

MEPHISTOPHELES By this I recognise a most learned lord!

What you can't feel lies miles abroad,
What you can't grasp, you think, is done with too.
What you don't count on can't be true, 4920
What you can't weigh won't weigh, of old,
What you don't coin: that can't be gold.

THE EMPEROR You won't sort out our faults like that,

Will Lenten sermons make men fat?
I'm tired of the eternal 'if and when': 4925
We're short of gold, well fine, so fetch some then.

MEPHISTOPHELES I'll fetch what you wish, and I'll fetch more:

Easy it's true, but then easy things weigh more:
It's there already, yet how we might achieve it,
That's the tricky thing, knowing how to seize it. 4930
Just think how, in those times of consternation,
When a human flood drowned land and nation,
People were so terrified, everywhere,
They hid their treasures, here and there.
So it was when mighty Rome held sway, 4935
And so it goes on, yesterday and today.
Still buried in the earth, why, there it is:
The earth is the Emperor's, so it's his.

THE TREASURER For a Fool his aim's not out of sight:

It's true, that's an old Imperial right. 4940

THE CHANCELLOR Satan lays out his gilded nets, for you,

These things don't square with what's good and true.

THE STEWARD Only bring them to court: I'll welcome the sight,

And I'll gladly accept the thing as not quite right.

THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF The Fool's clever,

To promise what each of us needs: 4945
A soldier will never ask from whence it all proceeds.

FAUST
PARTS I & II



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