

Christmas project

All humans, from their nature, seem to set goals for them to achieve. This happens every time we want to do something without our even realizing it. However, there are also the lifelong goals that the majority of people set, which are more complex than the simple goals we set in our everyday life. A handful of people may set the goal to achieve “perfection”.

In Marlowe’s work, Dr Faustus is a wealthy man, being intellectual and successful. However, he seeks unearthly knowledge and for this reason he practices magic to summon a devil, Mephistopheles, and afterwards makes a deal with Lucifer. After 24 years of having Mephistopheles on his side, he had to give his soul to Lucifer. After the 24 years of living the “excellence”, his soul got dragged to hell. This story is a proof that someone would actually do anything to achieve a goal like this, he could even sell his soul. Gandhi, the famous leader of the Indian Independence Move in British-ruled India, talked about the Seven Blunders of the world or Seven Social Sins. Those are:

- Wealth without work
- Pleasure without Conscience
- Knowledge without character
- Commerce without Morality
- Science without Humanity
- Religion without Sacrifice
- Politics without Principles

The relation between the sins is that they can cause violence by different reasons. They can also be considered a warning for those who try to achieve “excellence” since these are some things they need to avoid.

In my personal opinion, this thing called “perfection” or “excellence” is impossible to be achieved as it is, because those words have different meaning for each one of us. In reality, “perfection” means having no flaws, but even flaws are completely subjective. Benjamin Franklin tried to make them a little less subjective by calling “moral perfection” a

balanced life that was composed by the best of all human experiences. This way of perfect being covered his entire life, public and private. His formula for “moral perfection” included:

- Temperance
- Silence
- Order
- Resolution
- Frugality
- Industry
- Sincerity
- Justice
- Moderation
- Cleanliness
- Tranquility
- Chastity
- Humility

Even that way, you need to have some standards , in this case acting properly, which may be against someone who disagrees in the way he “acts properly”. Some people may think of perfection as a virtue which they want to achieve. This could be power, wealth or spiritual enlightenment. This is the way it could be described in Dr Faustus, because having unearthly knowledge was what he wanted the most. If we put it that way, then “perfection” can be considered possible or worth trying for, because we set some standards based on morality of a majority of people or we call “perfection” just what we dream of the most.