



Spuren

Meeting

7 november 2014

Proverbs from
'Faust' by Goethe

Illustrations and
interpretations:
by pupils of 12th
class,
Steinerschool Gent

Faust has reached the limits of current knowledge and remains unsatisfied.

“After all these years of study in different fields, I still do not know the answer.”



Proverb

Da steh' ich nun, ich armer Tor!
Und bin so klug als wie zuvor.

And so I sit, poor silly man!
No wiser than when I began.

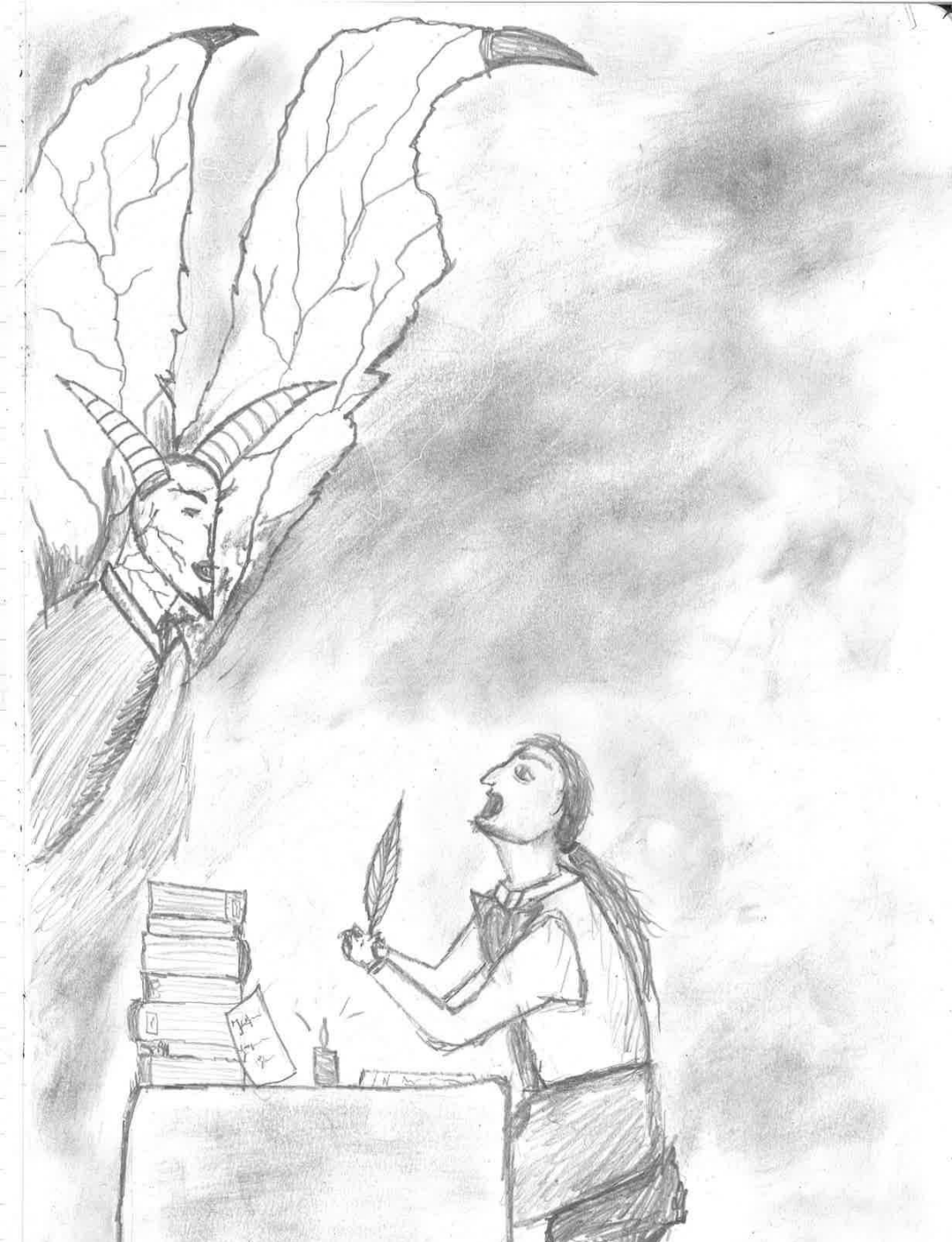
Daar sta ik nu, ik arme dwaas!
Zo wijs als in't begin helaas.





Faust is determined to discover the sources of life, to unravel the mysteries of existence.

He looks for help in magical recipes.



Faust succeeds in calling a spirit, but is told to be unworthy.

Proverb

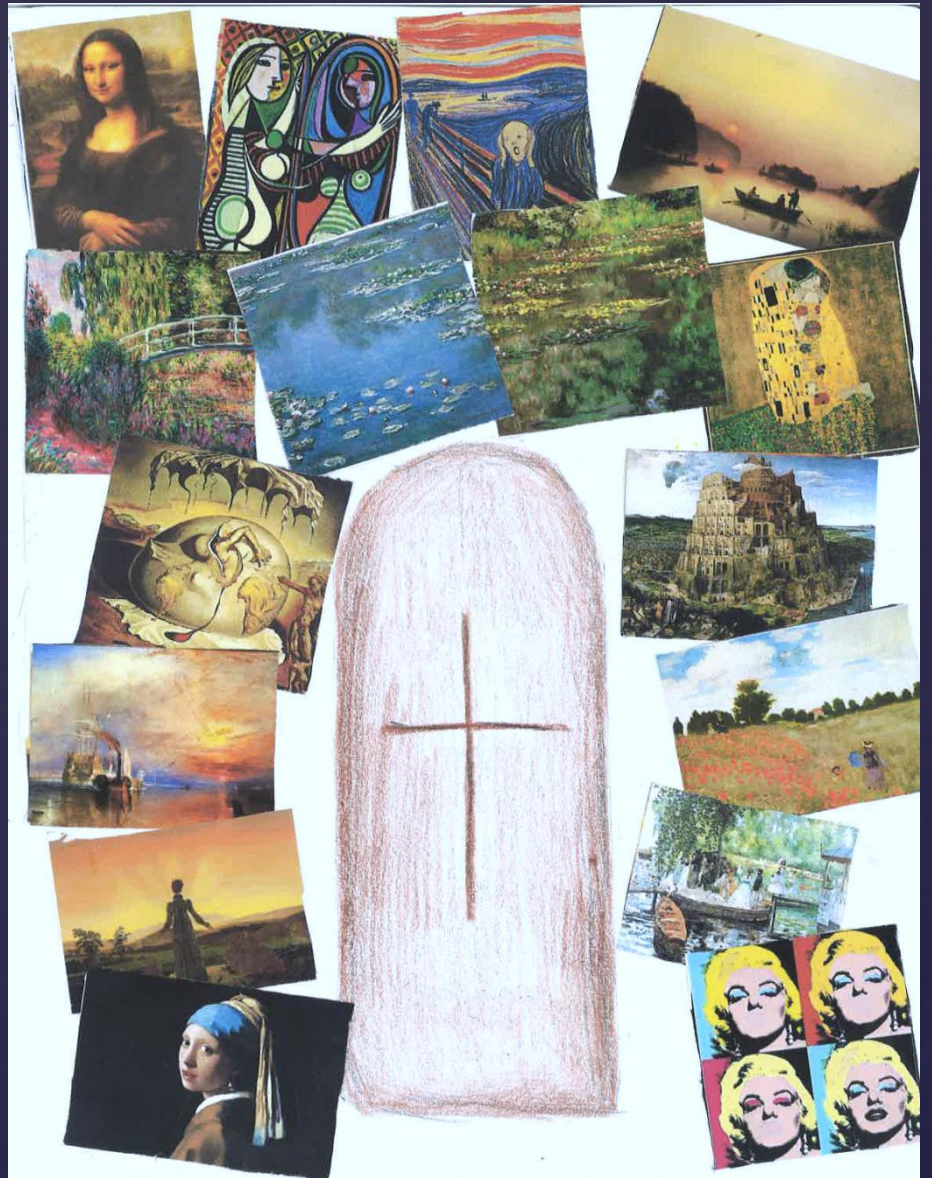
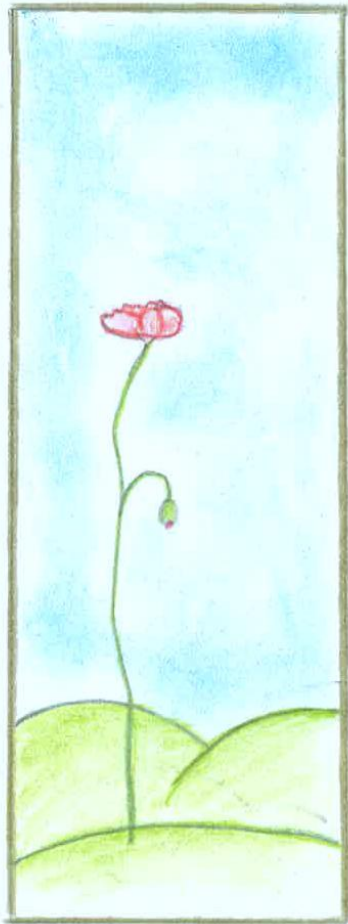
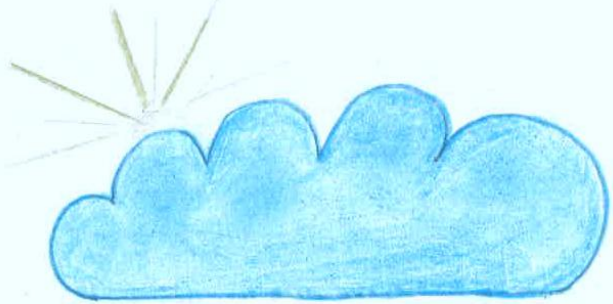
Ach Gott! Die Kunst ist lang,
Und kurz ist unser Leben.

Alas, our life is short,
And art is long.

Ach God! De kunst is lang,
En kort is ons leven.

Vita brevis, ars longa.
(Hippokrates)





Alin (and) de leuuri is lang en leuuri is moor ons
leuuri.

Proverb

Nur die ist froh, der geben mag.

Happy who gives to one in need.

Alleen die geven kan is vrolijk.



Far, far away from here
Where the sky is coloured by the evening sun
The place everyone wants to go to,
there was a man who could have everything
He lived on the leaf of a lily
Really, there was nothing he did not have
He was wearing a gorgeous outfit
But why couldn't he enjoy?
The gentleman didn't have any friends
nor did he know love
He didn't know what was wrong.
Until he saw the light
Until he knew he could be free:
'I must love to give things to other people'
Until he realised: 'Now I am free'

Jérôme

Proverb

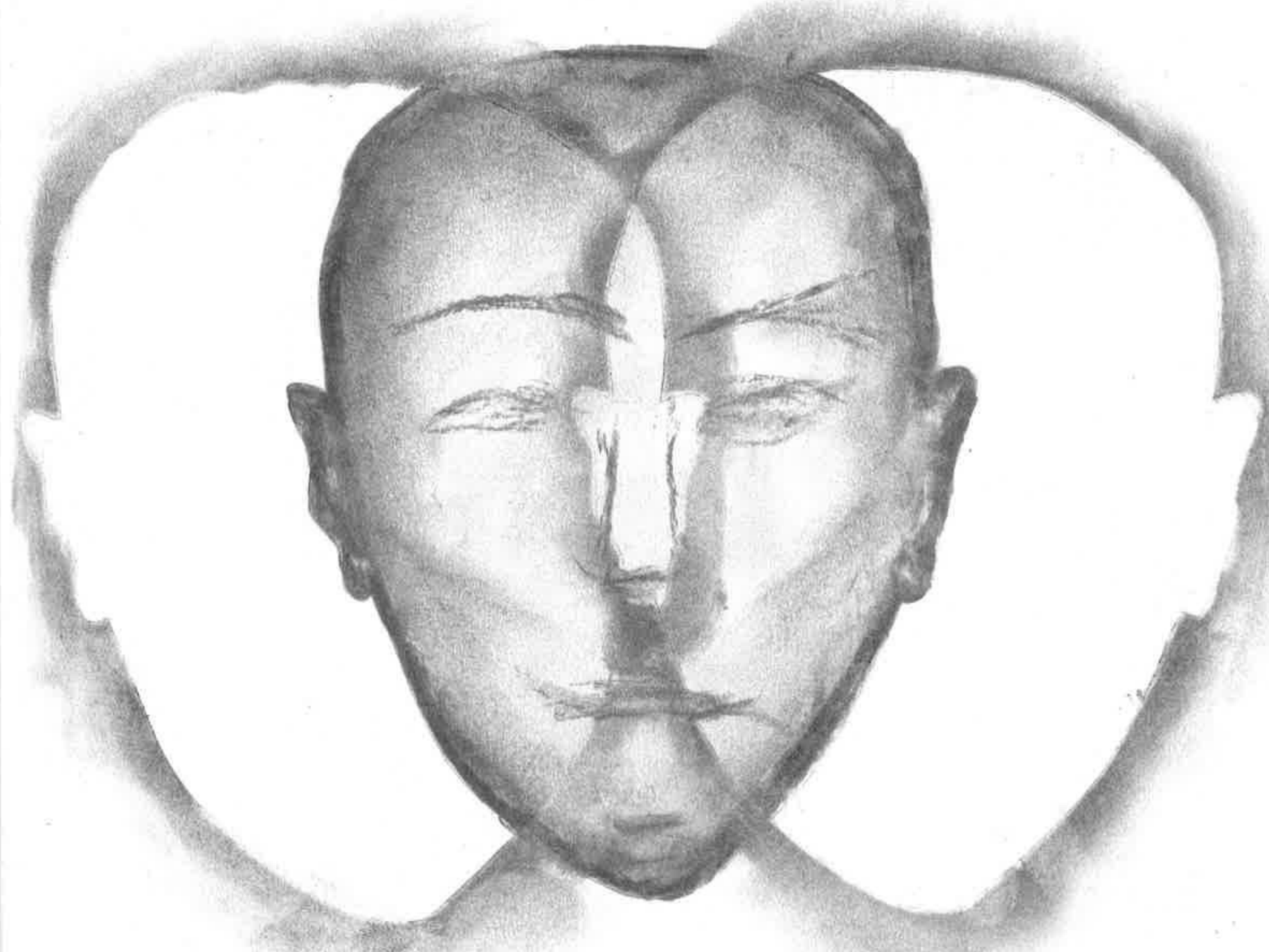
Zwei Seelen wohnen, ach! in meiner Brust,
Die eine will sich von der andern trennen.

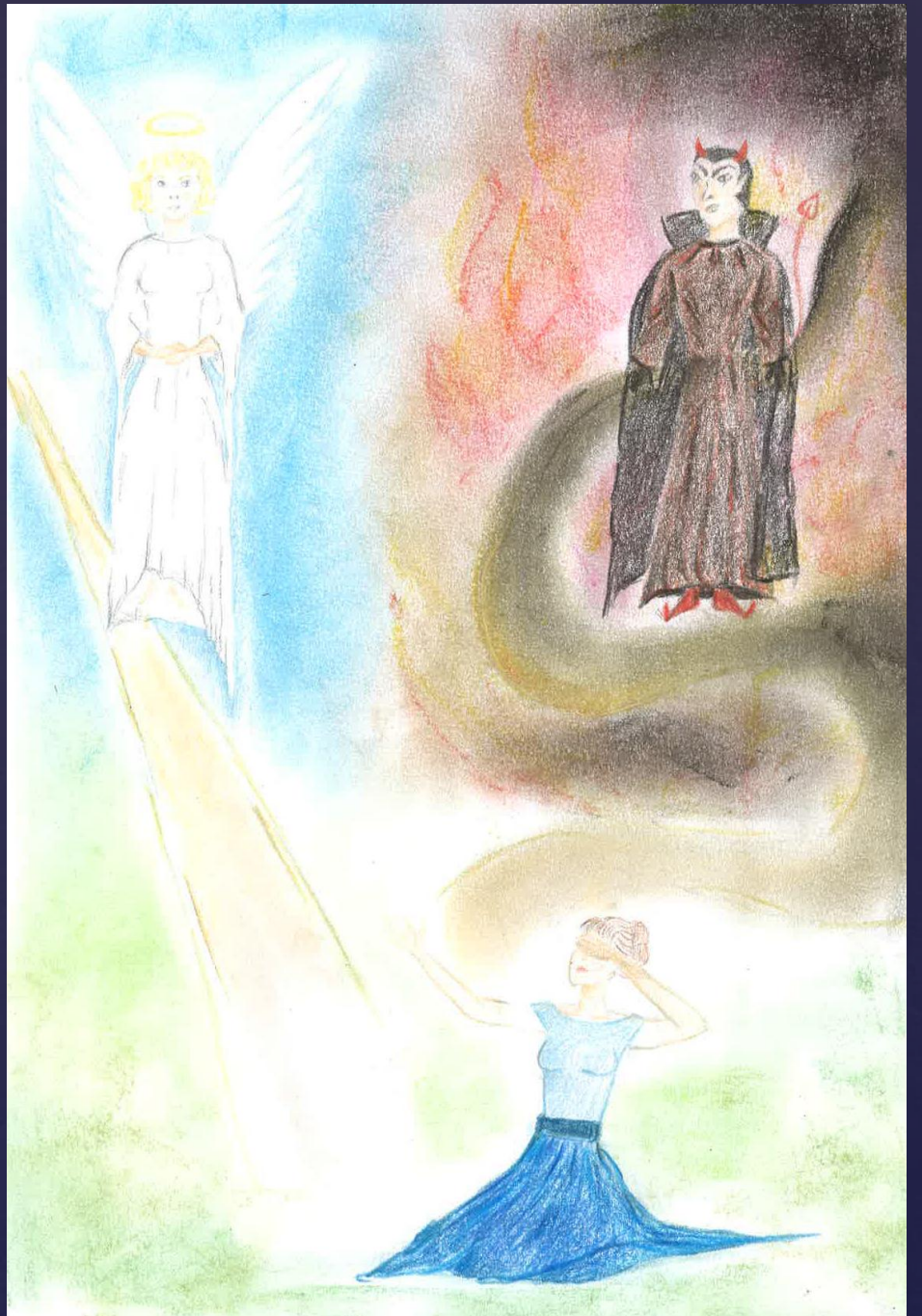
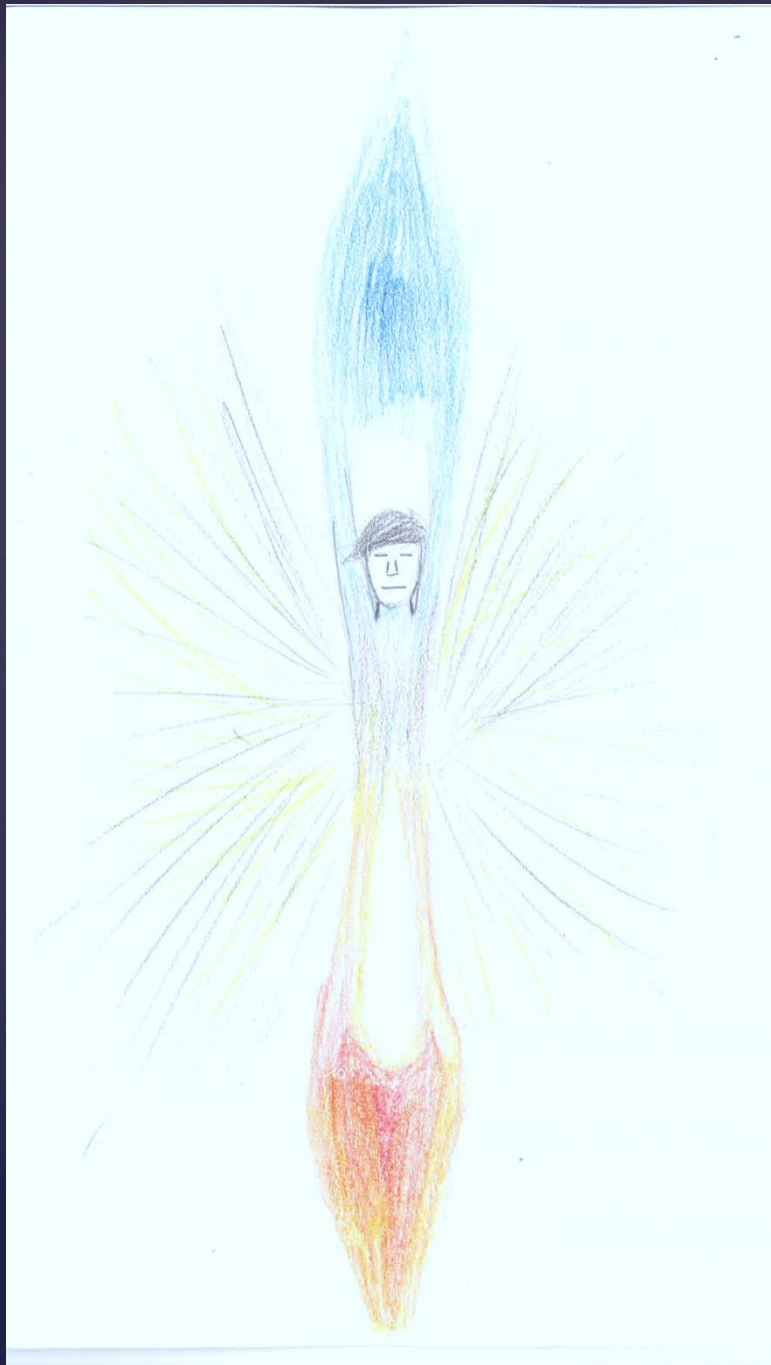
Two souls oh! Live in my chest,
One wants to break away from the other

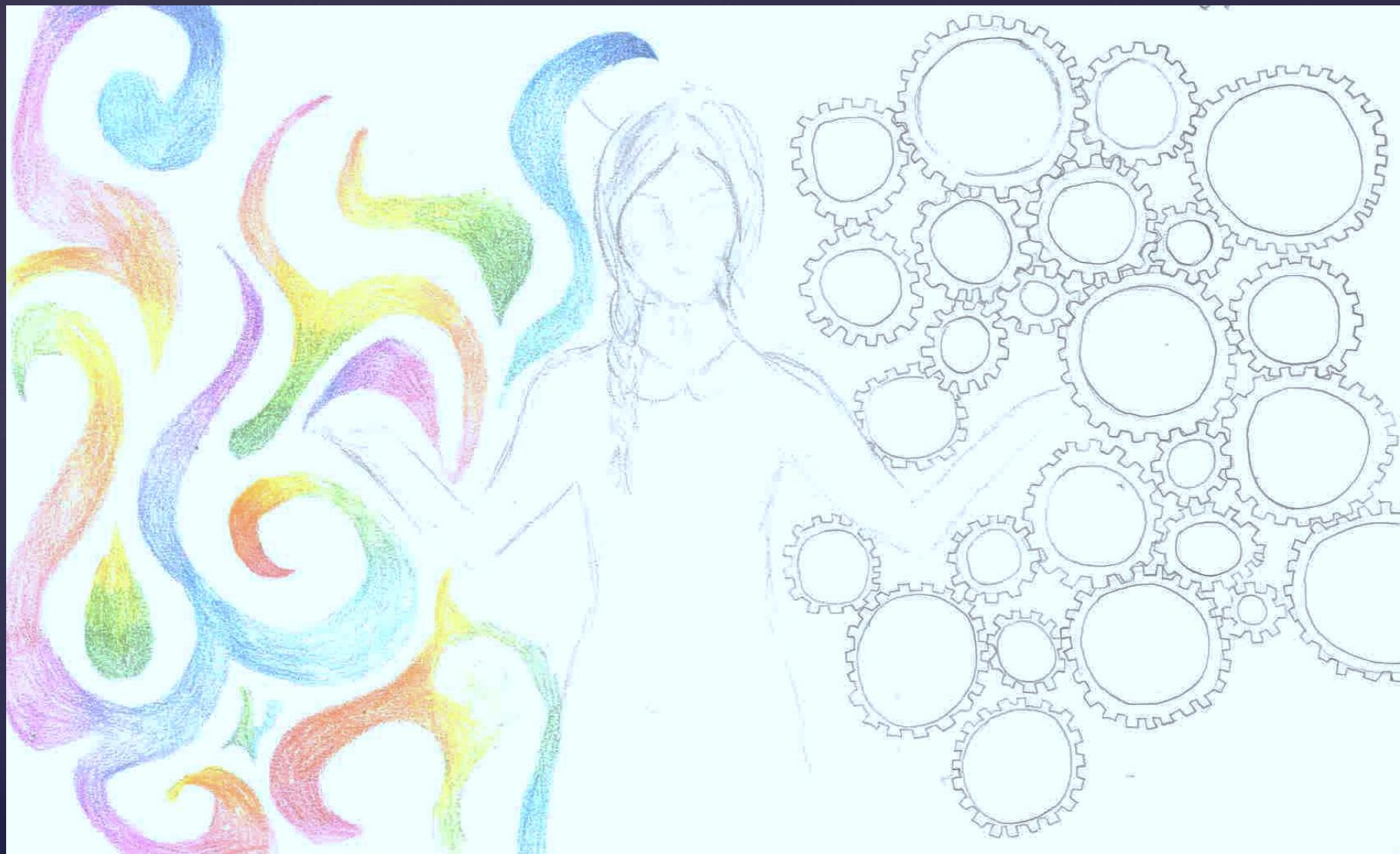
Twée zielen, ach! Wonen in mijn borst,
de ene wil zich van de andre scheiden.

Lonely I await the train
But alone I am not
There are two more inside of me
Who decide what I do
Do I get on or do I stay
Am I ready to go
Each day again I listen to one
Inside my chest gets ripped apart
I don't want to but I do it anyway
And keep waiting
Until the day comes that the train
drives by but I got on

Marit







Faust remains unsatisfied.
He can't find peace within
the limitations of human existence.
He curses all Christian virtues.
In this way he clears the way for the devil
Mephistopheles.



The devil, in fact, got the permission from God to seduce Faust.

God trusts the moral strength of Faust.

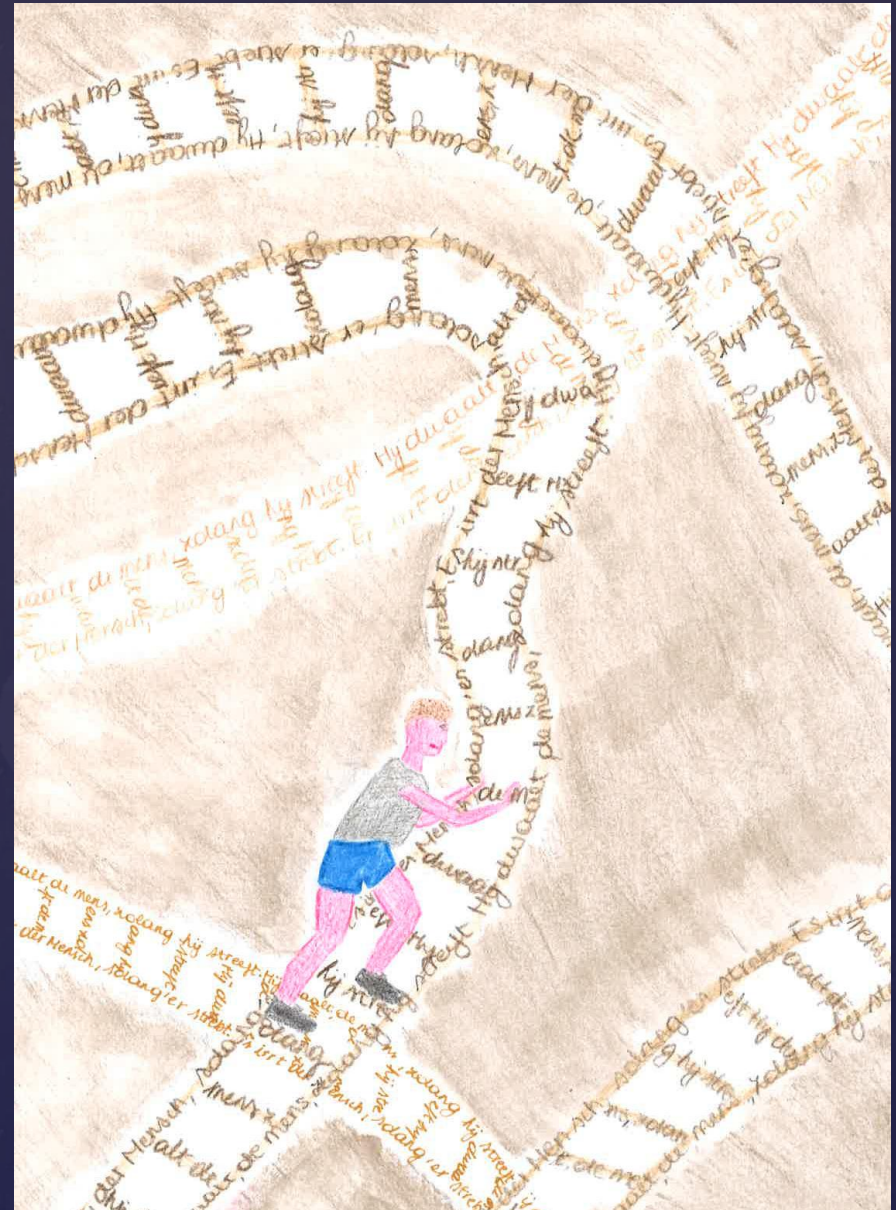
“Even in difficult circumstances and by making mistakes man will still orient himself to the good.”

Proverb

Es irrt der Mensch,
solang' er strebt.

Man errs,
till he has ceased to strive.

Hij dwaalt, de mens,
zolang hij streeft.



While man strives he errs

Man has always had desires, always trying to reach something, struggling, fighting. That's what life is all about. Of course you make mistakes, you wander around, searching, trying to reach your destination. It takes a lot of time before you reach that destination and there are obstacles everywhere.

./..

There are a lot of aspirations in life I want to fulfill, I'm sure I'm not the only one.

What I want most of all, is to know myself. Who am I, what is expected of me, what is the purpose of life here on earth, if any?

A lot of questions and no answers. To know the answers means to go out and look for them. And that's exactly what I'm trying to do by travelling.

./..

I went to Africa for 5 weeks and I got to know myself a lot better.

Some personality traits I hadn't known about, now I understand myself a little better.

The journey gave me an idea of who I am and what I want to do in life, what my weaknesses are and what my strength consists of, that sort of thing.

Of course it's just the beginning, I haven't reached my destination, not yet. Until I have found all the answers, I will travel the world.

I'm sure I will make a lot of mistakes but that's okay because while man strives he errs.

For a long time he has been wandering through a
dark forest

The air is grey,

The wind is cold.

Deep are the valleys

High are the mountains

No end to the road

he is heading for.

He's searching for clear waters

a white coast

For green hills

And tranquillity

The detours are many

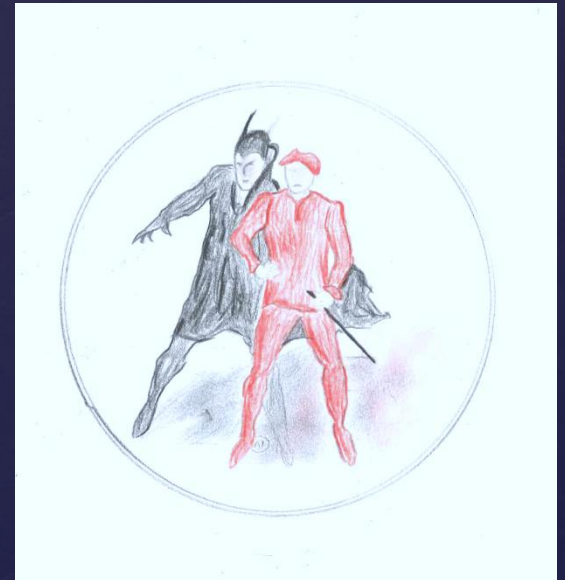
because he is alive

A man roams as long as he strives

He wanders along long, long roads
Not knowing where to go to
Thinking of what he is doing
Still looking for the unknown
In the winter of his life
he had a vision
He had to give up his quest
As it was not about finding something
He realised that the journey itself was his purpose.
Man has to roam as long as he lives.
That's what I mean

Faust offers the devil a bet: he can try to let him forget his high desire for absolute insight by tickling him with earthy pleasures.

So, Mephisto helps Faust to feel young again. When Faust is getting in love with Margareta, a pure young lady, Mephisto keeps on stirring up his sexual desires.





The first part of the book ends with a real tragedy: Margareta, in pure misery, has killed her young child. Faust tries to get her from prison, but she refuses to flee from her responsibility and guilt.

