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Faust, Part Two

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe · *1832 · Bayard Taylor, 1871*

Life's pulses now with fresher force awaken: the Second Part of Goethe's Faust, in Bayard Taylor's 1871 verse, takes the recovered Faust through an emperor's court, a classic dream, a marriage with Helen, a war, a land-winning, and a last ascent. Faust, Part One is already mapped on this site.

THE CENTRAL QUESTION

After the tragedy of the First Part, what remains of Faust's striving, and can a soul still be led upward when a wager and a life of grasping are not finished on earth?

"The Woman-Soul leadeth us Upward and on!"
The close of the Second Part

The translation is Bayard Taylor (1871). The hosted text and EPUB are the complete Second Part; Taylor's notes are omitted. The EPUB may append a glossary after the last lines. Quote the verse, including the close: "The Woman-Soul leadeth us / Upward and on!" Faust, Part One is already mapped (goethe-faust-part-one); this map is the sequel, not a substitute for it. A long verse drama treated here as a long narrative poem, for older and advanced students: court, Helena, war, a land-scheme, and a last chorus. Teach the close as Taylor gives it, not as a later catch-phrase.

KEY CHARACTERS

Faust
The recovered striver of the Second Part, whose last earthly work is still a grasping.

Mephistopheles
The companion still, at court, in war, and at the last claim.

Helen
The classical beauty of the middle acts, a meeting and a brief marriage.

the last chorus
The voices at the close, who speak of a Woman-Soul that leadeth upward.

UPWARD AND ON

> *"The Woman-Soul leadeth us Upward and on!"*
> The close of the Second Part

Grades 11–12
Read the full text free at classicslaunch.org.

01
A Pleasant Landscape
ACT I, THE OPENING

Faust, bedded on flowery turf, is sung over by elves. Life's pulses now with fresher force awaken. The Second Part begins in recovery, not in a study.

- 'Life's pulses now with fresher force awaken' is exact in both witnesses.
- The First Part is a separate map; this opening assumes it.
- Ariel and the elves are the porch, not a children's masque only.

> *"Life's pulses now with fresher force awaken"*
> Act I, A Pleasant Landscape

02
The Emperor's Court
ACT I, CONTINUED

Paper wealth, a masque, and a court that would be saved by magic. The striving has a public stage now.

- The court is satire and temptation at once.
- Mephistopheles is still the companion.
- For older students; the masque is not the moral close.

03
Helen
THE CLASSICAL ACTS

A descent toward the mothers, a meeting with Helen, and a brief classical marriage. The poem's middle is a dream of antiquity as much as a plot.

- Helen is a test of beauty and of time, not a trophy.
- The child of that meeting, if taught, should be taught as the poem ends him.
- Keep Taylor's wording; do not import another English Faust.

04
War, and a Land Won
THE LATER ACTS

A war served, a shoreline claimed, a last grasping at improvement that still costs a chapel and a life in the way. The wager has not been spoken away.

- The land-winning is a moral problem, not a simple progress.
- Teach the last earthly bargain with exactness.
- Philemon and Baucis, if named, should be named as the poem treats them.

05
Upward and On
THE CLOSE

The last chorus: all things transitory are sent as symbols, and the Woman-Soul leadeth us upward and on. The hosted EPUB may add a glossary after this; stop at the verse.

- 'The Woman-Soul leadeth us / Upward and on!' is exact.
- Do not quote the glossary as Goethe or as Taylor's poem.
- Bayard Taylor 1871, complete Second Part; Part One already mapped; older and advanced students.

> *"The Woman-Soul leadeth us Upward and on!"*
> The close

Striving | A Recovered Life | Beauty and Time | A Last Bargain | An Ascent

What to watch for as you read

GRADES 11–12

1. The translation is Bayard Taylor (1871). The hosted text and EPUB are the complete Second Part; Taylor's notes are omitted. The EPUB may append a glossary after the last lines; do not quote the glossary as the poem. The close is exact: "The Woman-Soul leadeth us / Upward and on!" The opening recovery includes "Life's pulses now with fresher force awaken."
2. Faust, Part One is already mapped (goethe-faust-part-one). This map is the sequel, not a substitute. A long verse drama treated here as a long narrative poem, for older and advanced students.
3. Teach the land-winning and the last earthly bargain as a moral problem, not as simple progress. Quote Taylor, not another English Faust.

Quotations are verbatim from the Bayard Taylor, 1871, Wikisource transcription, the public-domain text hosted at classicslaunch.org/works/goethe-faust-part-two/. Citations give book and chapter (or canto and line) so every line can be checked.