

## [Chorus 4]

*Enter WAGNER solus*

WAGNER

I think my master means to die shortly,  
 For he hath given to me all his goods!  
 And yet methinks, if that death were near,  
 He would not banquet, and carouse, and swill,  
 Amongst the students, as even now he doth, 5  
 Who are at supper with such belly-cheer,  
 As Wagner ne'er beheld in all his life.  
 See where they come: belike the feast is ended. [Exit]

## Scene 12

*Enter FAUSTUS [and MEPHASTOPHILIS],  
 with two or three SCHOLARS*

1 SCHOLAR

Master Doctor Faustus, since our conference about fair  
 ladies, which was the beautifullest in all the world, we have  
 determined with ourselves that Helen of Greece was the  
 admirablest lady that ever lived. Therefore, master doctor,  
 if you will do us that favour as to let us see that peerless 5  
 dame of Greece, whom all the world admires for majesty,  
 we should think ourselves much beholding unto you.

FAUSTUS

Gentlemen for that I know your friendship is unfeigned,  
 And Faustus' custom is not to deny  
 The just requests of those that wish him well, 10  
 You shall behold that peerless dame of Greece,

*Chorus* Again, the direction for Wagner's entrance suggests that the choric figure doubled  
 with the role of Faustus' servant

1-8 In place of these lines, B gives Wagner a prose speech containing the gist of A's verse

*Scene 12* The A and B versions of this scene are closely related; but B is markedly inferior to  
 A, reading like a poor memorial reconstruction of the Scholars' lines, but having a re-  
 written speech for the Old Man

3 *Helen of Greece* Helen (who was married to Menelaus, king of Sparta) was given to Paris  
 as a reward for judging the contest of three goddesses

8-15 as prose in A

No otherways for pomp and majesty  
 Than when Sir Paris crossed the seas with her,  
 And brought the spoils to rich Dardania.  
 Be silent then, for danger is in words.

15

*Music sounds, and HELEN passeth over the stage*

2 SCHOLAR

Too simple is my wit to tell her praise,  
 Whom all the world admires for majesty.

3 SCHOLAR

No marvel though the angry Greeks pursued  
 With ten years' war the rape of such a queen,  
 Whose heavenly beauty passeth all compare.

20

1 SCHOLAR

Since we have seen the pride of Nature's works,  
 And only paragon of excellence,  
 Let us depart; and for this glorious deed  
 Happy and blest be Faustus evermore.

FAUSTUS

Gentlemen farewell; the same I wish to you.

25

*Exeunt SCHOLARS*

*Enter an OLD MAN*

OLD MAN

Ah Doctor Faustus, that I might prevail

14 *Dardania* Troy; in fact the city built by Dardanus on the Hellespont, but the name is often transferred to Troy

15 *s.d. passeth over* It would appear that the character was instructed to move from one side of the yard, across the stage, and out at the other side of the yard, instead of entering by the stage doors (cf. Allardyce Nicoll, 'Passing Over the Stage', *Shakespeare Survey*, XII [1959], pp. 47–55)

16–24 In the B Text the Scholars' comments are as follows:

2 SCHOLAR

Was this fair Helen, whose admired worth  
 Made Greece with ten years' war afflict poor Troy?

3 SCHOLAR

Too simple is my wit to tell her worth,  
 Whom all the world admires for majesty.

1 SCHOLAR

Now we have seen the pride of Nature's work,  
 We'll take our leaves, and for this blessed sight  
 Happy and blest be Faustus evermore.

26–37 The Old Man's speech is oddly strained: a 'goal' cannot 'conduct', and 'commiseration' does not 'expel'; the speech seems to have been re-written for the B Text – see the Appendix

To guide thy steps unto the way of life,  
 By which sweet path thou may'st attain the goal  
 That shall conduct thee to celestial rest.  
 Break heart, drop blood, and mingle it with tears, 30  
 Tears falling from repentant heaviness  
 Of thy most vile and loathsome filthiness,  
 The stench whereof corrupts the inward soul  
 With such flagitious crimes of heinous sins,  
 As no commiseration may expel; 35  
 But mercy, Faustus, of thy saviour sweet,  
 Whose blood alone must wash away thy guilt.

FAUSTUS

Where art thou Faustus? Wretch, what hast thou done!  
 Damned art thou Faustus, damned; despair and die!

MEPHASTOPHILIS *gives him a dagger*

Hell calls for right, and with a roaring voice 40  
 Says, 'Faustus, come: thine hour is come!'  
 And Faustus will come to do thee right.

OLD MAN

Ah stay, good Faustus, stay thy desperate steps!  
 I see an angel hovers o'er thy head,  
 And with a vial full of precious grace 45  
 Offers to pour the same into thy soul!  
 Then call for mercy, and avoid despair.

FAUSTUS

Ah my sweet friend, I feel thy words  
 To comfort my distressed soul;  
 Leave me awhile to ponder on my sins. 50

OLD MAN

I go, sweet Faustus; but with heavy cheer,  
 Fearing the ruin of thy hopeless soul. [Exit]

FAUSTUS

Accursed Faustus, where is mercy now?  
 I do repent, and yet I do despair:  
 Hell strives with grace for conquest in my breast! 55  
 What shall I do to shun the snares of death?

MEPHASTOPHILIS

Thou traitor, Faustus: I arrest thy soul  
 For disobedience to my sovereign lord.

Revolt, or I'll in piecemeal tear thy flesh.

FAUSTUS

Sweet Mephistophilis, entreat thy lord  
To pardon my unjust presumption; 60  
And with my blood again I will confirm  
My former vow I made to Lucifer.

MEPHASTOPHILIS

Do it then quickly, with unfeigned heart,  
Lest greater danger do attend thy drift. 65

FAUSTUS

Torment, sweet friend, that base and crooked age  
That durst dissuade me from thy Lucifer,  
With greatest torments that our hell affords.

MEPHASTOPHILIS

His faith is great, I cannot touch his soul,  
But what I may afflict his body with, 70  
I will attempt – which is but little worth.

FAUSTUS

One thing, good servant, let me crave of thee,  
To glut the longing of my heart's desire:  
That I might have unto my paramour  
That heavenly Helen which I saw of late, 75  
Whose sweet embracings may extinguish clean  
These thoughts that do dissuade me from my vow:  
And keep mine oath I made to Lucifer.

MEPHASTOPHILIS

Faustus, this, or what else thou shalt desire,  
Shall be performed in twinkling of an eye. 80

*Enter HELEN*

FAUSTUS

Was this the face that launched a thousand ships,  
And burnt the topless towers of Ilium?

59 *Revolt* Turn again to your allegiance

65 *drift* drifting; also purpose

81–100 In these lines Marlowe is repeating his own memorable phrases:  
Helen, whose beauty summoned Greece to arms,  
And drew a thousand ships to Tenedos.

2 *Tamburlaine*, II, iv, 87–8

Sweet Helen, make me immortal with a kiss:  
 Her lips sucks forth my soul, see where it flies!  
 Come Helen, come, give me my soul again. 85  
 Here will I dwell, for heaven be in these lips,  
 And all is dross that is not Helena!

*Enter OLD MAN*

I will be Paris, and for love of thee,  
 Instead of Troy shall Wittenberg be sacked;  
 And I will combat with weak Menelaus, 90  
 And wear thy colours on my plumed crest:  
 Yea, I will wound Achilles in the heel,  
 And then return to Helen for a kiss.  
 O thou art fairer than the evening air,  
 Clad in the beauty of a thousand stars, 95  
 Brighter art thou than flaming Jupiter  
 When he appeared to hapless Semele;  
 More lovely than the monarch of the sky  
 In wanton Arethusa's azured arms;  
 And none but thou shalt be my paramour. 100

*Exeunt [FAUSTUS and HELEN]*

OLD MAN

Accursed Faustus, miserable man,  
 That from thy soul exclud'st the grace of heaven,  
 And fliest the throne of His tribunal seat!

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And he'll make me immortal with a kiss.

*Dido, IV, iv, 123*

So thou wouldst prove as true as Paris did,  
 Would, as fair Troy was, Carthage might be sacked,  
 And I be called a second Helena.

*Dido, V, 1, 146–8 82*

82 *Ilium* Troy

88 s.d. This direction and the Old Man's final speech (101–9) are omitted in the B Text

92 *wound . . . heel* Achilles was invulnerable apart from one of his heels – where he was shot by Paris

96–7 *flaming . . . Semele* The sight of Jupiter in all his divine splendour was too much for mortal eyes, and Semele was consumed by the fire of his brightness

98–9 *monarch . . . arms* Arethusa was a nymph who was changed into a fountain after bathing in the river Alpheus and exciting the river-god's passion; Alpheus is said to have been related to the sun

*Enter the DEVILS*

Satan begins to sift me with his pride,  
 As in this furnace God shall try my faith. 105  
 My faith, vile hell, shall triumph over thee!  
 Ambitious fiends, see how the heavens smiles  
 At your repulse, and laughs your state to scorn.  
 Hence hell, for hence I fly unto my God. *Exeunt*

### Scene 13

*Enter FAUSTUS with the SCHOLARS*

FAUSTUS

Ah gentlemen!

1 SCHOLAR

What ails Faustus?

FAUSTUS

Ah my sweet chamber-fellow, had I lived with thee, then  
 had I lived still; but now I die eternally. Look, comes he  
 not, comes he not? 5

2 SCHOLAR

What means Faustus?

3 SCHOLAR

Belike he is grown into some sickness, by being over-  
 solitary.

1 SCHOLAR

If it be so, we'll have physicians to cure him; 'tis but a  
 surfeit: never fear, man. 10

FAUSTUS

A surfeit of deadly sin, that hath damned both body and  
 soul.

104 *sift* Cf. St Luke's Gospel xxii, 3: 'Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat'

107 *the heavens* the celestial beings who inhabit the extra-terrestrial spheres of the geocentric universe.

*smiles* A singular verb following a plural subject is not uncommon in sixteenth-century literature

*scene 13* B opens this scene with the arrival of the devils – Lucifer, Belzebub, and Mephistophilis – who have come to witness Faustus' end; see the Appendix