



# Voracious Desires, Illusions, and Decline Presented in the Elizabethan Chef-D'oeuvre of Christopher Marlowe's Doctor Faustus

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## Abstract

This research explores the character's decline in Christopher Marlowe's play Doctor Faustus. It tells the story of an intellect entitled Dr. Faustus who, after becoming dissatisfied with every piece of the experience he has accumulated, goes to see the devils to satisfy his ambition of becoming a supreme being. Evaluating the reasons behind his demise is the focus of this research. This research is qualitative in nature. The Baum proposal for this type of study serves as the foundation for the investigation's methodology used in this analysis. The fall from grace concept is based on Sinclair's argument that a specific individual or system's collapse or catastrophe occurs after they have recently achieved happiness or influence. The conclusion reveals that Faustus's failure to discriminate between the real world and his fantasies, uncontrolled necromantic action, and overwhelming yearning is what ultimately lead to his disaster and condemnation. In the end, it is revealed that while Faustus initially appears to be the unfortunate protagonist of the narrative, he encounters the death he deserves.

**Keywords:** Necromancy; Collapse; Damnation; Salvation; Hell

## Introduction

Shakespeare holds a large portion of his success as a major English playwright to Christopher Marlowe, a renowned English inventor of blank verse, who wrote the tragedy; Doctor Faustus in 1592. To gain immense authority, shift, and mystical competence, the renowned German professor and enchanter Johann Faust, who came into the world in 1488, made a deal with the spirits. Despite being a superb professor, Faustus still values information more than insight. He diverts his attention by asking inquiries regarding the universe, but he is unable to comprehend what the realm of God is like. He comprehends the shapes of the skies, but not their power. He is unable to comprehend the mystical complexity of God's redeeming character since

he is an imperfect human being. He ultimately succumbs to the devil's spectacle of wickedness and attempts to take pleasure in his damnation since he considers himself to be condemned.

There is lifelong education in Doctor Faustus. In the narrative, the eternal struggle between the forces of good and evil is clearly illustrated, and even now, everyone remains able to observe and feel that struggle. After reading Doctor Faustus, one probably will contemplate in depth all the carelessness ever committed rather than declaring thankfulness to God, the Creator of the universe. When the Creator is disobeyed, His wrath will undoubtedly arrive, destroying each and everything and at that point, repentance will cease to be useless. Irrespective of their age, someone

interested in the literature of English is likely to be aware of the term “Faustus” thanks to the colloquial word “Faustus Bargain,” which refers to a transaction struck to appease the desire for worldly goods but comes with an increased likelihood of fleeting advantages and an extremely high cost. As a work of art and an intellectual, Dr. Faustus is a condemnation that is simple to get rather than the peak of success. Faustus abandons God and mistreats spirituality not seeing that, regardless of whether it is material or not, beliefs aid in helping people make decisions about their lives, find the root of their existence, and comprehend how they fit into a bigger one, both socially and cosmically. Every person ought to be aware that belief in God makes humanity feel more satisfied and whole since development and continual development cannot occur in the absence of faith.

Faustus illustrates the highly religious belief of today’s society, where capital grows as a possession, equipment turns into an idol, and everyone intentionally rushes for a spot in the underworld if this notion is accepted. He rejects the supremacy of God and has an insatiable desire for wisdom and power over the surroundings.

The research focuses on Dr. Faustus’ fall from virtue in the story, which was produced over a century before but its impact and spirit remain strong today. The story of this play continues to be a subject of conversation in multiple learning environments because belief in supernatural forces of all kinds, including enchantment, remedies, necromancy, and other varieties, has a significance that is intriguing in almost every individual’s existence, whether they are believers of God or not.

The purpose of the research is to examine the causes that led to Dr. Faustus, the main character of the story, having fallen from power. Being unable to tell the difference between illusion and reality, unrestrained supernatural training, and voracious desire have been the underlying causes. With the help of Baum’s descriptive-qualifying technique, each of the three characteristics is used as sections for the subject matter [1].

## Literature Review

Decline can be divided into two groups: Individual and collective decline, each of which has a particular combination of causes. The first one focuses on fundamental variables, while the other one considers outside influences. Normally former arises internally, while the latter derives from outside. The human turns into his creator in the first section, and into a weak creature in the next. A quick reversal or decline from a height of authority, riches, popularity, or anything similar is what Webster identifies as a decline. Sinclair, on the contrary side, defines decline as the collapse

or destruction of an individual, organization, or thing after they have proven prosperous or influential in the past. According to the definitions of decline that were previously cited, decline can be defined as something that results in an individual or possession failure or collapse.

## Decline

In simple terms, “Decline” refers to catastrophe or serious damage caused by within or outside reasons. Due to Doctor Faustus’ inability to recognize his position, he is the one who dominates in this instance. He is a well-educated individual with a focus on spirituality. He ought to have been aware of everything related to the understanding of the Creator, including what he ought to accomplish as well as what to refrain from doing. Because of the things he accomplished, he is going to face a horrible end. The investigation of the topic is supported by several perspectives and notions. It is stated that “A sudden descent or fall from a position of power, wealth, fame, or the like” [2].

On the other hand, the decline is defined as: “The failure or ruin of an institution or person when they have previously been successful or powerful” [3]. In most cases, either humans or nonliving things might encounter decline. Certain crises cross the line between normal and unnatural. A mixture of factors related to the environment and humanity may contribute to epidemics, which are periods of prolonged shortages of foodstuffs. Comet strikes and solar storms are examples of catastrophic events with extraterrestrial origins, each of which doesn’t typically influence people on Earth. Even while there may not be much concern about a comet hitting in the immediate future, a few researchers contend that over time, the chance of dying from an extraterrestrial collision is comparable to the danger that arises from conventional catastrophic events like infectious conditions.

## Voracious Desire

Christian asserts that desire gives us the power to get through challenges. With enough desire, you will overcome any obstacles real or fictitious to discover the universe’s limitless possibilities [4]. We may have self-assurance, respect our abilities, and commit to the dangers that are necessary for experiencing every moment to the utmost thanks to the strength of desire. However, as Faustus discovered, having a great deal of desire is certain to result in destruction. Because of his excessive energy, he remains unaware of his bodily as well as psychological weakness as a person.

A highly intense sensation towards someone or something is referred to as desire. Desire is a strong feeling that drives excitement or a yearning for something. This word can also be frequently used to describe a passionate

or enthusiastic involvement or adoration for an idea, reason, or action as well as a sensation of extraordinary thrill, passion, or powerful feelings, as well as intense feelings for or affection for something in particular. Although it typically suggests a more profound or additional embracing feeling than what the expression thirst suggests, it is frequently employed in a sense of love or lust.

## Illusion

Illusion is a technique for creating fantastical narratives. If a narrative is placed in a different universe, yet alternate reality is going to be unattainable, even though narratives based in it would be conceivable under that universe's parameters. If an account takes place in our world, it presents a tale that is inconceivable in the universe as we see it (through our eyes). Up till this point, researchers have seen the usage of illusion as a normal aspect of being human, but obviously, there are also deviations. A lot of individuals may be motivated by the illusion to engage in unethical or possibly unlawful behavior.

It's possible to become addicted to illusions as well as the behaviors that fuel them, just like with everything that makes us feel excited or happy. Illusions, similar to other kinds of dependency, can be categorized into this category if they hurt our lives and we are unable to quit engaging in them despite the harm they are giving us. This is exactly what happened to Faustus. He is unable to see things clearly because his desire to conquer all that exists is so strong.

"Fantasy is a way to tell stories about the fantastic. When set in this world, it tells a story which is impossible in the world as we perceive it (perception), when set in an otherworld, that otherworld will be impossible, though stories set there may be possible in its terms [5]".

There must be harmony, just like in all things in reality. In several ways, possessing an imaginative side and using it to dream out pleasant experiences may be an immense gift. Yet whenever these illusions are wrongly placed, they devour us and put walls between what we currently possess and the things we desire, then we might lose our sense of actuality and get to a terrible position.

## Facts

Fact is the situation of events exactly as they are, not as things could have been thought or could be. A more general description of fact would encompass whatever it exists or has existed in the past, regardless of whether it can be seen or understood. All that has happened now exists, or is going to exist is an even broader concept [6]. There are three types of thinking: belief that corresponds to truth, logical conceptions

(ideas about objects that are attainable despite being actual), and those things that can never be believed reasonably. Theorists, scientists, and other historical and contemporary intellectuals, including Aristotle, Plato, Frege, Wittgenstein, and Russell, used to differentiate between these three types of thinking. As opposed to how concepts operate in the mind, reality is frequently limited to only something that has an external appearance or an immediate source in it.

The fact can be compared with anything that is fictitious, deluded, solely in the imagination, impossible, fabricated, or vague. In addition, vague ideas have applications in courses of study and ordinary daily activities. For example, although vague and sometimes challenging to define, ideas like causation, moral existence, and equitable treatment are hardly comparable to absolute illusions. Abstraction's validity and actuality are disputed; a single view dismisses things as just expressions, while a different view elevates them to a greater fact than more concrete notions [7]. The conceptual problem of generals is based on this discrepancy. Falsehood implies something that does not constitute genuine, whereas reality corresponds to all that. Fantasy stories are regarded as unreal.

## Convention

Conventions are the methods used to apply, practice, embody, or realize an idea, instruction, or ability. Convention can also be defined as the process of interacting with, putting into action, performing, or realizing concepts [8]. It has served as a recurring theme in the literature written by numerous influential individuals who have contributed to the discipline of philosophic thought. It has significance in the areas of governance, schooling, and religion.

## Black Magic

Black magic is a type of witchcraft that involves communicating with the dead, via calling on their reincarnation as a ghost or by resurrecting them from the dead, physically, to perform omens, offer the tools to predict destiny, or unearth unknown information. The phrase may occasionally be employed in a wider context to allude to sorcery or supernatural activity.

The word "black magic" is usually employed to refer to the pretense of controlling mortality and deceased people, which is frequently made possible via supernatural witchcraft or another type of mystical rite. Purportedly summoned ghosts are compelled to disclose upcoming occurrences or sensitive details, modern reunion, channeling, and spiritual practice border on occult practices. Divination, which is a subset of African necromancy, is another name for black magic.

In our world, there are many things we cannot see. Black Magic offers us an immediate chance to participate in an instance from an invisible realm by bringing what is below our eyesight to our consciousness line and freezing it in forever. These members of the tiny world speak to us from shortly after mortality about the value of existence. Black magic is a commemoration of quiet times with little matters. "There is a special god just for small things" [9].

Black magic is a type of magic that involves communicating with the dead, through either calling upon their reincarnation as a ghost or by bringing them to life, to perform divination tasks, provide information needed to predict the coming years, or unearth hidden truths. Black magic is now more commonly used to refer to the pretense of controlling demise and those who have died, which is frequently helped by procedure supernatural activity or another type of esoteric event.

### Research Objectives

- To highlight the fictional traits that are employed to characterize the circumstances in the play
- To present the characteristics of "black magic" in the selected text
- To project the actual prominence as a trait, personality, existence, or representation of specific instances and events

### Research Questions

- How the self-taken decisions of Dr. Faustus have become the real cause of his catastrophic ending in the play?
- How does "black magic" depict the uncertainty and unclear view of the society of the Elizabethan era?

### Research Methodology and Theoretical Framework

This research is qualitative in nature. Applying Koul's suggested qualitative analysis techniques, the examination of the information was focused on gaining solutions to the queries raised in the issue's diagnosis. The majority of the information was gathered from libraries because this was the area of study.

The information from the study might be gathered in a variety of methods. Several actions were taken to gather information according to the guidelines:

- Going through the book and making an effort to understand it in its entirety
- Recognizing certain sections and conversations associated with the elements of the character's decline
- Gathering the sections and conversations connected to the examination

- Analyzing the plot about those features.

### Textual Analysis and Finding

The failure of the lead character of the story, Dr. Faustus, is the subject of this research. Irrational love, a capacity to discriminate between figments of the imagination and facts, and an unrestrained practice of magic comprise the three elements that the research identifies as causes of failure [10]. According to certain views previously put forward, these three variables are classified as detrimental in a way that indicates they are damaging and that nothing can be ascribed to them because they are linked to bad traits and must be severely ignored.

### Endless Desire

His obsessive desire is the primary root cause of Dr. Faustus that the research we are conducting has found. He never feels content with his accomplishments since he always has new aspirations. He resembles someone who drinks from the sea. He becomes more and more thirsty as he takes in and ultimately his thirst causes him to perish. "Faustus: A sound magician is a mighty god: Here, Faustus, tire thy brains to gain a deity."

Desire merely refers to a strong, favorable reaction towards certain individuals or things. A human being has a nearly insatiable urge to be engaged when they adore anyone or anything. A crucial social trait that has gone unrecognized for centuries is desire. Once ingested, desire needs to be rekindled. Among the solutions a person might find is wealth. Financial goals can aid a person in leading life to its fullest temporarily, yet in years to come, only love will aid in survival and motivate someone to continue living. But calamity is certain to strike if yearning isn't restrained.

Endless desire results from a regulated internalization in the person's personality and causes them to feel a ravenous drive to do what they do. It is hypothesized to anticipate less flexible consequences that may be related to one's own, other people's, and conflicting endeavors, perhaps resulting in unhappiness, anxiety, and exhaustion. A strict commitment towards the action might represent a sign of voracious enthusiasm since when one is so passionate about something, one can never stop doing it. This occurs as a result of selfish behaviours acting with voracious desire, as opposed to harmonious internal systems, which ultimately encourage the individual to grow reliant on what they do.

Faustus holds an academic degree in religious studies, yet he merely practices as a philosopher on the surface. Likewise moment, he allows his desire to push him to delve deeply within the ultimate understanding wherein every other of

the skills serves as a stepping stone. Faustus holds the idea that enchantment is the highest form of understanding while all other branches of study are inferior. This inference is drawn from various parallels with different fields of study to offer some philosophical arguments.

Medicinal study's main goal is to preserve one's physical condition. That objective has been fulfilled by the story of Faustus. His routine advice to patients is recognized as beneficial guidance. As a result of saving enormous towns under the grip of plagues and curing numerous lethal illnesses, his medicinal prescriptions are revered and maintained as magnificent assets or monuments. Despite each one of his successes, Faustus remains merely an ordinary individual who, pathetically, is nonetheless unsatisfied by the state of knowledge in medicine.

The field of medicine is a magnificent contribution to humanity. In reality, it relies upon the way users utilize it. It can be beneficial when individuals utilize it properly, or it can be detrimental if folks utilize it improperly. Individuals can recover from minor illnesses like coughs with the help of advances in science. Several inquiries that individuals have can be answered by the field of medicine. The field of medicine is involved in all related to illness. Technically a branch of medicine is a branch of science. If science is applied properly, there is not much problem with it. Professor Faustus, however, disagrees with this idea since he believes that technological advances will never allow him to become immortal.

Faustus definitely wouldn't be detached from research if he were to simply understand how much research has contributed to the advancement of humanity. Humans live in a scientific and technologically advanced era. Lacking the help of technology, humanity could not survive. These days, anything can happen in a single moment outside the aid of technology because technology has so thoroughly enveloped existence. Consumption, transportation, education, management, leisure, and interactions with others are all in some manner connected to research. Faustus seeks justice, but technology is the fact in and of oneself.

He has achieved unique status in part due to his voracious desire. While he first appears as a sociable creature who thinks about everybody else, he gradually disregards individuals as the story progresses. After the lesson, Faustus's poor behavior results in his end a terrible end no less. At last, under pressure from the force of his unquenchable desire, he succumbs to the devil's hold.

Faustus considers fortune. By achieving it, he may shortly ascend to the position of ruler of the wealthy and illustrious Emden, Germany. He fails to discover a solution to

the issue of his unquenchable desire till the final hour of his existence. Faustus might be regarded as having a particular dread based on this instance. He is afraid of losing the things he has acquired, and once more, this is related to problems of trust.

### **A Lack of Ability to Differentiate between Reality and Fiction**

Faustus is inclined to be called an excellent fantasist because he was in reality driven blind by imagination. Sadly, he uses evil behavior that is, forming a bargain with Satan to try and turn his thoughts into truth. There is an interface that exists between the imagination and actual worlds in each human brain, hidden inside. Imagination is the idealized, compassionate trickster. That which individual's desire is present yet is not seen. They don't have any of these possessions on the body; instead, they are floating around in the deepest wishes of their hearts. The age that we live in is one of pleasant delusion and stupidity. Imagination represents a blind area where all of humanity's unfulfilled desires are found. Truth is pounding its hand on the opposite half of the entrance, yelling to be heard. Imagination's frank, honest relative is a fact. Truth is unconcerned if what a person speaks hurts anyone. Whether it is correct or bad, truth will force one to face the things that are presented with. It is an environment where Truth, which is frequently ugly, contrasts with Imagination. It represents an individual's battle to reclaim the things throughout his existence that he is seeking. The globe is a huge location, populated by numerous individuals dispersed over the wide chasm separating the realms of imagination and reality.

Os acts. The three most important features that led to his downfall unquenchable enthusiasm, a failure to tell imagination from the truth, and an unrestrained practice of magic are amply demonstrated in this research. This is done to highlight the stark differences between an academic and a layperson. Even if an intellect remains considered as being of high status, if passion prevails over rational thought and trust is shaken, the individual will become ensnared in unrequited desire. As it shows a conflict between what theology views as evil and human yearning for limitless understanding, authority, splendor, and prosperity, Dr. Faustus is primarily a work of ethics. Faustus makes an effort to impose his desires in defiance of both the Lord and the forces of evil, but he is unsuccessful since it is clear that the main character of the story is sufficiently arrogant to claim to be the Creator to acquire immortality. He investigated each field of information known to man, but none of it will assist him in fulfilling his absurd objective, so he makes a deal with the forces of evil to make it happen. He turns to the skills of enchantment due to his unquenchable desire, incapacity to discriminate between alternate worlds, and uncontrolled practice of witchcraft.

He summons Satan and enters into an agreement concerning the demon on his own. Faustus might at first glance seem to be an inspiration, but in truth, he is a flawed character who ultimately fails.

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