

Doctor Fausto

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Resumen

En esta obra de Marlowe, Doctor Fausto es el protagonista. Desde un primer análisis observamos que es un personaje antagonista y ciertamente ambicioso. La primera vez que Fausto aparece, se está preparando para iniciar su carrera como mago. Fausto representa el espíritu del Renacimiento, con su rechazo de Dios. Habiendo decidido que el pacto con el diablo es la única manera de cumplir sus ambiciones, Fausto se ciega felizmente con dicho pacto.

Palabras clave: Literatura, Marlowe, Proyecto Literario.

Title: Doctor Faustus.

Abstract

Faustus is the protagonist and tragic hero of Marlowe's play. We can tell he is a contradictory character who possesses ambition. The first time that Faustus appears, he is just preparing to start his career as a magician. He represents the spirit of the Renaissance, with its rejection of God. Having decided that a pact with the devil is the only way to fulfill his ambitions, Faustus blinds himself happily to what such a pact means.

Keywords: Literature, Literary project, Marlowe.

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Doctor Faustus is a Christian drama which contains an orthodox moral meaning dissuading Faustus' immoral decision so as to avoid the eternal damnation of the soul. Most of the play is not an assertion of Christian commandment: although it maintains its Christian structure with references to God and heaven, the violations of the central character towards religious authority are present through it.

The fact of transgressing the structure of his world describes Doctor Faustus. The scholar chooses magic as superior to other subjects, in order to achieve pride. In the open scene he attempts to convince himself of the value of a number of occupations- medicine, law and divinity- and then he rejects them:

[...]

Philosophy is odious and obscure,

Both law and physic are for petty wits,

Divinity is basest of the three,

Unpleasant, harsh, contemptible and vile.

(Act I, Scene I)

In this way, not only does he disobey God and divinity, but also he deliberately rejects obedience and submission to him, selecting as an alternative loyalty and fidelity to the devil. His reasons for doing that, however, are located not in these disciplines' restrictions as sources of knowledge or truth. What is more, he elects magic because he considers it as a source of superiority, power and omnipotence. Faustus desires to be omnipotent, like God:

These metaphysics of magicians,

And necromantic books are heavenly;

Lines, circles, scenes, letters, and characters;

Ay, these are those that Faustus most desires.

O, what a world of profit and delight,

Of power, of honour, of omnipotence,

Is promis'd to the studious artisan!

(Act 1, Scene 1)

Mephistophilis, is a mediator of Faustus' damnation, and witnesses the pact of the scholar with Lucifer. This is the reason why he does not deceive Faustus about the truth of hell:

Faust. Where are you damn'd?

Meph. In hell.

Faust. How comes it, then, that thou art out of hell?

Meph. Why, this is hell, nor am I out of it.

(Act 1, Scene 3)

Once he had committed himself to his own damnation, Faustus seems incapable to change his path: *"My heart is hardened, I cannot repent. Scarce can I name salvation, faith, or heaven* (Act 2, Scene 2). At the end of the play, Faustus is repented to God, convinced by the Good Angel, and he calls God for mercy and forgiveness. However, God does not forgive him due to the fact that Faustus betrayed him previously. Consequently, he is forced to spend eternity in hell:

And now poor soul must thy good angel leave thee.

The jaws of hell are open to receive thee. Exit.

Hell is discovered.

(Act 5, Scene 2)

In this sense, he is separated from God's adoration. While Christianity seems to accept repentance for the accomplishment of redemption, Marlowe plays with this idea in *Doctor Faustus*, rejecting it for his own thematic commitments.

The final chorus of the play tell us that Doctor Faustus involved himself with *"unlawful things"* and thus experienced *"more than heavenly power permits"* (Act 5, Scene 3).

In conclusion, *Doctor Faustus* maintains its Christian structure against his protagonist's rebellious profanities. It was intended to be a moralizing play, clearly seen by the conflict between good and devil. The message that the audience acquire through the play denotes the difficulties to make the correct choice. Likewise, I think the play uses Faustus and his fate to warn of the consequences of following immoral behaviors, committing sins against God.

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