CLASSICS LIBRARY · STORY MAP

The Story of a Soul

Therese of Lisieux · *1898* · *Thomas N. Taylor*

It is to you, dear Mother, that I am about to confide the story of my soul. When she was asked to write it, she feared the task might unsettle her; then Our Lord made her understand that by simple obedience she would please Him best. She begins to sing what must be her eternal song: “the Mercies of the Lord.” Thomas N. Taylor’s English, Project Gutenberg #16772. For grades 7–12. Quote Thérèse, not only the editor. The file also holds further matter around the story.

THE CENTRAL QUESTION

How should a school read The Story of a Soul as a book written in obedience—confided to a dear Mother, and sung as the mercies of the Lord—rather than as a later soft legend only?

“It is to you, dear Mother, that I am about to confide the story of my soul. When you asked”

Chapter I, Earliest Memories

After the editorial clothing, Thérèse begins: it is to you, dear Mother, that I am about to confide the story of my soul. She feared the task might unsettle her; then Our Lord made her understand that by simple obedience she would please Him best. She will sing “the Mercies of the Lord.” Later she sees that if all the lowly flowers wished to be roses, nature would lose its springtide beauty. Teach that obedience and that little way, for grades 7–12. Thomas N. Taylor is the translator. Quote her, not only the editor. The hosted file also holds further matter around the story; name what you are reading.

KEY CHARACTERS

Therese of Lisieux
Who confides the story of her soul to a dear Mother, under obedience, and sings the mercies of the Lord

The dear Mother
To whom the story is first addressed

Our Lord, and Our Lady
Whose command she obeys, and whose statue she knelt before as she began

Thomas N. Taylor
The translator of this hosted English

HOW TO BEGIN THE STORY OF A SOUL

> *“It is to you, dear Mother, that I am about to confide the story of my soul. When you asked”*
> Chapter I

> *“I understood that if all the lowly flowers wished to be roses, nature would lose its springtide beauty, and”*
> Chapter I

Grades 7–12
Read the full text free at classicslaunch.org.

01

Confided to a Dear Mother

CHAPTER I, EARLIEST MEMORIES

It is to you, dear Mother, that she is about to confide the story of her soul. The book is addressed, not announced as a career.

- Keep “dear Mother” and “the story of my soul.”
- Taylor’s English.
- 7–12.
- Quote Thérèse, not only the introductory lives.

> *“It is to you, dear Mother, that I am about to confide the story of my soul. When you asked”*
> Chapter I, Earliest Memories

02

Simple Obedience

CHAPTER I

When she was asked to write it, she feared the task might unsettle her; but Our Lord deigned to make her understand that by simple obedience she would please Him best.

- The book is written under obedience.
- Keep “simple obedience.”
- 7–12.
- Not a later soft legend only.

> *“When you asked me to write it, I feared the task might unsettle me, but since then Our Lord has deigned to make me understand that by simple obedience I shall please Him best. I”*
> Chapter I

03

The Mercies of the Lord

CHAPTER I

She begins therefore to sing what must be her eternal song: “the Mercies of the Lord.” The story is a song of mercy before it is a reputation.

- Keep this file’s quotation marks and wording.
- The statue of Our Lady stands just after this line; the song comes first.
- 7–12.
- Quote her, not a later prayer-card reduction.

> *“I begin therefore to sing what must be my eternal song: "the Mercies of the”*
> Chapter I

04

If All the Lowly Flowers Wished to Be Roses

THE LITTLE WAY

She understood that if all the lowly flowers wished to be roses, nature would lose its springtide beauty, and the fields would no longer be enamelled with lovely hues. The little way is already a teaching about vocation and humility.

- Keep “lowly flowers” and “springtide beauty.”
- Do not flatten this into a later slogan only.
- 7–12.
- God’s love in a simple soul is her next thought; stay with this English.

> *“I understood that if all the lowly flowers wished to be roses, nature would lose its springtide beauty, and”*
> Chapter I

05

Taylor’s English, and the Rest of the File

THE EDITION

Project Gutenberg #16772 is Thomas N. Taylor’s English of The Story of a Soul (1898). Editorial lives and additional matter stand around it. Quote the story she confides, and name any further piece you assign from the same file. For grades 7–12.

- Name Taylor.
- Do not treat the editor as Thérèse.
- The work is a Carmelite autobiography, written in obedience.
- Beauty, humility, and mercy—not a slogan about “being human.”

> *“It is to you, dear Mother, that I am about to confide the story of my soul. When you asked”*
> Chapter I, Earliest Memories

Obedience in a small book | The mercies of the Lord | A little way, and lowly flowers | A child of Carmel | Beauty that does not envy the rose

What to watch for as you read

GRADES 7–12

1. The story is confided to a dear Mother, and written in simple obedience.
2. Her eternal song is “the Mercies of the Lord.”
3. If all the lowly flowers wished to be roses, the fields would lose their beauty; keep that teaching exact.
4. Taylor’s English, Project Gutenberg #16772. Quote her, not only the editor. Further matter stands around the story in this file.

Quotations are verbatim from the Thomas N. Taylor, Project Gutenberg #16772, the public-domain text hosted at classicslaunch.org/works/story-of-a-soul/. Citations give book and chapter (or canto and line) so every line can be checked.