuse or abuse the resources. Initially, he praised the rail   
  
transport system for helping industrialization, the modern marsh of his time, but then   
  
contradicted himself when he said that the rails also disrupted the peace and conservation   
  
of the countryside. His sharp observation that the 'railways are trenches to drain our   
  
modern marsh' has another ambiguous meaning. He meant that modern civilization was   
  
destroying the geography and topography of the land. On the other hand, the railways   
  
may not be figurative trenches but have aided the land by bringing industrialization and   
  
modernization to improve the economy.   
  
Belloc is guilty of empiricism, as he believed that all knowledge was derived   
  
from sensual experience. It may seem that he unduly criticized the people and the lands   
  
but he was actually very proud of western civilization and his Catholic religion. He   
  
believed his western Christian faith saved the land. He used the phrase; 'all the world is   
  
my garden' as he considered himself to be the loving gardener, tending to his wards   
  
under his care. For indeed, he meant to evangelize as he used his wit to make his account   
  
humorous and entertaining. Belloc loved the land, his Catholic faith and his fellow   
  
compatriots.   
  
The End.   
  
Belloc made good fun of Italy's hot weather when he started his monologue. He then   
  
digressed to become nostalgic, talking about his days down the memory lane. He has   
  
imbedded different levels of narratives here; 'and that reminds me: your fathers and mine,   
  
to whom allusion has been made above.......' The younger generation had 'the heat   
  
increased'; by which he could have meant that the younger were more fiery in temper   
  
than their fathers. This was his humorous opinion. Then he referred to the lector, who is a   
  
member of one of the lowest ranked of the minor orders of the clergy, asking the 'auctor'   
  
how many items of interior brackets to use. As there is no such word as 'auctor' in the   
  
English vocabulary, we assume that Belloc has deliberately distorted his choice of word.   
  
Perhaps he meant to suggest the occupation called the auditor. The auctor / auditor   
  
reminded the minion Lector that he should take make his own decisions and take   
  
responsibility for his own work. He hinted that his current generation realized that they   
  
could have been fooled by their fathers' tomfoolery because their fathers took their own   
  
sweet time traveling across the Alps. He suggested that all their forefathers' work were in   
  
vain because they were defeated by the hot climate. Belloc was an apologist. He excused   
  
the visions of his ancestors when he said; 'No wonder they saw visions, the dear people!'   
  
He argued that his forefathers were weary and disillusioned and defended them. He   
  
reminded us that we are ungrateful and forgetful because; 'we do not even know their   
  
names'. He then ended his soliloquy by confirming of his guilt in being absent minded or   
  
forgetful by pretending to have lost his thread of thought. This is Belloc's genius in   
  
writing humor.   
  
The End.   
  
  
  
Works Cited.   
  
Belloc, Hilaire. The Path to Rome. Amazon. com