

## THE GOD-DAMNED SAINT: A Vigilant's Cautionary Tale

—Khajiiti M&M—

Remember always the tale of Saint Faustus,  
Martyr; from his damnation learn and Harbour  
Cold lesson: Mercy keeps only the worthy.

Faustus, young Cyrod, true-hearted neophyte  
Inducted to temple, a ward of Stendarr.  
Loved these: Light to benighted, Grace to needful.  
Bread doled to beggars, Gilead balm to wounded.  
Prayers rendered 'neath altar, Chapel sermons heard.  
Student exemplar drank deep from Flowing Cup.

Fateful night! Sped he from Chorrol Church on task  
To woodland Priory Gottlesfont, sisters  
Faithful to aid; trouble dark in Brindle Home.  
Hamlet unmade: ashy sky, flame-burnt homes,  
Townfolk crimson-stained! Sole survivor told tale  
Baleful: wand'ring witch from north curse cast, fear struck.  
Riotous panic ensued, bloody carnage.  
Corrupted by sorcerous Scheme, no trust found.  
Hid herself, survivor didst, as chaos raged.

Begged she then for Gods' Mercy, Faustus' aid sought.  
Took he her to Chapel-house to care 'til mend.  
Long she lingered, grievous state, at last made well.  
Offered young Faustus his choice of recompense,  
Mindful of Lord's tenets, declined, 'twas Grace-gift;  
No price wouldst he take. Insisted he accept,  
Then, one God's gift for another; claimed knowledge,  
Learnt much from shrine-Master of Stony Fire,  
Bade youthful healer confide deepest desire.  
Disclosed he then zeal to purge from world Daedric  
Taint, but feared to try lest righteous strength prove weak.  
Gave she then scroll to read, wrote to cast out fiends.

**Stanza I:** The Vigilants of Stendarr, the Divine of Mercy, present to the reader the story of St. Faustus, a youth whose story is a reminder that mercy extends only so far.

**Stanza II:** St. Faustus was a good-hearted Imperial, a newly inducted student into the temple of Stendarr. He found joy in good deeds of compassion and piety, and he was a paragon of devotion to the Divine.

**Stanza III:** One night, St. Faustus left the Chapel of Stendarr in the Cyrodiilic city of Chorrol, and traveled southward to Gottlesfont Priory, an isolated religious community—home of a convent of priestesses—dedicated to the Nine Divines deep in the Great Forest. He was tasked to aid them in an errand of mercy for a small village to the west of the priory called Brindle Home. When he arrived at the village, he found the place devastated: ash in the sky, houses burned, and corpses bloodied. A lone woman, the only survivor, told St. Faustus that a witch came to the town from the north, and cast upon the villagers a terror-inducing curse, which turned them against one another; the woman survived by hiding from the uproar.

**Stanza IV:** The woman begged for sanctuary, Stendarr's mercy extended through St. Faustus, who brought her back to the Chapel in Chorrol, where she stayed for some time until she healed. As she made ready to leave, she offered to reward St. Faustus, but he declined due to the temple's teachings on giving charitably. She insisted he accept, then, one God's gift for another, and claimed to have learned much from the Master of a shrine to "Stony Fire," and bade him tell her his wish. He shared that he wanted to rid the world of Daedric influence, but feared the trial; the woman gave him a magical scroll for that purpose.

Unholy night! Came his trial when word arrived:  
Priory sisters attacked! Sped he once more  
To Gottlesfont. Found therein hooded hag; Lo!  
Nine-blest altar profaned by priestesses' blood!  
Struck he witch with cudgel, pulled from robe gifted  
Scroll to banish Daedric power. Incanting  
Done, seized by sudden-risen, the heartless slain!  
Witch rose then, face un-cowled, survivor didst grin.  
Venerated she blood-filled vessel, Faustus,  
Fool, bound, made to watch: blood turned infernal blue.  
Stepped forth from portal Foe, Foul-Breathed Molag Bal.  
Brutalized prostrate witch, her reward: undeath.  
Brought to Prince by priestess corpses, Faustus, soul  
Corrupted by hellish Schemer, was taken,  
To seat of Domination, beyond all Light.

**Stanza V:** One night, St. Faustus received word at the Chapel of Stendarr that the priestesses of Gottlesfont Priory had been attacked. He speedily left Chorrol, and, upon arriving, found a cloaked and hooded hag profaning the altar, consecrated to the Nine Divines, with the priestesses' blood. He struck her in the back of the head with a blunt weapon, knocking her unconsciously to the floor, and pulled from his robe the magical scroll given him by the woman from Brindle Home, and intended to undo the witch's Daedric powers. Once he completed the reading of the scroll, St. Faustus was seized by the suddenly-reanimated priestesses; he saw the witch rise and pull back her hood, and she, grinning, revealed herself to be none other than the woman who he tended—she was the same hag who destroyed the village and had pretended to need his aid, tricking him. The witch went on to venerate the profaned altar in her Master's name; the blood turned hellishly blue, and Molag Bal, Daedric Prince of Brutality and Corruption, stepped from his realm of Coldharbour in Oblivion into the ruined priory. In reward for her treacherous service, the Prince ravaged the witch, gifting her with vampirism. The undead priestesses hauled the petrified St. Faustus before the God of Schemes, who had wrought through his witch the corruption of the priest when he attempted to use the Daedric magic in the scroll instead of relying on the providence of the Divine of Mercy. For his gullibility, St. Faustus was damned and abandoned by Stendarr, and he was forcefully taken to be tormented eternally in Heart's Grief, the capitol of Molag Bal in Coldharbour.