CLASSICS LIBRARY · STORY MAP

The Age of Fable

Thomas Bulfinch · *1855 · Bulfinch's English*

The religions of ancient Greece and Rome are extinct. The so-called divinities of Olympus have not a single worshipper among living men. They belong now not to the department of theology, but to those of literature and taste. So Bulfinch's 1855 introduction begins, Project Gutenberg #4925. This etext is The Age of Fable only; Chivalry and Charlemagne are not in this file (Charlemagne is a separate hosted work). For grades 6–12. Quote Bulfinch, not only a publishers' preface. One map cannot teach the whole book.

THE CENTRAL QUESTION

How should a school read The Age of Fable as the 1855 book this etext actually holds—opened by Bulfinch's own sentence that the religions of Greece and Rome are extinct—rather than as the three-book title page, or as the separate Charlemagne volume?

"The religions of ancient Greece and Rome are extinct. The"
Chapter I, Introduction

Project Gutenberg #4925 is Thomas Bulfinch's The Age of Fable, 1855. A Gutenberg note in the file says the etext contains only The Age of Fable, not The Age of Chivalry or Legends of Charlemagne, though a title page lists all three. Legends of Charlemagne is a separate hosted book. Bulfinch's introduction opens: The religions of ancient Greece and Rome are extinct. The so-called divinities of Olympus have not a single worshipper among living men. They belong now not to the department of theology, but to those of literature and taste. There they still hold their place, and will continue to hold it. Teach that opening, for grades 6–12. Quote Bulfinch, not only a later publishers' preface. The later chapters retell particular myths; quote each chapter's own English when you come to it. One map cannot teach the whole book.

KEY CHARACTERS

Thomas Bulfinch
Whose 1855 introduction opens this book, and who retells the later myths in this English

The divinities of Olympus, as he names them
Who, in his first sentences, have not a single worshipper among living men, and who belong now to literature and taste

HOW TO BEGIN THIS AGE OF FABLE

> *"The religions of ancient Greece and Rome are extinct. The"*
> Introduction

> *"They belong now not to the department of theology, but to those of literature and taste."*
> Introduction

Grades 6–12
Read the full text free at classicslaunch.org.

01

The Religions Are Extinct

CHAPTER I, INTRODUCTION

The religions of ancient Greece and Rome are extinct. Bulfinch begins by naming a limit: these are not living cults in his day.

- Keep "are extinct."
- 6–12.
- This is The Age of Fable, not the Charlemagne volume.
- Quote Bulfinch.

> *"The religions of ancient Greece and Rome are extinct. The"*
> Chapter I, Introduction

02

Not a Single Worshipper

CHAPTER I, INTRODUCTION

The so-called divinities of Olympus have not a single worshipper among living men. He repeats the limit, as a fact of his time.

- Keep "not a single worshipper among living men."
- 6–12.
- Quote this English.
- The later retellings are literature, as he says.

> *"called divinities of Olympus have not a single worshipper among living men. They"*
> Chapter I, Introduction

03

Literature and Taste, Not Theology

CHAPTER I, INTRODUCTION

They belong now not to the department of theology, but to those of literature and taste. That is why he is retelling them for readers.

- Keep "not to the department of theology."
- 6–12.
- A school book of stories, as he frames it.
- Quote this wording.

> *"They belong now not to the department of theology, but to those of literature and taste."*
> Chapter I, Introduction

04

They Still Hold Their Place

CHAPTER I, INTRODUCTION

There they still hold their place, and will continue to hold it. The stories remain, even if the worship, in his account, does not.

- Keep "still hold their place."
- 6–12.
- The later chapters are particular myths.
- One map cannot teach them all.

> *"There they still hold their place, and will continue to hold it, for"*
> Chapter I, Introduction

05

This Etext Is Age of Fable Only

THE EDITION

Project Gutenberg #4925 is The Age of Fable only. Do not treat the three-book title page as the contents of this file. Legends of Charlemagne is a separate hosted work. For grades 6–12. Quote Bulfinch, not only a publishers' preface.

- Name 1855, and this etext's limit.
- 6–12.
- A collection of retold myths, not a living cult.
- Quote this English.

> *"The religions of ancient Greece and Rome are extinct. The"*
> Chapter I, Introduction

A religion, in his day, extinct | Literature and taste, not theology | Stories that still hold their place | This etext only, not the three-book title | A book of many myths

What to watch for as you read

GRADES 6–12

1. This etext is The Age of Fable only, PG #4925, 1855. The title page may list Chivalry and Charlemagne; those books are not in this file. Charlemagne is a separate hosted work.
2. Bulfinch's introduction: "The religions of ancient Greece and Rome are extinct." The divinities of Olympus have not a single worshipper among living men.
3. They belong now not to theology, but to literature and taste; there they still hold their place. Quote him, not only a later publishers' preface.
4. For grades 6–12. The later chapters are particular myths. One map cannot teach the whole book.

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