

Faust Libretto

English Translation

Cast:

FAUST (Tenor)
MÉPHISTOPHÉLÈS (Bass)
WAGNER (Baritone)
VALENTIN (Baritone)
SIEBEL (Soprano)
MARGUERITE (Soprano)
MARTHE (Mezzosoprano)

CHORUS

young girls, labourers, students, burghers, matrons, invisible demons, church choir,
witches, queen and courtesans of antiquity, celestial voices

ACT ONE

Introduction

Faust's study

The day is dawning. Faust is sitting at a large table littered with parchments. In front of him lies an open book.

FAUST

Nothing!

In vain do I question, through this zealous vigil,

Both Nature and our Maker;

No voice comes to murmur in my ear

Some word of comfort!

I have pined, sad and lonely,

Unable to break the fetters

Which still bind me to this world!

I see nothing! I know nothing!

Nothing! Nothing!

He closes the book and stands up.

The sky lightens! Dark night melts away

As the new dawn advances!

Another day! Another day grows bright!

O Death, when will you come

And shelter me beneath your wing?

He takes a phial from the table.

Well, since Death shuns me,
Why should I not go to him?
Hail, O my last morning!
Fearless, I reach
my journey's end;
And I am, with this potion,
The sole master of my fate!

He pours the contents of the phial inside a crystal beaker. As he is about to drink, girlish voices are heard outside

YOUNG GIRLS

outside

Ah!

Lazy girl, who are
Still slumbering!
The day already shines
In its golden cloak.
The bird already sings
Its careless songs;
The caressing dawn
Smiles on the harvest;
The brook prattles,
The flower opens to daylight,
All Nature
Awakens to love!

FAUST

Idle echoes of human bliss,
Go your way!
Go by, go by!
O you, my forefathers' cup, so often filled,
Why do you thus shake in my hand?
Again he raises the beaker to his lips.

HARVESTERS

Dawn calls us back to the fields;
One can scarcely see the lark
Soaring and suddenly diving down
In the deep azure of the sky!
Fair is the weather, fair the earth;
Blessed be God!

YOUNG GIRLS and HARVESTERS

Blessed be God!

FAUST

putting down his beaker

God! God! God!

He drops back in his armchair

But what can this God of theirs do for me?

Will he give me back love, youth and faith?

A curse on you, O human pleasures!

A curse on the fetters

Which have me grovelling on this earth!

A curse on all that deceives us,

Idle hope which speeds away with the hours,

Dream of love or of battle!

A curse on happiness, a curse on science,

Prayer and faith!

A curse on you, patience!

Satan, come to me!

MEPHISTOPHELES

suddenly appearing

Here I am!

Why are you surprised?

Is my attire not to your taste?

My sword at my side, a feather in my hat,

Money in my purse, a splendid cloak

Over my shoulder; in short,

A real lord!

Well, doctor, what do you want with me?

Come now, speak, are you afraid of me?

FAUST

No!

MEPHISTOPHELES

Do you doubt my power?

FAUST

Perhaps I do!

MEPHISTOPHELES

Put it to the test then!

FAUST

Go away!

MEPHISTOPHELES

Pshaw! Is this how you thank me?
Let me tell you that with Satan
One must sing another tune
And that there was no need
To call him such a long way away
Only to show him the door!

FAUST

Well, what can you do for me?

MEPHISTOPHELES

Everything! But first, tell me
What it is you want. Is it gold?

FAUST

What should I do with riches?

MEPHISTOPHELES

Very well! I see where the shoe pinches!
You yearn for glory?

FAUST

More than that!

MEPHISTOPHELES

Power, then?

FAUST

No! I want a treasure
Which contains them all!
I want youth!
Then, pleasure will be mine,
So will young mistresses!
Mine their caresses!
Mine their desires!
Mine the energy
Of powerful instincts
And the mad orgy
Of the heart and senses!
Fiery youth,
I want your desires,
I want your raptures,
I want your pleasures!...

MEPHISTOPHELES

Very well! I can gratify your whim!

FAUST

And what shall I give you in return?

MEPHISTOPHELES

A mere trifle.

Here, I am in your service

But down there, you will be in mine.

FAUST

Down there?

MEPHISTOPHELES

holding out a parchment

Down there! Come now, sign this.

What, your hand is shaking?

What can I find to urge you on?

Youth is calling you, be bold enough to look at it!

He conjures up a vision of Marguerite sitting at her spinning-wheel

FAUST

O wonder!

MEPHISTOPHELES

Well? What do you think of it?

FAUST

taking the parchment

Here!

He signs

MEPHISTOPHELES

We are set!

He takes the beaker from the table.

And now, Master, I myself invite you

To drain this vessel

In which smokes and bubbles

No longer Death, no longer poison, but life!

FAUST

seizing the beaker

To you, divine and bewitching vision!

He drains the beaker and is at once changed into a young and elegant lord. The vision vanishes.

MEPHISTOPHELES
Come!

FAUST
Shall I see her again?

MEPHISTOPHELES
No doubt you will.

FAUST
When?

MEPHISTOPHELES
This very day!

FAUST
Very well!

MEPHISTOPHELES
Away, then!

FAUST and MEPHISTOPHELES
Away!
Pleasure will be mine/yours,
So will young mistresses, *etc.*

They go out

ACT TWO

The fair
One of the town gates. On the left an inn with the sign of Bacchus sitting astride a barrel
Burghers, students and soldiers are enjoying themselves.

FIRST STUDENTS
Wine or beer,
Beer or wine,
May my glass
Ever be full!
Unashamedly,
Glass after glass,
A drunkard
Drinks everything!

WAGNER

Youthful addict
Of the barrel
Nought but water
Must be barred from it!
May your glory,
Your heart's desire
Be to drink
Now and forever!

FIRST STUDENTS

Youthful addict, *etc.*
They toast and drink

SOLDIERS

Girls or fortresses,
It's all one, by God!
Old citadels and young mistresses
Are fair game for us!
Whoever is clever
And unscrupulous enough,
Forces them to surrender
And pay a ransom!

BURGHERS

On Sundays and holidays
I like to talk of war and battles,
While distant peoples
Are cracking each other's pates.
I go and sit on the banks
Which overlook the stream
And watch the boats float past
As I empty my glass!

YOUNG GIRLS

Look at these bold fellows
Coming over there;
We must not be too cruel,
Let's walk slower.

SECOND STUDENTS

Look at their impudent miens
And victorious looks!
Friends, we must be on our guard
And hold fast to our hearts!

MATRONS

Look at those gentlemen
Rushing after these hussies!
Aren't we just as fine as they,
Not to say much handsomer?

YOUNG GIRLS

They would like to bewitch,
But they try in vain.
We have nothing to fear
From your wrath.
A lowering brow
Merely grows redder!
Should a lad want me,
I take him at his word.
One must surely trust
All your fine speeches!
Should a lad, *etc.*

MATRONS

You want to bewitch,
It's plain to see.
What a fine notion!
Be as shameless
As they are tasteless.
One must be a fool,
I do declare,
To pride oneself
On such suitors.
One must be a fool, *etc.*

BURGHERS

Come, neighbour, let us empty
A glass of wine.
My wife scolds
About everything.
She must always be right.
My wife scolds, *etc.*

SECOND STUDENTS

Let us see this thing
Through to the end.
See how cross they are,
See how they behave
Their brows are lowering,
They have good taste!
Let us wager I am accepted

At the very first word.
Let us wager, *etc.*

FIRST STUDENTS

Hooray for wine!
Wine or beer,
Beer or wine,
May my glass
Ever be full!
Unashamedly,
Glass after glass,
A drunkard,
Drinks everything!
Youthful addict
Of the barrel,
Nought but water
Must be barred from it!
May your glory,
Your heart's desire,
Be to drink
Now and forever!

SOLDIERS

Hurray for war,
This godly calling!
No proud beauties for us!
We know how to please them
In the twinkling of an eye!
Let's go about our task,
With neither fear nor shame,
Let's attack on all sides!
From that firm precept
A soldier excludes
No woman nor castle,
And basking in glory
He celebrates victory
To the sound of the drums.
From that firm precept, *etc.*

VALENTIN

walks in at the back, a small medal in his hand
O holy medal,
Which my sister gave me,
On the day of battle
Remain on my heart
To ward off Death!

WAGNER

Ah! Here is Valentin, looking for us no doubt!

VALENTIN

A last glass, gentlemen, and we must be off!

WAGNER

What is wrong with you?

What regrets sadden our leave-taking?

VALENTIN

Like you, I am going away for a long time;
Marguerite stays behind and to look after
My mother is no longer alive!

SIEBEL

More than one faithful friend
Will take your place at her side!

VALENTIN

pressing his hand
Thank you!

SIEBEL

You can rely on me!

STUDENTS

Rely on us too!

VALENTIN

Before I leave this town,
My forefathers' native place,
To you, Lord and King of Heaven,
Do I entrust my sister.
I beg you to defend her
From every peril,
My beloved sister.
Freed from this harrowing thought,
I shall seek glory in the enemy's ranks,
The first, the bravest, in the thick of the fray,
I shall go and fight for my country.
And if God should call me to his side,
I shall faithfully watch over you,
O Marguerite.
Before I leave, *etc.*

O King of Heaven, hear my prayer
And defend Marguerite,
O King of Heaven.

WAGNER

Come now, friends, discard these idle fears!
No tears must be mixed with this good wine!
A drink, a toast and a merry ditty
To cheer us up!

STUDENTS

A drink, a toast and a merry ditty
To cheer us up!

WAGNER

mounting on a stool
A rat, more cowardly than brave,
More repellent than handsome,
Lived deep down in a cellar,
Underneath an old barrel.
A cat...

MEPHISTOPHELES

appearing suddenly
I beg your pardon!

WAGNER

Eh?

MEPHISTOPHELES

I crave that you will allow me to take a place
In your midst.
First, your friend must finish his song!
I promise you several in my own style!

WAGNER

stepping down
One is quite enough, provided it is good!

MEPHISTOPHELES

I shall try my hardest not to bore anyone!
The golden calf is still standing,
His might
Is celebrated
From one end of the world to the other!
Nations and kings mix together

To hail the infamous idol
And to the sinister clink of coins
They whirl in a frenzied ring
Round and round his pedestal!
And Satan leads the dance!

ALL
And Satan leads the dance!

MEPHISTOPHELES
The golden calf triumphs over the gods;
Basking in
His preposterous glory
The base monster insults Heaven!
He looks down, ? O strange madness! ?
On the human race at his feet
Sallying forth, sword in hand,
Through blood and filth,
Where the burning metal is shining!
And Satan leads the dance!

ALL
And Satan leads the dance!
We thank you for your song!

VALENTIN
aside
What an odd fellow!

WAGNER
handing a glass to Mephistopheles
Will you do us the honour of drinking with us?

MEPHISTOPHELES
With pleasure!
He takes Wagner's hand and studies it
Ah! This makes me grieve for you!
Do you see this line?

WAGNER
Well?

MEPHISTOPHELES
An ill-boding sign!
You will be killed in an attack!

Wagner withdraws his hand.

SIEBEL

Are you a wizard, then?

MEPHISTOPHELES

taking his hand

Just enough of a wizard

To read in your hand

That fate condemns you

Never to touch a flower again

But it withers.

SIEBEL

hastily withdrawing his hand

Me!

MEPHISTOPHELES

No more noseays for Marguerite!

VALENTIN

My sister!

Who told you her name?

MEPHISTOPHELES

Take heed, my fine fellow,

You shall be killed by someone I know!

taking the glass from Wagner's hand

Your health!

He throws the wine away

Pshaw! Your wine is revolting!

Allow me to offer you some from my own cellar!

He raps on the barrel of the inn?sign.

Ho there, lord Bacchus, wine please!

Wine gushes from the barrel. To the students

Come nearer!

Everyone to his taste!

Let's drink the health you mentioned

But a moment ago, friends: to Marguerite!

VALENTIN

knocking the glass out of his hand

Enough of that!

Upon my life

I shall silence you here and now!

The wine from the barrel bursts into flames. Valentin and Wagner unsheathe their swords.

WAGNER

Ho there!

STUDENTS

Ho there!

MEPHISTOPHELES

Why do you quake as you threaten me?

He draws a circle round himself with his sword. Valentin tries to attack him. His sword falls to pieces.

VALENTIN

Amazing! My sword
Breaks in the air!

ALL

We cannot repulse the spells
Of hell, come to blunt our weapons!

VALENTIN

But since you can break swords ...

ALL

But since you can break swords ...

VALENTIN

Look!

ALL

Look!

VALENTIN

taking his broken sword by the blade and showing it crosswise to Mephistopheles
It is a cross which protects us from hell!

ALL

It is a cross which protects us from hell!

As he sees the cross Mephistopheles draws back. The crowd leaves the stage.

MEPHISTOPHELES

sheathing his sword
We shall meet again, friends!

Your servant!

FAUST

entering

What is wrong with you?

MEPHISTOPHELES

Nothing' Now, to the point, dear doctor,

What do you expect me to do?

What shall I begin with?

FAUST

Where is the fair girl hiding

Whom your arts showed me?

Was it mere witchcraft?

MEPHISTOPHELES

Not at all!

But her virtue defends her from us

And Heaven itself protects her!

FAUST

No matter! I want to see her!

Come! Lead me to her side

Or I shall part company with you!

MEPHISTOPHELES

Enough said! I am too keen on my new office

To let you doubt my zeal for a moment!

Let's wait! In this very spot, at this merry call,

The fair and chaste maid will come before you.

Arm in arm, students and young girls rush onto the stage. They are followed by burghers and before them prance fiddlers.

CHORUS

Just as the light breeze

Blows up into thick whirling clouds

The dust of the furrows,

Let the waltz carry us away!

Make the whole plain resound

With the clamour of your songs!

MEPHISTOPHELES

to Faust

See these charming lasses!

Will you not
Offer your arm
To the fairest among them?

FAUST
No, pray desist from jeering
And leave my heart to its dream!

SIEBEL
as he returns
Marguerite must walk through here!

YOUNG GIRLS
sidling up to Siebel
Must a girl invite you to dance?

SIEBEL
No, no, I have no wish to dance!

CHORUS
Just as the light breeze, etc.

Marguerite walks in.

FAUST
Here she is! This is she!

MEPHISTOPHELES
Well, then, accost her!

SIEBEL
starting towards Marguerite
Marguerite!

MEPHISTOPHELES
I beg your pardon!

SIEBEL
aside
Curse that man! Here he is again!

MEPHISTOPHELES
What, my friend, are you here?
Ah, well and truly, my friend, here you are!

FAUST

stepping up to Marguerite

My lovely young lady, will you not allow me
To offer you my arm and escort you on your way?

MARGUERITE

No thank you, sir: I am neither a lady, nor lovely,
And I really have no need for a supporting arm!

She walks past Faust and disappears.

FAUST

looking after her

By Heaven, such grace and such modesty!
O fair maid, I love you!

SIEBEL

She has gone!

MEPHISTOPHELES

to Faust

Well?

FAUST

Well, I am repulsed!

MEPHISTOPHELES

laughing

Come, dear doctor,
I see that I must
Foster your love affairs!

He and Faust go out the same way as Marguerite has gone.

YOUNG GIRLS

What is it? ...

OTHER YOUNG GIRLS

Marguerite
Who has declined this fine lord's company!

ALL

Let's waltz again! Let's waltz for ever!
Just as the light breeze
Blows up into thick whirling clouds
The dust of the furrows,
Let the waltz carry us away!

Make the whole plain resound
With the clamour of your songs!
Until they are gasping for breath,
Until they are dying,
A god drags them in his wake,
The god Pleasure!
The earth is spinning
And flying away from them!
What a noise, what bliss
In every eye!
The earth is spinning, *etc.*

ACT THREE

Introduction

Marguerite's garden

At the back a wall with a small door in it, on the right a cottage

SIEBEL

alone

Confess to her for me,
Give her my wishes,
Flowers who bloomed at her side,
Tell her she is lovely
And that night and day my heart
Pines for love of her!
Reveal to her soul
The secret of my flame!
Let it breathe out with you
Sweetest fragrances ...
He picks a flower
Withered! ... Alas
This God-forsaken wizard
Has cast a spell on me!
I cannot touch a flower
But it withers!
What if I dipped my hand in holy water?
He dips his hand in a holy?water font hanging on the wall.
This is where Marguerite
Comes to pray every evening!
Now, quickly, let's see!
He picks a few flowers
Do they wither?
looking at his flowers
No! Satan, I laugh at you!

It is you that I trust.
Speak for me!
May she be acquainted with
The passion she has roused
And of which my troubled heart
Has not breathed a word.
If love alarms her,
May the flower know
How to drop on her mouth
A gentle kiss ...

*He wanders away.
Faust and Mephistopheles come in cautiously.*

FAUST
Is this the place?

MEPHISTOPHELES
Follow me.

FAUST
What are you looking at?

MEPHISTOPHELES
Siebel, your rival.

FAUST
Siebel?

MEPHISTOPHELES
Hush! Here he comes!

He and Faust bide in a thicket as Siebel returns clutching a posy.

SIEBEL
Isn't my posy lovely?

MEPHISTOPHELES
aside
Lovely!

SIEBEL
Victory!
Tomorrow she shall know the whole tale
And if there is a wish to know my heart's secret,
A kiss will tell her all.

MEPHISTOPHELES

aside

Seducer?

Siebel ties his posy to the cottage door and leaves.

MEPHISTOPHELES

Wait for me here, dear doctor.

To keep your pupil's flowers company

I shall fetch you a treasure

Even more wonderful and splendid

Than those she sees in her dreams.

FAUST

Leave me alone!

MEPHISTOPHELES

I obey... Pray, wait for me here.

Exit

FAUST

What unknown emotion now fills me?

I feel that my whole being is in the grip of love.

O Marguerite, here I am your feet!

Hail, chaste and pure dwelling where

One can feel the presence of an innocent and holy soul.

What wealth in this very poverty!

What bliss in this humble cottage!

O Nature, this is where you created her beauty!

This is where the maid grew up beneath your wing,

Grew up under your gaze!

Here, too, breathing into her soul,

You lovingly turned this angel of heaven

Into a fresh?blooming woman.

This is the place ... yes ... here it is!

Hail, chaste and pure dwelling, etc.

Mephistopheles returns with a casket.

MEPHISTOPHELES

Watch out! Here she comes!

If the posy proves stronger than the casket,

I shall willingly relinquish my power.

FAUST

Let's flee! I never want to see her again!

MEPHISTOPHELES

Why this sudden scruple?

He places the casket on the threshold of the cottage

On the threshold of the door,

The casket is now laid.

Come! My hopes are high!

He drags Faust away into the garden. Marguerite walks in.

MARGUERITE

I should dearly like to know who this young man was

Whether he is a noble lord and what his name is.

“There once was a king of Thule

Who, faithful unto the grave,

Kept in memory of his lady?love

A vessel of chiselled gold...”

She interrupts her song

It seemed to me that he was most handsome.

She resumes her song

“There was not a lovelier treasure!

He used it on great occasions

And every time he drank from it

His eyes would fill with tears!

When he felt Death approaching,

Lying on his cold bed,

In order to raise it to his lips

His hand made a supreme effort!”

Again she interrupts her song

I hardly knew what to say

And at first I blushed bright red.

She resumes her song

“And then, in his lady's honour,

He drank for the last time;

The vessel shook in his grasp

And gently he gave up the ghost!”

None but great lords possess such a resolute mien

Together with such gentleness!
Come now! Think of it no more!
Dear Valentin, if God heeds me,
I shall see you again!
Here I am quite alone!
She suddenly sees the posy
A posy?
From Siebel, no doubt.
Poor lad!
Her eyes fall on the casket
What is this I see?
Whence could this rich casket have come?
I dare not touch it and yet ...
Here is the key, I think.
What if I opened it? My hand shakes. Why?
It is not wrong to open it, I imagine.
She opens the casket.
O goodness! What a lot of jewels!
Is this some bewitching dream
Which dazzles me,
Or am I really awake?
She places the open casket on a chair and kneels in front of it.
If only I dared
Adorn myself, for a moment,
With these car?rings!
Ah! there is a mirror
At the bottom of the casket!
How could one help admiring oneself?

She puts on the ear-rings and looks at herself in the mirror.

Ah! I laugh to see how lovely
I look in this mirror!
Is it really you, Marguerite?
Answer me, answer me quickly!
No, no, it is you no longer,
It is no longer your face!
This is the daughter of a king,
To whom everyone bows as she goes past.
Ah, if only he were here,
if only he could see me thus!
He would find me as handsome
As any young lady!
Let's complete the transformation!
I am longing to try on as well
The bracelet and the necklace!

She puts them on, first the necklace, then the bracelet.
Gracious! It feels like a hand
Clasping my wrist.

Ah! I laugh to see, *etc.*

DAME MARTHA
coming in at the back
Good Lord, what do I see
How beautiful you look, my angel!
How did you get this rich casket?

MARGUERITE
Alas, it must have been brought by mistake.

DAME MARTHA
Not at all!
These jewels are yours,
My dear young lady!
Yes, this is the gift of some love?lorn lord!
My dear husband was not so generous once!

Mephistopheles and Faust reappear.

MEPHISTOPHELES
Dame Martha Schwertlein, if you please?

DAME MARTHA
Who is calling me?

MEPHISTOPHELES
to Marguerite
Forgive us for thus daring to intrude upon you!
to Faust in a low voice
You see how welcome the jewels were!
aloud
Dame Martha Schwertlein?

DAME MARTHA
Here I am!

MEPHISTOPHELES
The news I bring
Is hardly likely to cheer you up.
Your husband, ma'am, is dead and sends his greetings!

DAME MARTHA

Ah, good Lord!

MARGUERITE

What is it?

MEPHISTOPHELES

Nothing.

DAME MARTHA

Oh, how dreadful! What unexpected news!

MARGUERITE

aside

In spite of myself, my heart quakes

And flutters when I see him! f

FAUST

aside

The fever of my senses is dispelled when I see her!

MEPHISTOPHELES

to Dame Martha

Your husband, ma'am is dead and sends his greetings!

DAME MARTHA

Have you brought me nothing from him?

MEPHISTOPHELES

Nothing! And you must

Punish him, by seeking

This very day someone to take his place.

FAUST

to Marguerite

Why do you take off these jewels?

MARGUERITE

These jewels do not belong to me!

Please, suffer me to do so!

MEPHISTOPHELES

to Dame Martha

Who would not be delighted

To exchange wedding?rings with you?

DAME MARTHA
For shame! I beg your pardon?

MEPHISTOPHELES
Alas, how cruel Fate is!

FAUST
to Marguerite
Accept my arm for a while!

MARGUERITE
Desist, I beg of you.

MEPHISTOPHELES
to Dame Martha
May I have your arm?

DAME MARTHA
aside
What a charming man!

MEPHISTOPHELES
aside
The neighbour is somewhat too ripe!

MARGUERITE
I entreat you!

DAME MARTHA
What a noble bearing!

FAUST
Gentle and pure soul!

MEPHISTOPHELES
She is somewhat ripe!

DAME MARTHA
So, you are always travelling?

MEPHISTOPHELES
Always! A cruel necessity, ma'am
A cruel necessity
With neither friend, kin, nor wife! Ah!

DAME MARTHA

You can afford to when you are still young.
But later on, how sad it is.
To grow old alone and selfishly!

MEPHISTOPHELES

I must confess that this dire thought
Has often made me quail!

DAME MARTHA

Be sure to think about it
Before it is too late, my noble lord!

MEPHISTOPHELES

I shall think about it.

DAME MARTHA

Be sure you do!

FAUST

to Marguerite

What! Are you always alone?

MARGUERITE

My brother is a soldier, my mother is dead;
Then came another misfortune,
My baby sister also died.
Poor angel! I loved her dearly!
She was my only care;
What trouble, alas, what anguish!
It is when our souls are thus full of them
That Death comes and takes them from us!
No sooner did she wake
Than she wanted to see me!
She loved none but Marguerite!
To see her again, poor darling,
I should gladly go through it all again!

FAUST

If Heaven, smiling the while,
Had made her anything like you
I do believe she was an angel!

MARGUERITE

Are you making fun of me?

FAUST

No, I am admiring you.

MARGUERITE

I do not believe you
And you are probably laughing at me
Under your breath!
It is wrong of me to stay
And listen to you!...
And yet I do listen.

FAUST

Let me take your am!...
Did not God himself
Set me on your way?
Why then, alas, are you
Afraid of listening...
'Tis my heart that speaks, listen...

DAME MARTHA

You do not heed me
And you are probably laughing at me
Under your breath!
Why do you thus
Hasten back on your way
Before listening to me?

MEPHISTOPHELES

Do not revile me,
If I must, alas,
Be back on my way.
Need one swear
That he would like to remain
When he is listening to you?

It begins to grow dark.

MARGUERITE

to Faust
You must withdraw! Night is coming.

FAUST

Dear love!

MARGUERITE

Leave me...

She runs away

FAUST

running after her

Ah, heartless girl, are you fleeing from me?

MEPHISTOPHELES

This conversation is becoming too tender!

Let us sneak away!

He hides behind a tree

DAME MARTHA

aside

How shall I manage it?

aloud

Why, he has gone away! My lord?

MEPHISTOPHELES

aside

Yes!

DAME MARTHA

My dear lord?

She leaves

MEPHISTOPHELES

Run after me! Phew!

I do believe that this merciless

Old hag, by fair means or foul

Was determined to marry the devil!

FAUST

off-stage

Marguerite?

DAME MARTHA

off-stage

My dear lord?

MEPHISTOPHELES

Your servant.

FAUST

off-stage

Marguerite?

DAME MARTHA

off-stage

My dear lord?

MEPHISTOPHELES

Your servant.

Not a moment too soon! Beneath the dark boughs
Our lovers are wending their way back. 'Tis fine!
I must take care not to disturb such tender effusions.
O night, spread over them your dark veil!
Love, make their ears deaf to untimely remorse!
And you, subtly scented flowers,
Bloom under this accursed hand of mine
And put the last touch to Marguerite's undoing!

He vanishes as Faust and Marguerite return.

MARGUERITE

It is late, now... Farewell...

FAUST

detaining her

What? Must I plead in vain?
Wait! Let your hand linger in mine!
Let me gaze on your face
Under the pale beams
Through which your beauty shines, as though
Through a cloud, caressed by the moon.

MARGUERITE

O silence! Happiness! Unutterable mystery!
Rapturous languor!
I listen and I understand this solitary voice
Which sings inside my heart!
Pray allow me...

She plucks a daisy.

FAUST

What is all this?

MARGUERITE

A childish game!
Please, allow me!

FAUST

What are your lips whispering?

MARGUERITE

plucking the daisy

Loves me! Loves me not!

Loves me! Not! Loves me! Not! Loves me!

FAUST

Yes, believe this flower, blooming under your feet!

Let your heart hear it as the voice of heaven itself!

He loves you!

Do you understand this sweet and sublime word?

To love! To carry in our hearts

A constantly renewed flame!

To be forever drunk with eternal bliss!

FAUST and MARGUERITE

Eternal!

FAUST

O night of love, radiant sky,

O sweet transports!

Silent bliss

Instils heaven

Into both our souls!

MARGUERITE

I want to love and worship you!

Speak again!

I am yours!

I adore you!

I would die for you!

FAUST

Marguerite.

MARGUERITE

Ah, you must leave!

FAUST

Cruel girl!

MARGUERITE

I can hardly bear it!

FAUST

Must I then part from you ?

MARGUERITE

entreating him

Leave me!

Ah, you must go, yes, at once!

I tremble, alas, I am afraid!

Please, do not break

Marguerite's heart! *etc.*

FAUST

You want me to leave you!

See how unhappy I am! ... Alas!

Marguerite! Marguerite!

You are breaking my heart!

I beseech you!

MARGUERITE

If you love me...

FAUST

Marguerite!

MARGUERITE

By your love, by this avowal

Which I should not have spoken,

Give in to my plea,

Give in to my wishes!

You must go, yes, *etc.*

FAUST

You want me, alas, to leave you, *etc.*

Divine purity!

Chaste innocence,

Whose power

Triumphs over my will!

I obey. But tomorrow...

MARGUERITE

Yes, tomorrow, as soon as day breaks!

Tomorrow! For ever!

FAUST

Just one more word!

Repeat once more this sweet avowal.
You love me?

MARGUERITE

breaks free, runs to her door and turns to blow him a kiss.
Farewell!

She runs into the cottage.

FAUST

Heavenly bliss! Ah, let's go!

MEPHISTOPHELES

Madcap!

FAUST

You were listening to us?

MEPHISTOPHELES

And a good thing too!
You stand in sore need
Of some more schooling, doctor!

FAUST

Leave me alone!

MEPHISTOPHELES

Pray, just listen for a moment
To what she has to tell the stars,
Dear master.
Look! She is opening her window!

Marguerite stands at the window.

MARGUERITE

He love me! My heart is in a turmoil!
The bird is singing, the wind rustling,
All the voices of Nature
Seem to chorus in my ear:
"He loves you!". Ah, how sweet life is!
Heaven smiles at me, the air intoxicates me!
Does the leaf shake and flutter
With pleasure and with love?
Tomorrow! Ah, hurry back,
Dear beloved! Come!

FAUST

rushes to the window and grasps Marguerite's hand
Marguerite!

MARGUERITE

Ah!...

MEPHISTOPHELES

Ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha!

ACT FOUR

The church

MARGUERITE

kneeling down

Lord, allow your humble servant
To come and kneel before you!

MEPHISTOPHELES

No! You shall not pray! Strike her with terror!
Spirits of evil, hasten here!

DEMONS

Marguerite!

MARGUERITE

Who is calling me?

DEMONS

Marguerite!

MARGUERITE

I falter! I die!

Dear God! Merciful God!

Is it already the hour of retribution?

MEPHISTOPHELES

Remember the past, when sheltering your bliss

Beneath angels' wings,

You came to worship the Lord in his own temple,

Singing his praise!

When you stammered out a chaste prayer

in a faltering voice

And carried within your heart your mother's kisses

And God, at the same time!
Hear these clamours! Hell is claiming you!
Hell is pursuing you!
Here comes eternal remorse and eternal anguish
In everlasting night!

MARGUERITE
God! What voice thus addresses me in the clark?
Almighty God!
What black veil has suddenly fallen over me?

INVISIBLE CHORUS
When the day of the Lord dawns
His cross will shine in heaven
And the whole world will be shattered!

MARGUERITE
Alas, this pious chant is even more terrifying!

MEPHISTOPHELES
No! God no longer forgives you!
The sky no longer dawns for you!
No! No!

INVISIBLE CHORUS
What shall I tell the Lord then?
Where shall I find a protector
When the innocent himself stands in fear!

MARGUERITE
Ah, this chant stifles and chokes me!
I am clamped in an iron band!

MEPHISTOPHELES
Farewell, nights of love and days of rapture!
A curse on you! Hell awaits you!

MARGUERITE
Lord!

MARGUERITE and INVISIBLE CHORUS
Lord, welcome the prayer
Of unhappy hearts.
May one spark of your light
Shine down on them!

MEPHISTOPHELES

Marguerite!
Be accursed!
Hell awaits you!

Marguerite gives a shriek and falls senseless on the flagstones.

A STREET

On the left Marguerite's cottage.

CHORUS OF SOLDIERS

Let's lay down our weapons!
We are back home at last!
Our tearful mothers,
Our mothers and sisters
Shall no longer wait for us.

VALENTIN

seeing Siebel
Upon my word, here is Siebel!

SIEBEL

Indeed it is, I...

VALENTIN

Here, at once! Let me embrace you!
They embrace
Where is Marguerite?

SIEBEL

I believe she is in church.

VALENTIN

Yes, praying God on my behalf!
Dear sister,
How attentively she will listen
To the tale of our battles!

CHORUS OF SOLDIERS

Yes, it is a pleasure in every home
To tell the children, noiselessly shuddering,
The old men and the young girls
About war and its battles!
Immortal glory
Of our ancestors,

Be loyal to us,
Let's die as they did!
And under your protection,
As victorious soldiers,
Direct our steps, kindle our hearts!
For you, fatherland,
Defying Fate,
Your warlike sons
Have faced death!
Your holy voice shouts to us:
Forward, soldiers!
Sword in hand, rush into the fray!
Immortal glory, *etc.*
Let us hasten back to our homes!
We are awaited, peace is now made.
No more sighing! Let us hurry!
Our country holds out its arms to us!
Love smiles on us, we are love's darlings!
And more than one heart flutters silently
At the memory of our battles!
Immortal glory, *etc.*

Exeunt.

VALENTIN
Come, Siebel,
Let us go inside!
A glass in hand, you shall answer my toast!

SIEBEL
quickly
No, don't go in!

VALENTIN
Why not? You turn away your head?
Your eyes will not meet mine!
Siebel, explain your meaning!

SIEBEL
Well... No, I cannot!

VALENTIN
starting towards the house
What do you mean?

SIEBEL

detaining him
Stop!
Valentin, be merciful!

VALENTIN
struggling free
Let me go! Let me go!

He goes inside.

SIEBEL
Forgive her!
My God, I entreat you!
My God, defend her!

He runs off;
Mephistopheles and Faust appear. The former carries a guitar.
Faust walks up to Marguerite's cottage and stops.

MEPHISTOPHELES
What are you waiting for now?
Let's go inside.

FAUST
Silence, accursed one! I am afraid
To bring shame and grief back to this house.

MEPHISTOPHELES
What's the use of seeking her again,
Now you have left her?
Our presence would be welcomed
Much more heartily elsewhere.
The witches' sabbath awaits us!

FAUST
Marguerite!

MEPHISTOPHELES
I see that my advice is not heeded
And that love triumphs.
But if you want the door to open in front of you
You will certainly need the help of my voice!
"You who pretend to sleep
Do you not hear,
O Catherine, my love,
My voice and my footsteps?"

Thus your suitor calls to you,
And your heart believes him...
Ah, ah, ah! ...

Don't open the door, my pretty one,
Till the ring is on your finger!
"My beloved Catherine,
Why do you deny
To your entreating lover
So sweet a kiss?"
Thus your suitor pleads
And your heart believes him!...
Ah, ah, ah!...
Don't grant any kisses, my pretty one,
Till the ring is on your finger!
Ah, ah, ah!

Valentin comes out of the house.

VALENTIN
What do you want, gentlemen?

MEPHISTOPHELES
I beg your pardon, friend,
But the serenade was not intended for you.

VALENTIN
My sister no doubt would lend
A readier ear!
He draws his sword and shatters Mephistopheles' guitar.

FAUST
His sister!

MEPHISTOPHELES
to Valentin
What is the matter with you?
Don't you like music?

VALENTIN
You have insulted me long enough!
Which of you must I call to account
For my misfortune and shame?
Which of you must perish by my sword?

Faust draws his sword.

MEPHISTOPHELES

to Valentin

Are you determined?

to Faust

Go on, doctor, play your part!

VALENTIN

O mighty God, increase

My strength and my courage!

Allow me to cleanse this outrage

With his own blood.

FAUST

aside

Awesome and seething with rage,

He daunts my ardour!

Should I draw the blood

Of the brother I have outraged?

MEPHISTOPHELES

His threatening gestures,

His blind fury

Make me laugh!... My powerful arm

Shall ward off the storm!

VALENTIN

taking from round his neck the medal Marguerite had given him

As for you, who saved my life,

You that I received from Marguerite,

I no longer want your help,

Accursed medal!

He throws it away.

MEPHISTOPHELES

You shall rue it!

FAUST

Awesome and seething with rage, *etc.*

VALENTIN

O mighty God, increase, *etc.*

MEPHISTOPHELES

His threatening gestures, *etc.*

VALENTIN

On guard and defend yourself!

MEPHISTOPHELES

to Faust

Stand close to me

And just thrust, dear doctor, I shall parry!

They fight. Almost at once, Mephistopheles thrusts aside Valentin's sword and Faust wounds him. Valentin falls down.

There lies our hero, sprawled in the dust!

Away with us, now, away!

He drags Faust away. Dame Martha and some townspeople run in, carrying torches.

DAME MARTHA and BURGHERS

This way, this way, friends!

There's fighting in the street!

One of them has fallen here.

Look: there he is!

He is not dead yet.

He seems to be moving!

Come here quickly!

We must come to his aid!

VALENTIN

Thank you, thank you!

Please spare me your moans!

Upon my word, I have faced death

Too often to be seared of him!

MARGUERITE

running in

Valentin, Valentin!

VALENTIN

Marguerite, my sister!

What do you want with me? Go away!

MARGUERITE

O Lord!

VALENTIN

I die through her fault;

I foolishly picked a quarrel

With her lover!

CHORUS

Her lover!

SIEBEL

Mercy, mercy!

MARGUERITE

Excruciating pain!

What a dire punishment!

SIEBEL

to Valentin

Have pity on her!

Be merciful!

CHORUS

He dies through her fault!

He dies at the hand of her lover!

VALENTIN

Marguerite, listen to me carefully!

Whatever must come, comes at the appointed time!

Death strikes us when he should

And everyone obeys the call from above!

You are now set on an evil course!

Your white hands will work no more!

In order to lead a life of pleasure,

You will relinquish

Every duty and every virtue.

Go! Shame now crushes you!

Remorse dogs your footsteps.

But the hour will strike at last!

Die! And if God forgives you

May you be cursed in this world!

CHORUS

O terror! O blasphemy!

Wretched man, when your last hour has come,

Think of your own salvation, alas ...

Forgive, if you want to be one day forgiven.

VALENTIN

Marguerite!

A curse on you!

Death waits for you on your pallet!

And I die at your hands and fall as a soldier should!

He dies.

ALL

May the Lord welcome his soul
And forgive the sinner.

ACT FIVE

THE HARZ MOUNTAINS

Walpurgis Night. In the dark, demons and witches are holding a sabbath.

WILL-O'-THE-WISPS

Through the heather,
In the rushes,
Among the stones
And over the water,
From spot to spot,
Piercing the darkness,
A shining fire
Lights up and flees.
Take care! Take care!
From afar, from near,
In the green grass,
Beneath the cypresses,
Like mobile flames,
Or frozen beams,
Here come the souls
Of the departed!

Mephistopheles and Faust appear.

FAUST

Stop!

MEPHISTOPHELES

Did you not promise
To accompany me in silence?

FAUST

Where are we?

MEPHISTOPHELES

In my empire!
Here, doctor, everything obeys my commands.

This is Walpurgis Night!

VOICES

This is Walpurgis Night! Hoo, hoo!

FAUST

My blood freezes!

He tries to run away

MEPHISTOPHELES

holding him back

Wait! I have but one sign to make

And everything here will be transformed and lightened.

The mountain opens to reveal a vast palace of glittering gold in the middle of which stands a richly laid table; around it sit the queens and courtesans of antiquity

Until the first gleams of morning,

Sheltered from worldly eyes,

I offer you a place at the feast

Of queens and courtesans.

CHORUS

Let the cups be filled

In the names of ancient gods!

Let the air ring

With peals of merry laughter!

MEPHISTOPHELES

Most beautiful ladies of antiquity,

Soft-eyed Cleopatra, fair-browed Laïs,

Let us come

And sit with you for a while.

He gives Faust a glass.

Come now, come!

To cure the fever

Of your wounded heart,

Take this cup and may your lips

Find inside it oblivion of the past!

CHORUS

Let the cups be filled

In the names of ancient gods, *etc.*

Ballet

No. 1 - Dance of the Nubians

No. 2 - Adagio

No. 3 - Danse Antique

No. 4 - Cleopatra's Dance

No. 5 - The Women of Troy

No. 6 - The Mirror Variations

No. 7 - The Dance of Phryne

At the climax of the orgy there appears a vision of Marguerite, unseen by Faust, who seizes the cup.

MEPHISTOPHELES

O voluptuous pleasure, may your rapture
Stifle remorse within his bewitched heart!

Faust suddenly sees Marguerite and throws away his goblet. The palace and courtesans vanish immediately and he and Mephistopheles are back in the Brocken valley.

What is wrong with you?

FAUST

Can you not see her?
There, in front of us, silent and wan!
What is this strange ornament
Around her lovely neck?

MEPHISTOPHELES

Vision!

FAUST

A red ribbon that she hides!

MEPHISTOPHELES

Witchcraft!

FAUST

A red ribbon,
As narrow as the axe's edge!

MEPHISTOPHELES

Magic spell!

The vision vanishes.

Intermezzo

A PRISON-CELL

Marguerite is lying asleep. Mephistopheles and Faust creep in.

FAUST

Go away!

MEPHISTOPHELES

It is almost daybreak. They are erecting the scaffold;

Persuade Marguerite to follow you without delay.

The gaoler is fast asleep. Here are the keys.

Your human hand must set her free.

FAUST

Leave us!

MEPHISTOPHELES

As you wish! I shall watch outside.

Exit

FAUST

My heart is overcome with terror.

O torment!

O wellspring of regrets and eternal remorse!

'Tis she, here she is, the sweet creature,

Thrown in the depths of a prison

Like some base criminal!

Despair drove her into madness!

Her poor child, O God, she killed it!

Marguerite!

MARGUERITE

awakening

Ah, this is my beloved's voice!

His call has revived my heart.

FAUST

Marguerite!

MARGUERITE

Amidst your peals of laughter,
Demons that surround me,
I have recognized his voice.

FAUST
Marguerite!

MARGUERITE
His hand, his gentle hand draws me!
I am free. He has come!
I hear him! I see him!
Yes, here you are! I love you!
My fetters, Death himself
No longer scare me!
Now I am safe!
Here you are!
I rest on your heart!

FAUST
Yes, here I am! I love you!
Despite even the efforts
Of the jeering demon,
I have found you!
Now you are safe!
Here I am!
Come, rest on my heart!

He tries to drag her away. She gently frees herself from his arms.

MARGUERITE
Wait. Here is the street
Where you saw me
For the first time!
Where your hand almost dared
Brush against my fingers:
"My lovely young lady, will you not allow me
To offer you my arm and escort you on your way?"
"No thank you, sir; I am neither a lady, nor lovely,
And I really have no need for a supporting arm".

FAUST
Yes, my heart remembers.
But come with me! Time flies!

MARGUERITE
And here is the delightful garden,

Fragrant with myrtle and roses,
Which every evening, stealthily,
You entered once night had fallen.

FAUST

Come, come, Marguerite!

MARGUERITE

No!

FAUST

Come, come, let's escape!

MARGUERITE

No, remain awhile!

FAUST

O heavens, she does not hear me.

Mephistopheles reappears.

MEPHISTOPHELES

Take care, or you are lost!

If you tarry any longer, I shall give you up!

MARGUERITE

The devil, the devil! Can you see him, there, in the dark!

Staring at us with his eyes of fire!

What does he want with us?

Drive him from the holy place!

MEPHISTOPHELES

Let us leave this dark spot!

It is daybreak;

I can hear our horses

Rap on the cobblestones with their noisy feet!

He tries to drag Faust away.

Come! Let us save her!

We may still have time!

MARGUERITE

Dear God, protect me!

Dear God, I beseech you!

FAUST

Come! Let us flee!

We may still have time!

MARGUERITE

Pure and radiant angels,
Carry my soul up to heaven!
God of justice, I give myself up to you!
God of mercy, I am yours, forgive!

FAUST

Come, follow me, come I say!

MARGUERITE

Pure and radiant angels
Carry my soul up to heaven!

MEPHISTOPHELES

We must hurry! The hour strikes!

FAUST

Come, follow me!

MARGUERITE

God of justice, I give myself up to you!
God of mercy, I am yours, forgive!

FAUST

Come, follow me, come I say!
Come! Let us leave this place!
The sky grows light already!
Come, you must obey my bidding!
The sky grows light already!

MEPHISTOPHELES

Let us hasten to leave this place!
The sky grows light already!
Follow our steps or I shall forsake you!
Let us hasten to leave this place!

MARGUERITE

Pure and radiant angels,
Carry my soul up to heaven!

FAUST

Marguerite!

MARGUERITE

Why does your eye threaten?

FAUST

Marguerite.

MARGUERITE

Why are those hands red with blood?

Go away! You fill me with horror!

She falls senseless.

FAUST

Ah!

MEPHISTOPHELES

Judged!

ANGELIC CHOIR

Saved:

Christ has risen again!

Christ is born again!

Peace and felicity

To the Master's disciples!

Christ is born again!

Christ has risen again!



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