

Measures 1-11: Mephistopheles' theme:

Like a faint echo emanating from the netherworld, the theme of temptation is sung by a large choir of bass voices as a representation of Mephistopheles.

Mephistopheles promises Faust both joy and love in exchange for accepting the pact he 's proposing.

Measures 12-19: Faust's theme:

Faust, a highly-educated scientist, is a lonely and bitter man who feels spurned by years devoted entirely to the pursuit of knowledge, while not providing him with any personal satisfaction.

He has never tried to seduce the woman whom he has always loved from afar.

In considering this situation, Faust laments.

Measures 20-29: Reintroduction of the Mephistopheles theme (dialogue between Mephistopheles and Faust)

In sensing Faust 's vulnerability, Mephistopheles resumes his theme of temptation with greater force and conviction. Mephistopheles ' words and promises resonate in Faust 's subconscious.

Measures 30-48: Reintroduction of Faust's theme, followed by the development of Mephistopheles' theme

While continuing to lament his miserable situation, Faust is extremely tempted by Mephistopheles ' entreaties. He considers teaming up with the Devil as a way of recovering from his dire situation and finally seducing the woman he associates with true Love.

Faust winds up succumbing to temptation and enters into a pact with Mephistopheles (transition measure 36).

At this point, Faust recites on his own Mephistopheles ' theme, which then gets treated with a crescendo buildup until hitting higher notes.

Faust feels "reborn".

Measures 49-59: Finale

Faust's theme is altered during a finale involving all instruments in the ensemble as well as the choir.

Faust once again sings his theme, this time fortissimo, and seems to convey a feeling replete with contentment.

He is not aware that at this very moment the trap laid for him is closing fast:

- While Faust continues to sing his theme immersed in the belief that he'll finally be able to obtain all that he's desired, the Devil, whose singing now permeates, is pleased by the prospect of what awaits his latest subject: damnation. The musical notes struck on the piano (symbolizing fatality) foretell the tragic destiny that has befallen Faust.

Measures 60-66: Conclusion

Faust's happiness was in fact a deceitful and ephemeral feeling since his soul is ultimately dragged into Hell.

Such was the price for entering into a pact with Mephistopheles...