

Please note that this is my own summary and not the full material, please refer to the videos/book for full explanation of the text

Doctor Faustus: Was born in Germany in Rhodes town, from a humble origin, he Studied in Wittenberg university, he was an orphan and was raised by kinsman, he mastered four branches of knowledge (theology, medicine, logic, law)

Q/ Discuss the view that Dr.Faustus represents the man who lived in the Renaissance?

Faustus sells his soul to the devil in order to get more knowledge, he craved knowledge beyond the limits of humanity, this is the major theme of the renaissance; that humans are the greatest thing in the universe and they can achieve anything.

Q/ Define the chorus and what does it say about the play in the opening speech?

The Chorus are Group of people that provides information, give the moral lesson, and set the scene of the play to the audience, they are usually not part of the play.

In the play they mentions where did Faustus lived and what college did he went and his branches of knowledge and interest in black magic.

The Chorus appears three times in the play, in the beginning to provide information and set the scene to the audience, in the middle to comment on the play, and in the end to give the moral lesson of the play.

Q/ Show how Faustus left all Branches of knowledge and decided to follow black magic?

In the first scene we see Faustus inside his private room discussing his mastery of all the branches of knowledge, First he begins with logic, he says that The aim of logic is to be a good debater, thus it is useless. Secondly he turns to medicine, he says that the aim of medicine is health, and humans cannot live eternally or bring back dead people, so he says goodbye to medicine too. Thirdly theology

In the Bible there is contradiction, because in one place it says that the reward of sin is death, and in another it says that everyone will sin, so Faustus abandon the Bible too. Fourthly law, he say it is useless as well, and after that he chooses black magic.

Q/ What do good and evil angels stands for?

They are abstract characters that represent the inner conflict of Faustus, good angel tries to make him follow the path of God, bad angel tries to make him follow black magic.

Q/ What was Mephistophilis first description of hell and give its dramatic value?

After Faustus asks Mephistophilis about hell, Mephistophilis tells him about Lucifer, how he was a favorite angel to God once but because of his pride and insolence he was dismissed from heaven and had become eternally damned in hell with the fallen angels.

Mephistophilis says that being deprived of Gods presence is more tormenting than thousand hells.

Q/ What was Mephistophilis second description of hell and give its dramatic value?

When Faustus asked Mephistophilis about hell for the second time, Mephistophilis describe to him hell telling him that hell has no limits nor it is circumscribed to any place rather it is a state of being, which you experience when you are deprived of the presence of God, and that any place except heaven is hell.

Q/ Why did Mephistophilis refuse to bring Faustus a wife?

When Faustus asked Mephistophilis to bring him a wife he refuses because marriage is a sacred vow, it is a union blessed by God, and devils have nothing to do with God, Mephistophilis instead tells Faustus that he can have any woman he likes, be it as chaste as Penelope, or as wise as Queen of Sheba, or as beautiful as Lucifer himself.

Q/ Explain what happened to Faustus in Rome and what is the dramatic significance of the scene of Faustus with the Pope.

Faustus make fun of the pope by snatching his dish and make him look like a fool, the scene depicts the pope as cruel proud and power-mad person, Marlow intention was to please his protestant audience.

This scene shows how Faustus forgot about his noble purposes and pursue physical desires and trivial things.

Q/ Show the dramatic significance of at the court of Emperor Carolus the fifth?

The emperor Carolus asks Faustus to raise one of the emperor's ancestor; Alexander the great and his Paramour, Faustus tells him he cannot raise their actual bodies, but spirits that resembles them, the emperor's knight makes fun of Faustus ability and Faustus punish him by adding a pair of horns on his head, the emperor asks Faustus to remove them, after that Mephistophilis enters with Alexander and Paramour spirit, and the emperor reward Faustus.

This scene shows how Faustus forgot about his noble purposes and pursue physical desires and trivial things.

Q/ Show the dramatic significance of the court of the duke of Vanholt?

At the court of duke Vanholt, Faustus asks the duchess if she desires any kind of food, and she request a dish of ripe grapes, although it is January, Mephistophilis goes and returns with a dish, the duke gets surprised.

This scene shows how Faustus forgot about his noble purposes and pursue physical desires and trivial things.

Q/ What is the dramatic value of the appearance of Lucifer by himself to Faustus?

When Faustus experience great distress and conflict, he start to think of repentance, he asks Christ to save his damned soul, Lucifer appears because Faustus has done great injury to Lucifer by mentioning the name of Christ, and his action is a violation of the contract he made with the devil, Faustus promises Lucifer he

won't ever mention Christ or God again, then Lucifer displays a show for Faustus of the seven deadly sins to amuse him.

Q/ What are the seven deadly sins, mention some of what each of them says about itself?

To divert Faustus attention from thinking of repentance, Lucifer order a show of the seven deadly sins, where they appear in front of him and talk about themselves, The First **Pride**, he says "I hate my parents and i can creep everywhere and that i won't say anything more unless the room is perfumed". The Second **Covetousness**, he says " I wish the house and all people turn into gold". The Thirdly **Wrath**, he says "I have nether a father or a mother and i leapt from a lion's mouth when it was half an hour years old and from that time it carries its dagger in its hands and if it doesn't find someone to fight with it will fight with itself. The Fourth **Envy**, it says "I cannot read therefore i wish all books to be burnt, and when i see people eat i wish that a famine hits people". The Fifth **Gluttony**, it says "My parents left me nothing to eat but only 30 meals a day". The Sixth **Sloth**, he says "I was born on a sunny beach and i remind there, and i blame Faustus for ever waking me up". The last **Lechery** he says " the first letter of my name is L". When Faustus saw the show he says "O, this feeds my soul", this symbolize his hunger for knowledge.

Short answer (with less marks):

Lucifer displays a show of the seven deadly sins to divert Faustus attention from thinking of repentance and to amuse him, it serve as a comic relieve for the audience. The seven deadly sins are (Pride, Covetousness, Wrath, Envy, Gluttony, Sloth and Lechery), each sin appear in front of Faustus and describe itself, after Faustus sees the show he says "O, this feeds my soul" symbolizing his hunger for knowledge.

Q/ What is the dramatic value of the appearance of the old man?

The old man is Faustus foil, he is physically ugly but has a pure soul, whereas Faustus is beautiful but has an ugly soul, the old man serve as God's messenger to guide Faustus into repentance, he refers to Christ blood which contrast the blood

that Faustus made a contract with.

Through the contrast between the hero and the foil we can see the weaknesses of the hero.

Q/ Discuss the last hour in Faustus life?

In the last hour of his life Faustus has a monologue with himself where he wishes that time would stop so that he can save his soul. He wishes one drop of Christ blood or even half a drop to save his soul. He wishes that the hills and mountains would fall on him to hide him from God's anger. When the clock strikes for half past the hour, he wishes that God will shorten his time in hell for a thousand year, or a hundred thousand years but he knows that hell is eternal. He wishes that the reincarnation is real and that he will be an animal instead of going to hell. He curses his parents, then himself, and finally Lucifer.

When the clock strikes midnight and thunder and lightning scaring the skies, he cries aloud for his soul to dissolve into the air so that the devil cannot find it, when the devils enter Faustus begs God and the devil for mercy, but the devils drags him away.

This is one of the most dramatic moment in the play, where Faustus tries to find a way out to redeem his soul but he finds no escape. This scene raises the question of why Faustus last cries to Christ for mercy are not heard, in a truly Christian framework Faustus would be forgiven even at the last moment, but Marlowe's play proves more tragic than Christian, and so there comes a point where he is no longer can be saved, in other words he was damned while he was still alive.

Short answer (with less marks):

In the last hour of his life Faustus wishes that if time could stop so that he can save his soul, and that may God throw him in hell for a thousand or hundred thousand years but not eternally, and that the mountains could fall on him to hide him from God's anger.

In the last moments he begs God and Christ to save him but they do not hear him and the devils take him away, this scene shows Marlowe's play to be more

tragic than Christian, because in Christianity you would be forgiven even in the last moment.

Q/ Comment on the following lines critically.

Line 1/ O, this cheers my soul!.

Faustus says this line to Valdes and Cornelius, after they told him on what black magic can do, that he no longer need to study anything else and enrich him with all branches of knowledge, this is a reference to the Renaissance the age of the hunger for knowledge.

Line 2/ A sound magician is a demigod.

Faustus says this when he gets interested in black magic, saying that a magician is like a God, who can do anything, this was the turning point of Faustus from scholar to sorcerer.

Line 3/ O, by aspiring pride and insolence.

Mephistophilis says this line to Faustus about Lucifer, how he was an angel once and was kicked from heaven because he challenged God, his arrogance and insolence caused him to be sent to hell.

Line 4/ This word “damnation” terrifies not him.

Faustus says this line to Mephistophilis after he abjure God and the holy book, he tells Mephistophilis that he is not afraid to be damned (sent to hell) and willing to continue to sell his soul to Lucifer.

Line 5/ The reward of sin is death; that’s hard.

Said by Faustus when he was discussing the uselessness of all branches of knowledge and he arrives at theology.

Faustus reads the bible and finds a contradiction, in one place it says the reward of sin is death, in another that we all sin, Faustus wonders why God created us to go to hell, because of this he abandons theology.

Line 6/ The God thou serv'st is thine own apatite.

Faustus says this line after he hears a voice that tells him to abandon black magic and turn to God, Faustus says that God doesn't love him, and that the god he serve is his own desires and pleasures.

Line 7/ Had not sweet pleasure conquer'd deep despair.

This line is said by Faustus after having doubt to leave black magic and repent to God, he realizes that his soul is damned and he starts to think of suicide but his pleasure beats his despair, turning to physical desires for relieve from the despair he is in, Faustus had many chances to repeat but his temptation always wins.

Line 8/ I do repent, and yet I do despair.

This line is said by Faustus after the old man tried to help him to repent and save his soul while he still have time, Faustus says that he wants to repent but his despair is too great to let him do it. He says this because when we are desperate the devils are stronger and we are easily drawn to their temptations.

**Line 9/ Let Faustus live in hell a thousand years,
A hundred thousand, and at last be sav'd!**

This line is said by Faustus during the last hour of his life, he wishes to lives a thousand years in hell and then be purged of his sin instead of living eternally there. However it is only a wish because Faustus sold his soul to the devil in exchange of 24 years of magical power.

**Line 10/ O,I'll leap up to my God!–Who pulls me down?
Where is it now? 'tis gone: and see where God
stretcheth out his arm, and bends his ireful brows!**

These lines are said by Faustus during the last hour of his life, he says that he will pray to god to forgive him but something holds him down, his sins. Faustus pleads for one drop of Christ blood, or even half a drop to save his soul, then he says "O, spare me Lucifer" which causes the anger of God, despite God's anger, God still offers his hand to Faustus for repentance, yet Faustus doesn't.

**Line 11/ But mercy, Faustus, of thy Saviour sweet
Whose blood alone must wash away thy guilt.**

This line is said by the old man when he was trying to guide Faustus into repentance, he tells him that Christ is merciful and that his blood can wash away his sins and save his soul.

Q/ Identify, comment and give the dramatic value of the following extract (quotation).

**Quote 1/ These metaphysics of magicians
And necromantic books are heavenly;
Lines, circles, scenes, letters, and characters;
Ay, these are those that Faustus most desires.**

These lines are said by Faustus after Faustus realizes that all branches of knowledge are useless, Faustus takes interest in necromantic books saying that those books are heavenly which is an irony because they are devilish.

**Quote 2/ O Faustus lay that damned book aside
And Gaze not on it lest it tempt thy soul
and heap God's heavy wrath upon thy head
Read, read the scriptures: that is blasphemy.**

These lines are said by Good Angel after Faustus' interest in black magic. Good Angel warns Faustus to leave necromantic books aside, because it corrupts the soul and that God will punish him for it, and read the holy books instead.

Good Angel is an abstract character that represents the good in Faustus.

**Quote 3/ Go Forward Faustus, in that famous art
Wherein all nature's treasure is contain'd:
Be thou on earth as Jove is in the sky,
Lord and commander of these elements.**

These lines are said by Evil Angel after Faustus gets interested in black magic, Evil Angel encourages Faustus to take black magic, he seduced him with the great that comes from it, telling him he will become like a God (like Jove, which is a name for Roman God).

Evil Angel is an abstract character that represent the evil in Faustus.

**Quote 4/ I'll have them wall all Germany with brass,
And make swift Rhine circle fair Wittenberg;
I'll have them fill the public schools with silk,
wherewith the students shall be bravely clad
I'll levy soldiers with the coin they bring,
And chase the Prince of Parma from our land,.**

These lines are said by Faustus when he was waiting for Valdes and Cornelius, Faustus is saying his 4 noble purposes when he gets his magic powers; First he will build a wall around Germany to protect it. Second he will make the river *Rhine* circle around Wittenberg university. Third he will make the students wear silk in public schools. Fourth he will make a campaign of military to kick the Prince of Parma.

Though when Faustus got his power he pursued physical desires and trivial things.

**Quote 5/ Both law and physic are for petty wits;
Divinity is basest of the three,
unpleasant, harsh, contemptible, and vile:
'Tis magic, magic that hath ravish'd me.**

These lines are said by Faustus, when he was talking to Valdes and Cornelius, Faustus says that both law and physics is useless, and that theology is even more useless, its magic that interest him and give him delight, the repetition of the word "magic" mark his definite decision to pursue necromancy.

**Quote 6/ I charge thee to return and change thy shape;
Thou art too ugly to attend on me:**

**Go and return an old Franciscan friar;
That holy shape becomes a devil best.**

These lines are said by Faustus, after Faustus performed necromancy, Faustus tells these lines to Mephistophilis, at his first appearance, he was too ugly so Faustus ordered him to change his appearance and take the shape of a priest, This is symbolic to the fact that some clergymen (priests) are hypocrites (pretending goodness while they are evil inside).

**Quote 7/ That was the cause but yet per accidents:
For, when we hear one rack the name of God,
Abjure the Scriptures and his Saviour Christ,
We fly, in hope to get his glorious soul;
Nor will we come, unless he use such means.**

These lines are said by Mephistophilis, after Faustus asked if he was the one who conjured him, Mephistophilis answers that when devils hear someone curse the name of God and abjure him, they fly to him happily to get his “glorious soul”, an irony because the person soul will be damned.

**Quote 8/ Why this is hell, nor am I out of it:
Think'st thou that I, who saw the face of God,
And tasted the eternal joys of heaven,
Am not tormented with ten thousands hells,
In being depriv'd of everlasting bliss?
Oh Faustus, leave these frivolous demands
Which strike a terror to my fainting soul!**

These lines are said by Mephistophilis to Faustus, when Faustus asks him why he consider himself in hell when he can move freely, Mephistophilis answers him that when he was an angel once he tasted God's presence, but he was kicked out with Satan, and he feels its more tormenting than a thousand hells. We can conclude that every place which is not heaven is hell.

**Quote 9/ Of wealth !
Why, the signiory of Emden shall be mine.**

**When Mephistophilis shall stand by me
What God can hurt thee, Faustus? Thou art safe.
Cast no more doubts—come, Mephistophilis.**

These lines are said by Faustus, after Faustus had an inner conflict to leave black magic, Faustus is convinced by Evil Angel to stay in necromancy, leaving his spirit and turning to his physical desires, wanting to rule over Emden city, and having Mephistophilis in his side he is safe from any God's harm.

**Quote 10/ Then, Faustus stab thine arm courageously
And bind thy soul, that at some certain day
Great Lucifer may claim it as his own
And then be thou as great as Lucifer.**

These lines are said by Mephistophilis, after Faustus agrees to give his soul to Lucifer, Mephistophilis tells Faustus that in order to gain Lucifer's powers he has to give his soul to Lucifer, and sign a contract using his blood that he will get from stabbing his arm.

**Quote 11/ But what is this inscription on mine arm?
Homo, fuge:whither should i fly?
If unto God, he'll throw me down to hell.
My senses are deceiv'd, here's nothing writ:-
I see it plain; here in this place is writ,
Homo, fuge: yet shall not Faustus fly.**

These lines are said by Faustus, after Faustus blood congeals and Mephistophilis helps him clear it, Faustus sees an inscription on his arm that says "Homo, fuge" which means flee human, at first he thinks that his eyes are deceiving him, but then he looks again and sees the inscription clearly, he acknowledges that if he tries to flee to God, God will throw him in hell, so he ignore this and continue to sign the contract with his blood.

**Quote 12/ Within the bowels of these elements,
Where we are tortur'd and remain for ever:
Hell hath no limits, nor is circumscrib'd**

**in of self place; for where we are is hell
And where hell is, there must we ever be:**

These lines are said by Mephistophilis when Faustus asked him about hell for the second time, Mephistophilis says that hell has no limit nor it is circumscribed to any place, rather it is a state of being where one is deprived of God's presence, and any place that is not heaven is hell.

**Quote 13/ Marriage is but a ceremonial toy,
And if thou lov'st me think no more of it.
I'll cull thee out the fairest courtesans,
And bring them every morning to thy bed.
She whom thine eye shall like, they heart shall have,
Were she as chaste as was Penelope,
As wise as Saba, or as beautiful
As was bright Lucifer before his fall.**

These lines are said by Mephistophilis, after Faustus commands Mephistophilis to fetch (bring) him a wife. Mephistophilis refuses because marriage is sacred, it is a union blessed by God, and he as a devil doesn't accept that, instead of a wife Mephistophilis tells Faustus that he can bring him any woman his heart desires, be it Penelope which is a woman from Greek mythology who was known for her chastity, or the wise queen Saba, or Lucifer himself when he was an angel.

**Quote 14/ His faith is great, I cannot touch his soul;
But what I may afflict his body with
I will attempt, which is but little worth.**

These lines are said by Mephistophilis to Faustus after Faustus asked him to revenge the old man, who tried to help Faustus and guide him, Mephistophilis tells him that he cannot hurt the old man pure spirit because he has a deep faith, he can only hurt his body which is insignificant.

**Quote 15/ Ay, stay, good Faustus, stay thy desperate steps!
I see an angel hovers o'er thy head,
And, with a vial full of precious grace,**

**Offers to pour the same into thy soul:
Then call for mercy, and avoid despair.**

These lines are said by the old man to Faustus, when he was trying to guide him to repent and save his soul, the old man represent God's infinite mercy. However Faustus refuses his help and instead tells Mephistophilis to attack him and summon up Helen of Troy to distract him.

**Quote 16/ Cut is the branch that might have grown full straight,
And burned is Apollo's laurel-bough,
That sometime grew within this learned man.
Faustus is gone: regard his hellish fall,
Whose fiendful fortune may exhort the wise,
Only to wonder at unlawful things,
Whose deepness doth entice such forward wits
To practise more than heavenly power permits.**

The chorus makes the final and closing comment on the fall of Faustus, and the moral lesson of the play, they say that Faustus tried to go beyond the limitation of humanity, and as a result he was damned. The chorus reminds the audience to learn from Faustus and respect the limits of things, and to express the medieval idea that Faustus fall was a result of his pride and ambition.

Q/ Give very short answers to the following question

Q/ What did Faustus asked Mephistophilis to do when the latter appeared to him for the first time?

Change his shape to a priest.

Q/ What are the two traits that made Lucifer get kicked from heaven?

Pride and insolence.

Q/ To which myth the chorus refers to in the beginning of the play?

Icarus and Daedalus.

Q/ What was Lucifer before the fall?

A beautiful angel.

Q/ What was Lucifer Condition for Faustus?

That he never mentions Christ's name.

Q/ What were the two signs that appeared to Faustus when he was signing the contract?

His blood congealed, and an inscription appeared on his arm "Homo,fuge"

Q/ Why did Mephistophilis refused to bring Faustus a wife?

Because marriage is a union blessed by God.

Q/ Name four names for Lucifer?

Satan,Prince of Darkness, Belzebub, The Devil.

Q/ What is the name of the ceremony when Faustus went to Rome?

Papal inauguration.

Q/ Who made fun of Faustus and what did Faustus do to punish him?

A knight in the Emperor palace, Faustus punished him by giving him horns.

Q/ What did Faustus bring to the Duke's wife and in which time?

Faustus brought grape to The duke's wife in winter.

Q/ Where does the Chorus appears?

In the beginning, middle and end.

Q/ What are the function of the Chorus?

Provide information about the play, set the scene to the audience and give the moral lesson.

Q/ Why did Faustus asked Mephistophilis to change his shape to Franciscan (a priest)?

To show the hypocrisy of the clergymen.

Q/ What are the reasons that makes devils appear to humans?

Abjure and curse God and Christ.

Q/ Why does Lucifer wants to have Faustus soul?

To enlarge his kingdom.

Q/ What happened to Faustus when he first got his power?

He became young and handsome.

Q/ Why does Mephistophilis refuse to answer Faustus when he asks him about who made the world?

Because it would show God's miracle.

Q/ What does "Homo,fuge" means?

Flee human.

Q/ What did the emperor asked Faustus to do?

To bring back Alexander the Great and his Paramour.

Q/ Who did Faustus wanted as paramour?

Helen of Troy.

Q/ What does the old man represent?

Faustus's foil.

Q/ Who was with Faustus in the last hour of his life?

His Colleagues (Three Scholars).

Q/ Marlowe's play, Doctor Faustus, reflects the debate of Renaissance theologians over what opposing ideas?

Fate versus free will.

Q/ When he first summons Mephastophilis, how does Faustus ask him to appear?

In the shape of Franciscan Friar.

Q/ In the last scene of the play ,The Blood of Christ disappeared from the sky because?

Because Faustus invoked Lucifer to spare him.

Q/ What is the common thing that Lucifer, Faustus and Icarus share?

Pride.

Q/ What trick does Faustus, while invisible, play on the pope?

He steals dishes of food and disrupts the pope's banquet.

Q/ What is the significance of the line, “Why, this is hell, nor am I out of it”?

It reflects Mephistopheles' regret over losing his soul.

Q/ The old man asked Faustus to?

Forget about suicide.

Q/ According to the Christian creed, Christ sacrificed himself when crucified in order to?

To remove the original sin from human being.

Q/ According to Mephistophilis “hell” is simply?

The deprivation of the presence of God.

Q/ How many years was Faustus promised with black magic?

24 years.

Q/ Why did Faustus sold his soul to the devil?

Because of his hunger for knowledge.

Q/ What did Faustus do with his power?

He pursued physical desires and trivial things.

Q/ What does Mephistophilis do when Faustus want to repent?

He distract him with physical pleasures.