

## *Dr. Faustus*

*Dr. Faustus* is a play written by Christopher Marlowe. It takes place in Germany in 1604. The story is about a man who wants to learn all there is to know and to accomplish this he summons Mephistopheles and sells his soul to Lucifer. During the time when Mephistopheles is convincing Faustus to sell his soul, the seven deadly sins are paraded in front of Faustus to sway him into selling his soul. In the end, Faustus gets dragged down to hell and his soul becomes unsavable.

I've decided to keep the time and place in the same location as it was originally written and focus on the risks and concepts that I am taking for this project. The risks I am taking on this project is that I'm staying away from the bright colors that I tend to use when coloring by designing the characters like shadow puppets. I am also staying more true to the art style I am using which means I have to tell the character's story through only side profiles and back views. The biggest risk I am taking is in the concepts I am using to base the Sign off of mental illnesses that I have either been diagnosed with or have had family members diagnosed with. I am going with the theme of Lucifer stealing Faustus' life and to me, nothing is more life stealing then mental illness.

The ways that I have divided the characters into groups are the humans, Dr. Faustus and Wagner; Demonic Other, which is Lucifer and Mephistopheles and the Sins: Lust, Gluttony, Envy, Greed, Pride, Sloth and Wrath. The humans are designed pretty simply in comparison to the other characters. Dr. Faustus is based on paintings of philosophers of the time and Wagner is based on a German painter.

The Demonic Other, which is Mephistopheles and Lucifer, are the bridge between the humans and the sins. Both are designed with somewhat human shapes and features but cross the threshold into monstrous. Mephistopheles is based on demonic creatures seen in nightmares, since he is the thing that came to Faustus when he tried to summon a demon; he was the nightmare that came to Faustus. Lucifer is also inspired by demonic nightmarish creatures but I have decided to have him be the puppet master of the whole story. He is the one that leads everything and is in complete control. All the sins are based on illnesses or trauma that is brought upon by something 'else'; Genetically, mentally or physically, All these are based on things that literally steal your life and it is a fight of life or death to get control over your life again. In his hand there is a real hole that the light shines through. That is the 'exit' of hell but he gets the final say on if you can escape or not. Free will has been handed over to him to do with as he pleases.

The sins are designed around mental illnesses that I feel are the most connected to each sin. The first sin is Lust and that is based off of sexual assault. With sexual assault, something is ripped away from you that never should have been taken. You are left destroyed and feeling like nothing more than an object. Lust is shown to have its feet ripped off and its hands chained to its head and its mouth is sewn shut as two objects rip its chest open to expose its innards. The power is taken away from Lust. The next sin is Gluttony and it is based on eating disorders, specifically anorexia. At the final stages of an anorexic eating disorder your organs start to eat themselves in

an attempt to survive. Your view of yourself is so warped that what you see and perceive as yourself is so wrong and you can't physically see the truth. With your mind so focused on what it 'sees' that your body turns on you too and eats away at you. Gluttony is drawn with parts cut out because the reality of an eating disorder is that it rips parts of you away. Each ripped part is made out of a thinner material to show that Gluttony is wasting away and is the most ghostly looking of the sins. Gluttony is physically dying.

Envy is designed off of anxiety. Anxiety holds you back from doing things but ultimately leaves you being jealous of those who are able to do the things that your anxiety is holding you back from. It's not fair, why do they get to be able to do things without anything holding them back mentally but you are held back by this invisible monster. Envy is drawn small, since the existence of Envy is small and ugly. They also have eyes everywhere looking and have stitches everywhere from where they ripped themselves apart and sewed themselves back together to become what they see or want to see. Greed is based on something that, while not considered a true mental illness, is one of the stepping stones or responses to mental illness and destroys your life in the same way that other mental illnesses can. Greed is based on social deprivation. With social deprivation; your life, relationships and time are no longer yours to own. It's stolen from you by someone who believes they deserve everything of you. It is no longer yours, and it is stolen from you by them. And yet you let them. Greed is covered in mouths and eyes and scars. It's covered to hide their face and hands but it's ripped open as an attempt to escape. Their ripped open chest exposes a locked chest. It's trying to get out but ultimately keeping itself hidden from others. It is purposely unclear if it is keeping itself hidden and locked away or if something is doing it for them.

Pride is built off of the big memory illnesses; Alzheimer's and dementia. Alzheimer's and dementia take away a person's memory and personality in a way that leaves them with next to nothing. It's a disease that attacks the fundamentals of being human and thus destroys the pride one has in themselves. People are reverted back to needing care from others to survive and leaves them feeling helpless. Pride is drawn with its brain exposed along with its heart, it's tattered and can't see the truth and the sword of its reality is stabbed into its back. It has no one to help them and they are left to wander around helpless. Sloth manifests as depression. You are dragged down by depression. It tricks your mind into thinking that you are worthless and that you don't deserve love or self worth. Sloth is made to look like it's made of wood, and immovable wood. Its arms are big and heavy and its feet are cinder blocks. It's trying to move but it's holding itself back. On its back is what looks like wings, like it could fly if it tried hard enough but even those are made out of wood and thus it can't fly. It has the options of escape but those aren't really ways of escape. The final sin, Wrath, is designed after post traumatic stress disorder. With PTSD; once you realize what is happening to you; you get an uncontrollable rage when it comes to thinking like 'why did I let this happen and I shouldn't have let that happen' and to the person/thing that caused it "how could they and why did they?" Wrath has an opening in its head leaving its thoughts exposed. It's chained to itself and it is falling apart. It has the cut

up words of help that it has stitched back together on its body as a silent scream for someone to help them but there isn't anyone there to help them.