

Power as a Corrupting Influence

Early in the play, before he agrees to the pact with Lucifer, Faustus is full of ideas for how to use the power that he seeks. He imagines having great wealth, but he also aspires to upright the mysteries of the universe and to remake the map of Europe. Though they may not be entirely admirable, these plans are ambitious and inspire respect, if not sympathy. They lend a dignity to Faustus's schemes and make his quest for personal power seem almost heroic, a sense that is reinforced by the expression of his early soliloquies.