

**Ministry of Higher Education and
Scientific Research/University of Tikrit
College of Education for Humanities
Department of English**



Dr .Faustus / Drama

Second Stage

Summary 1

By

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Doctor Faustus

Christopher Marlowe

Act 2- Scene 1

Summary: Scene 1

Faustus begins to waver in his conviction to sell his soul. The good angel tells him to abandon his plan and “think of heaven, and heavenly things,” but he dismisses the good angel’s words, saying that God does not love him . The good and evil angels make another appearance, with the good one again urging Faustus to think of heaven, but the evil angel convinces him that the wealth he can gain through his deal with the devil is worth the cost. Faustus then calls back Mephistophilis, who tells him that Lucifer has accepted his offer of his soul in exchange for twenty-four years of service. Faustus asks Mephistophilis why Lucifer wants his soul, and Mephistophilis tells him that Lucifer seeks to enlarge his kingdom and make humans suffer even as he suffers. 15

Faustus decides to make the bargain, and he stabs his arm in order to write the deed in blood. However, when he tries to write the deed his blood congeals, making writing impossible. Mephistophilis goes to fetch fire in order to loosen the blood, and, while he is gone, Faustus endures another bout of indecision, as he wonders if his own blood is attempting to warn him not to sell his soul. When Mephistophilis returns, Faustus signs the deed and then discovers an inscription on his arm that reads “Homo fuge,” Latin for “O man, fly” . While Faustus wonders where he should fly Mephistophilis presents a group of devils, who cover Faustus with crowns and rich garments. Faustus puts aside his doubts. He hands over the deed, which promises his body and soul to Lucifer in exchange for twenty-four years of constant service from Mephistophilis.

After he turns in the deed, Faustus asks his new servant where hell is located, and Mephistophilis says that it has no exact location but exists everywhere. He continues explaining, saying that hell is everywhere that the damned are cut off from God eternally. Faustus remarks that he thinks hell is a myth. At Faustus’s request for a

wife, Mephistophilis offers Faustus a she-devil, but Faustus refuses. Mephistophilis then gives him a book of magic spells and tells him to read it carefully.

Faustus once again wavers and leans toward repentance as he contemplates the wonders of heaven from which he has cut himself off. The good and evil angels appear again, and Faustus realizes that “my heart’s so hardened I cannot repent!”. He then begins to ask Mephistophilis questions about the planets and the heavens.

Mephistophilis answers all his queries willingly, until Faustus asks who made the world. Mephistophilis refuses to reply because the answer is “against our kingdom”; when Faustus presses him, Mephistophilis departs angrily. Faustus then turns his mind to God, and again he wonders if it is too late for him to repent. The good and evil angels enter once more, and the good angel says it is never too late for Faustus to repent. Faustus begins to appeal to Christ for mercy, but then Lucifer, Belzebub (another devil), and Mephistophilis enter. They tell Faustus to stop thinking of God and then present a show of the Seven Deadly Sins. Each sin—Pride,

Covetousness, Envy, Wrath, Gluttony, Sloth, and finally Lechery—
appears before Faustus and makes a brief speech. The sight of 16

the sins delights Faustus's soul, and he asks to see hell. Lucifer promises to take him there that night. For the meantime he gives Faustus a book that teaches him how to change his shape.

Summary: