

- 'I will renounce this magic and repent' - his decision is not irrevocable.
- Context for F's soul- good v evil angel- repentance v despair.
- 'I do repent; and yet I do despair' - wavering in his allegiance to the devil.
 - ⇒ Two feelings coexist in his mind.
 - ⇒ Despair isn't a definitive way of thinking about F- shouldn't necessarily be the things that defines him.
 - ⇒ May not have extreme mood swings of F- but as human beings can understand a flux in feelings- part of human experience.
 - ⇒ Manic depressive.
- Tension between Christian and secular definition of sin.
 - ⇒ Psychological perspective- classical tragedy influence.
 - ⇒ Fuses two genres- morality plays and classical tragedy- difficult to just accept F is damned.
 - ⇒ Binary solution Christianity presents- salvation or damnation- inadequate.
- Guilty of sin of despair- sin against the holy spirit/a mortal sin.
 - ⇒ Defined in Christian doctrine as losing one's belief in God's capacity to forgive.
 - ⇒ In medieval tradition called 'sin against the Holy Ghost' - considered the worst sin of all because it is irrevocable.
 - ⇒ Suicide seen as result of despair- indicted loss of faith in God and wish to take decisions about one's life and death out of God's control.
 - ⇒ Illustration of the medieval concept of despair- the sin against the Holy Ghost.
 - ⇒ A version of Lucifer's rebellious pride.
- 'My God! My God! Look not so fierce on me!'
- Mephistopheles offers Faustus a dagger- tempting him to despair.
- Hoursecourser scene- Faustus' soliloquy- 'what art F but a man condemned to die'
 - ⇒ But even in this late stage of the play- remembers Christ's mercy.
 - ⇒ Accepting fatalism?
 - ⇒ 'despair doth drive distrust unto my thoughts'.
 - ⇒ 'Tush! Christ did call the thief upon the cross'- hope or delusional?
- Old man- Christian perspective- sins are an affront to God.
 - ⇒ Must face up to the true horror of your sins.
 - 'heinous sins' 'vile and loathsome filthy things'
 - ⇒ 'Damned art thou, Faustus, damned! Despair and die!'
 - Realising the full horror of what he has done- acknowledging sin.
 - Is despair a necessary process here- part of acknowledging sin.
 - ⇒ Dynamic between M and OM- psychomachia.
 - ⇒ OM 'call for mercy and avoid despair'.
 - ⇒ M 'I arrest thy soul for disobedience to my sovereign lord'.
- Helen of Troy- actively determining his fate- 'extinguish clean these thoughts that do dissuade me from my vow'.