

That most are busied when they're most alone,  
Pursued my humour not pursuing his,  
And gladly shunn'd who gladly fled from me.

**Montague**

Many a morning hath he there been seen,  
With tears augmenting the fresh morning dew.  
Adding to clouds more clouds with his deep sighs;  
But all so soon as the all-cheering sun  
Should in the furthest east begin to draw  
The shady curtains from Aurora's bed,  
Away from the light steals home my heavy son,  
And private in his chamber pens himself,  
Shuts up his windows, locks fair daylight out  
And makes himself an artificial night:  
Black and portentous must this humour prove,  
Unless good counsel may the cause remove.

**Benvolio**

My noble uncle, do you know the cause?

**Montague**

I neither know it nor can learn of him.

**Benvolio**

Have you importuned him by any means?

**Montague**

Both by myself and many other friends:  
But he, his own affections' counsellor,  
Is to himself--I will not say how true--  
But to himself so secret and so close,  
So far from sounding and discovery,  
As is the bud bit with an envious worm,  
Ere he can spread his sweet leaves to the air,  
Or dedicate his beauty to the sun.  
Could we but learn from whence his sorrows grow.  
We would as willingly give cure as know.

*Enter ROMEO*

**Benvolio**

See, where he comes: so please you, step aside;  
I'll know his grievance, or be much denied.

**Montague**

I would thou wert so happy by thy stay,  
To hear true shrift. Come, madam, let's away.

*Exeunt MONTAGUE and LADY MONTAGUE*

**Benvolio**

Good-morrow, cousin.

**Romeo**

Is the day so young?

**Benvolio**

But new struck nine.

**Romeo**

Ay me! sad hours seem long.

Was that my father that went hence so fast?

**Benvolio**

It was. What sadness lengthens Romeo's hours?

**Romeo**

Not having that, which, having, makes them short.

**Benvolio**

In love?

**Romeo**

Out--

**Benvolio**

Of love?

**Romeo**

Out of her favour, where I am in love.

**Benvolio**

Alas, that love, so gentle in his view,

Should be so tyrannous and rough in proof!

**Romeo**

Alas, that love, whose view is muffled still,

Should, without eyes, see pathways to his will!

Where shall we dine? O me! What fray was here?

Yet tell me not, for I have heard it all.

Here's much to do with hate, but more with love.

Why, then, O brawling love! O loving hate!

O any thing, of nothing first create!

O heavy lightness! serious vanity!

Mis-shapen chaos of well-seeming forms!

Feather of lead, bright smoke, cold fire,

sick health!

Still-waking sleep, that is not what it is!

This love feel I, that feel no love in this.

Dost thou not laugh?

**Benvolio**

No, coz, I rather weep.

**Romeo**

Good heart, at what?

**Benvolio**

At thy good heart's oppression.

**Romeo**

Why, such is love's transgression.

Griefs of mine own lie heavy in my breast,

Which thou wilt propagate, to have it prest

With more of thine: this love that thou hast shown

Doth add more grief to too much of mine own.

Love is a smoke raised with the fume of sighs;

Being purged, a fire sparkling in lovers' eyes;

Being vex'd a sea nourish'd with lovers' tears:

What is it else? a madness most discreet,

A choking gall and a preserving sweet.

Farewell, my coz.

**Benvolio**

Soft! I will go along;

An if you leave me so, you do me wrong.

**Romeo**

Tut, I have lost myself; I am not here;

This is not Romeo, he's some other where.

**Benvolio**

Tell me in sadness, who is that you love.

**Romeo**

What, shall I groan and tell thee?

**Benvolio**

Groan! why, no.

But sadly tell me who.

**Romeo**

Bid a sick man in sadness make his will:

Ah, word ill urged to one that is so ill!

In sadness, cousin, I do love a woman.

**Benvolio**

I aim'd so near, when I supposed you loved.

**Romeo**

A right good mark-man! And she's fair I love.

**Benvolio**

A right fair mark, fair coz, is soonest hit.

**Romeo**

Well, in that hit you miss: she'll not be hit  
With Cupid's arrow; she hath Dian's wit;  
And, in strong proof of chastity well arm'd,  
From love's weak childish bow she lives unharm'd.  
She will not stay the siege of loving terms,  
Nor bide the encounter of assailing eyes,  
Nor ope her lap to saint-seducing gold:  
O, she is rich in beauty, only poor,  
That when she dies with beauty dies her store.

**Benvolio**

Then she hath sworn that she will still live chaste?

**Romeo**

She hath, and in that sparing makes huge waste,  
For beauty starved with her severity  
Cuts beauty off from all posterity.

She is too fair, too wise, wisely too fair,  
To merit bliss by making me despair:  
She hath forsworn to love, and in that vow  
Do I live dead that live to tell it now.

**Benvolio**

Be ruled by me, forget to think of her.

**Romeo**

O, teach me how I should forget to think.

**Benvolio**

By giving liberty unto thine eyes;  
Examine other beauties.

**Romeo**

'Tis the way  
To call hers exquisite, in question more:  
These happy masks that kiss fair ladies' brows  
Being black put us in mind they hide the fair;  
He that is stricken blind cannot forget  
The precious treasure of his eyesight lost:  
Show me a mistress that is passing fair,  
What doth her beauty serve, but as a note  
Where I may read who pass'd that passing fair?  
Farewell: thou canst not teach me to forget.

**Benvolio**

I'll pay that doctrine, or else die in debt.

*Exeunt*

**SCENE II. A street.**

*Enter CAPULET, PARIS, and Servant*

**Capulet**

But Montague is bound as well as I,  
In penalty alike; and 'tis not hard, I think,  
For men so old as we to keep the peace.

**Paris**

Of honourable reckoning are you both;  
And pity 'tis you lived at odds so long.  
But now, my lord, what say you to my suit?

**Capulet**

But saying o'er what I have said before:  
My child is yet a stranger in the world;  
She hath not seen the change of fourteen years,  
Let two more summers wither in their pride,  
Ere we may think her ripe to be a bride.

**Paris**

Younger than she are happy mothers made.

**Capulet**

And too soon marr'd are those so early made.  
The earth hath swallow'd all my hopes but she,

She is the hopeful lady of my earth:  
But woo her, gentle Paris, get her heart,  
My will to her consent is but a part;  
An she agree, within her scope of choice  
Lies my consent and fair according voice.  
This night I hold an old accustom'd feast,  
Whereto I have invited many a guest,  
Such as I love; and you, among the store,  
One more, most welcome, makes my number more.  
At my poor house look to behold this night  
Earth-treading stars that make dark heaven light:  
Such comfort as do lusty young men feel  
When well-apparell'd April on the heel  
Of limping winter treads, even such delight  
Among fresh female buds shall you this night  
Inherit at my house; hear all, all see,  
And like her most whose merit most shall be:  
Which on more view, of many mine being one  
May stand in number, though in reckoning none,  
Come, go with me.

*To Servant, giving a paper*

Go, sirrah, trudge about  
Through fair Verona; find those persons out

Whose names are written there, and to them say,

My house and welcome on their pleasure stay.

*Exeunt CAPULET and PARIS*

**Servant**

Find them out whose names are written here! It is written, that the shoemaker should meddle with his yard, and the tailor with his last, the fisher with his pencil, and the painter with his nets; but I am sent to find those persons whose names are here writ, and can never find what names the writing person hath here writ. I must to the learned.--In good time.

*Enter BENVOLIO and ROMEO*

**Benvolio**

Tut, man, one fire burns out another's burning,  
One pain is lessen'd by another's anguish;  
Turn giddy, and be holp by backward turning;  
One desperate grief cures with another's languish:  
Take thou some new infection to thy eye,  
And the rank poison of the old will die.

**Romeo**

Your plaintain-leaf is excellent for that.

**Benvolio**

For what, I pray thee?

**Romeo**

For your broken shin.

**Benvolio**

Why, Romeo, art thou mad?

**Romeo**

Not mad, but bound more than a mad-man is;

Shut up in prison, kept without my food,

Whipp'd and tormented and--God-den, good fellow.

**Servant**

God gi' god-den. I pray, sir, can you read?

**Romeo**

Ay, mine own fortune in my misery.

**Servant**

Perhaps you have learned it without book: but, I

pray, can you read any thing you see?

**Romeo**

Ay, if I know the letters and the language.

**Servant**

Ye say honestly: rest you merry!

**Romeo**

Stay, fellow; I can read.

*Reads*

'Signior Martino and his wife and daughters;

County Anselme and his beauteous sisters; the lady  
widow of Vitravio; Signior Placentio and his lovely  
nieces; Mercutio and his brother Valentine; mine  
uncle Capulet, his wife and daughters; my fair niece  
Rosaline; Livia; Signior Valentio and his cousin  
Tybalt, Lucio and the lively Helena.' A fair  
assembly: whither should they come?

**Servant**

Up.

**Romeo**

Whither?

**Servant**

To supper; to our house.

**Romeo**

Whose house?

**Servant**

My master's.

**Romeo**

Indeed, I should have ask'd you that before.

**Servant**

Now I'll tell you without asking: my master is the  
great rich Capulet; and if you be not of the house  
of Montagues, I pray, come and crush a cup of wine.

Rest you merry!

*Exit*

**Benvolio**

At this same ancient feast of Capulet's  
Supps the fair Rosaline whom thou so lovest,  
With all the admired beauties of Verona:  
Go thither; and, with unattainted eye,  
Compare her face with some that I shall show,  
And I will make thee think thy swan a crow.

**Romeo**

When the devout religion of mine eye  
Maintains such falsehood, then turn tears to fires;  
And these, who often drown'd could never die,  
Transparent heretics, be burnt for liars!  
One fairer than my love! the all-seeing sun  
Ne'er saw her match since first the world begun.

**Benvolio**

Tut, you saw her fair, none else being by,  
Herself poised with herself in either eye:  
But in that crystal scales let there be weigh'd  
Your lady's love against some other maid  
That I will show you shining at this feast,  
And she shall scant show well that now shows best.

**Romeo**

I'll go along, no such sight to be shown,

But to rejoice in splendor of mine own.

*Exeunt*

**SCENE III. A room in Capulet's house.**

*Enter LADY Capulet and Nurse*

**Lady Capulet**

Nurse, where's my daughter? call her forth to me.

**Nurse**

Now, by my maidenhead, at twelve year old,

I bade her come. What, lamb! what, ladybird!

God forbid! Where's this girl? What, Juliet!

*Enter JULIET*

**Juliet**

How now! who calls?

**Nurse**

Your mother.

**Juliet**

Madam, I am here.

What is your will?

**Lady Capulet**

This is the matter:--Nurse, give leave awhile,

We must talk in secret:--nurse, come back again;

I have remember'd me, thou's hear our counsel.

Thou know'st my daughter's of a pretty age.

**Nurse**

Faith, I can tell her age unto an hour.

**Lady Capulet**

She's not fourteen.

**Nurse**

I'll lay fourteen of my teeth,--

And yet, to my teeth be it spoken, I have but four--

She is not fourteen. How long is it now

To Lammas-tide?

**Lady Capulet**

A fortnight and odd days.

**Nurse**

Even or odd, of all days in the year,

Come Lammas-eve at night shall she be fourteen.

Susan and she--God rest all Christian souls!--

Were of an age: well, Susan is with God;

She was too good for me: but, as I said,

On Lammas-eve at night shall she be fourteen;

That shall she, marry; I remember it well.

'Tis since the earthquake now eleven years;

And she was wean'd,--I never shall forget it,--

Of all the days of the year, upon that day:  
For I had then laid wormwood to my dug,  
Sitting in the sun under the dove-house wall;  
My lord and you were then at Mantua:--  
Nay, I do bear a brain:--but, as I said,  
When it did taste the wormwood on the nipple  
Of my dug and felt it bitter, pretty fool,  
To see it tetchy and fall out with the dug!  
Shake quoth the dove-house: 'twas no need, I trow,  
To bid me trudge:  
And since that time it is eleven years;  
For then she could stand alone; nay, by the rood,  
She could have run and waddled all about;  
For even the day before, she broke her brow:  
And then my husband--God be with his soul!  
A' was a merry man--took up the child:  
'Yea,' quoth he, 'dost thou fall upon thy face?  
Thou wilt fall backward when thou hast more wit;  
Wilt thou not, Jule?' and, by my holiday,  
The pretty wretch left crying and said 'Ay.'  
To see, now, how a jest shall come about!  
I warrant, an I should live a thousand years,  
I never should forget it: 'Wilt thou not, Jule?' quoth he;

And, pretty fool, it stinted and said 'Ay.'

**Lady Capulet**

Enough of this; I pray thee, hold thy peace.

**Nurse**

Yes, madam: yet I cannot choose but laugh,

To think it should leave crying and say 'Ay.'

And yet, I warrant, it had upon its brow

A bump as big as a young cockerel's stone;

A parlous knock; and it cried bitterly:

'Yea,' quoth my husband, 'fall'st upon thy face?

Thou wilt fall backward when thou comest to age;

Wilt thou not, Jule?' it stinted and said 'Ay.'

**Juliet**

And stint thou too, I pray thee, nurse, say I.

**Nurse**

Peace, I have done. God mark thee to his grace!

Thou wast the prettiest babe that e'er I nursed:

An I might live to see thee married once,

I have my wish.

**Lady Capulet**

Marry, that 'marry' is the very theme

I came to talk of. Tell me, daughter Juliet,

How stands your disposition to be married?

**Juliet**

It is an honour that I dream not of.

**Nurse**

An honour! were not I thine only nurse,  
I would say thou hadst suck'd wisdom from thy teat.

**Lady Capulet**

Well, think of marriage now; younger than you,  
Here in Verona, ladies of esteem,  
Are made already mothers: by my count,  
I was your mother much upon these years  
That you are now a maid. Thus then in brief:  
The valiant Paris seeks you for his love.

**Nurse**

A man, young lady! lady, such a man  
As all the world--why, he's a man of wax.

**Lady Capulet**

Verona's summer hath not such a flower.

**Nurse**

Nay, he's a flower; in faith, a very flower.

**Lady Capulet**

What say you? can you love the gentleman?  
This night you shall behold him at our feast;  
Read o'er the volume of young Paris' face,

And find delight writ there with beauty's pen;  
Examine every married lineament,  
And see how one another lends content  
And what obscured in this fair volume lies  
Find written in the margent of his eyes.  
This precious book of love, this unbound lover,  
To beautify him, only lacks a cover:  
The fish lives in the sea, and 'tis much pride  
For fair without the fair within to hide:  
That book in many's eyes doth share the glory,  
That in gold clasps locks in the golden story;  
So shall you share all that he doth possess,  
By having him, making yourself no less.

**Nurse**

No less! nay, bigger; women grow by men.

**Lady Capulet**

Speak briefly, can you like of Paris' love?

**Juliet**

I'll look to like, if looking liking move:  
But no more deep will I endart mine eye  
Than your consent gives strength to make it fly.

*Enter a Servant*

**Servant**

Madam, the guests are come, supper served up, you  
called, my young lady asked for, the nurse cursed in  
the pantry, and every thing in extremity. I must  
hence to wait; I beseech you, follow straight.

**Lady Capulet**

We follow thee.

*Exit Servant*

Juliet, the county stays.

**Nurse**

Go, girl, seek happy nights to happy days.

*Exeunt*

**SCENE IV. A street.**

*Enter ROMEO, MERCUTIO, BENVOLIO, with five or six Maskers, Torch-bearers, and others*

**Romeo**

What, shall this speech be spoke for our excuse?

Or shall we on without a apology?

**Benvolio**

The date is out of such prolixity:

We'll have no Cupid hoodwink'd with a scarf,

Bearing a Tartar's painted bow of lath,

Scaring the ladies like a crow-keeper;

Nor no without-book prologue, faintly spoke

After the prompter, for our entrance:

But let them measure us by what they will;  
We'll measure them a measure, and be gone.

**Romeo**

Give me a torch: I am not for this ambling;  
Being but heavy, I will bear the light.

**Mercutio**

Nay, gentle Romeo, we must have you dance.

**Romeo**

Not I, believe me: you have dancing shoes  
With nimble soles: I have a soul of lead  
So stakes me to the ground I cannot move.

**Mercutio**

You are a lover; borrow Cupid's wings,  
And soar with them above a common bound.

**Romeo**

I am too sore enpierced with his shaft  
To soar with his light feathers, and so bound,  
I cannot bound a pitch above dull woe:  
Under love's heavy burden do I sink.

**Mercutio**

And, to sink in it, should you burden love;  
Too great oppression for a tender thing.

**Romeo**

Is love a tender thing? it is too rough,  
Too rude, too boisterous, and it pricks like thorn.

**Mercutio**

If love be rough with you, be rough with love;  
Prick love for pricking, and you beat love down.  
Give me a case to put my visage in:  
A visor for a visor! what care I  
What curious eye doth quote deformities?  
Here are the beetle brows shall blush for me.

**Benvolio**

Come, knock and enter; and no sooner in,  
But every man betake him to his legs.

**Romeo**

A torch for me: let wantons light of heart  
Tickle the senseless rushes with their heels,  
For I am proverb'd with a grandsire phrase;  
I'll be a candle-holder, and look on.  
The game was ne'er so fair, and I am done.

**Mercutio**

Tut, dun's the mouse, the constable's own word:  
If thou art dun, we'll draw thee from the mire  
Of this sir-reverence love, wherein thou stick'st  
Up to the ears. Come, we burn daylight, ho!

**Romeo**

Nay, that's not so.

**Mercutio**

I mean, sir, in delay

We waste our lights in vain, like lamps by day.

Take our good meaning, for our judgment sits

Five times in that ere once in our five wits.

**Romeo**

And we mean well in going to this mask;

But 'tis no wit to go.

**Mercutio**

Why, may one ask?

**Romeo**

I dream'd a dream to-night.

**Mercutio**

And so did I.

**Romeo**

Well, what was yours?

**Mercutio**

That dreamers often lie.

**Romeo**

In bed asleep, while they do dream things true.

**Mercutio**

O, then, I see Queen Mab hath been with you.  
She is the fairies' midwife, and she comes  
In shape no bigger than an agate-stone  
On the fore-finger of an alderman,  
Drawn with a team of little atomies  
Athwart men's noses as they lie asleep;  
Her wagon-spokes made of long spiders' legs,  
The cover of the wings of grasshoppers,  
The traces of the smallest spider's web,  
The collars of the moonshine's watery beams,  
Her whip of cricket's bone, the lash of film,  
Her wagoner a small grey-coated gnat,  
Not so big as a round little worm  
Prick'd from the lazy finger of a maid;  
Her chariot is an empty hazel-nut  
Made by the joiner squirrel or old grub,  
Time out o' mind the fairies' coachmakers.  
And in this state she gallops night by night  
Through lovers' brains, and then they dream of love;  
O'er courtiers' knees, that dream on court'sies straight,  
O'er lawyers' fingers, who straight dream on fees,  
O'er ladies' lips, who straight on kisses dream,  
Which oft the angry Mab with blisters plagues,

Because their breaths with sweetmeats tainted are:

Sometime she gallops o'er a courtier's nose,

And then dreams he of smelling out a suit;

And sometime comes she with a tithe-pig's tail

Tickling a parson's nose as a' lies asleep,

Then dreams, he of another benefice:

Sometime she driveth o'er a soldier's neck,

And then dreams he of cutting foreign throats,

Of breaches, ambuscadoes, Spanish blades,

Of healths five-fathom deep; and then anon

Drums in his ear, at which he starts and wakes,

And being thus frightened swears a prayer or two

And sleeps again. This is that very Mab

That plats the manes of horses in the night,

And bakes the elflocks in foul sluttish hairs,

Which once untangled, much misfortune bodes:

This is the hag, when maids lie on their backs,

That presses them and learns them first to bear,

Making them women of good carriage:

This is she--

## **Romeo**

Peace, peace, Mercutio, peace!

Thou talk'st of nothing.

**Mercutio**

True, I talk of dreams,  
Which are the children of an idle brain,  
Begot of nothing but vain fantasy,  
Which is as thin of substance as the air  
And more inconstant than the wind, who woos  
Even now the frozen bosom of the north,  
And, being anger'd, puffs away from thence,  
Turning his face to the dew-dropping south.

**Benvolio**

This wind, you talk of, blows us from ourselves;  
Supper is done, and we shall come too late.

**Romeo**

I fear, too early: for my mind misgives  
Some consequence yet hanging in the stars  
Shall bitterly begin his fearful date  
With this night's revels and expire the term  
Of a despised life closed in my breast  
By some vile forfeit of untimely death.  
But He, that hath the steerage of my course,  
Direct my sail! On, lusty gentlemen.

**Benvolio**

Strike, drum.

*Exeunt*

**SCENE V. A hall in Capulet's house.**

*Musicians waiting. Enter Servingmen with napkins*

**First servant**

Where's Potpan, that he helps not to take away? He  
shift a trencher? he scrape a trencher!

**Second servant**

When good manners shall lie all in one or two men's  
hands and they unwashed too, 'tis a foul thing.

**First servant**

Away with the joint-stools, remove the  
court-cupboard, look to the plate. Good thou, save  
me a piece of marchpane; and, as thou lovest me, let  
the porter let in Susan Grindstone and Nell.  
Antony, and Potpan!

**Second servant**

Ay, boy, ready.

**First servant**

You are looked for and called for, asked for and  
sought for, in the great chamber.

**Second servant**

We cannot be here and there too. Cheerly, boys; be  
brisk awhile, and the longer liver take all.

*Enter CAPULET, with JULIET and others of his house, meeting the Guests and Maskers*

**Capulet**

Welcome, gentlemen! ladies that have their toes  
Unplagued with corns will have a bout with you.  
Ah ha, my mistresses! which of you all  
Will now deny to dance? she that makes dainty,  
She, I'll swear, hath corns; am I come near ye now?  
Welcome, gentlemen! I have seen the day  
That I have worn a visor and could tell  
A whispering tale in a fair lady's ear,  
Such as would please: 'tis gone, 'tis gone, 'tis gone:  
You are welcome, gentlemen! come, musicians, play.  
A hall, a hall! give room! and foot it, girls.

*Music plays, and they dance*

More light, you knaves; and turn the tables up,  
And quench the fire, the room is grown too hot.  
Ah, sirrah, this unlook'd-for sport comes well.  
Nay, sit, nay, sit, good cousin Capulet;  
For you and I are past our dancing days:  
How long is't now since last yourself and I  
Were in a mask?

**Second capulet**

By'r lady, thirty years.

**Capulet**

What, man! 'tis not so much, 'tis not so much:  
'Tis since the nuptials of Lucentio,  
Come pentecost as quickly as it will,  
Some five and twenty years; and then we mask'd.

**Second capulet**

'Tis more, 'tis more, his son is elder, sir;  
His son is thirty.

**Capulet**

Will you tell me that?  
His son was but a ward two years ago.

**Romeo**

*To a Servingman* What lady is that, which doth  
enrich the hand  
Of yonder knight?

**Servant**

I know not, sir.

**Romeo**

O, she doth teach the torches to burn bright!  
It seems she hangs upon the cheek of night  
Like a rich jewel in an Ethiope's ear;  
Beauty too rich for use, for earth too dear!  
So shows a snowy dove trooping with crows,

As yonder lady o'er her fellows shows.  
The measure done, I'll watch her place of stand,  
And, touching hers, make blessed my rude hand.  
Did my heart love till now? forswear it, sight!  
For I ne'er saw true beauty till this night.

**Tybalt**

This, by his voice, should be a Montague.  
Fetch me my rapier, boy. What dares the slave  
Come hither, cover'd with an antic face,  
To fleer and scorn at our solemnity?  
Now, by the stock and honour of my kin,  
To strike him dead, I hold it not a sin.

**Capulet**

Why, how now, kinsman! wherefore storm you so?

**Tybalt**

Uncle, this is a Montague, our foe,  
A villain that is hither come in spite,  
To scorn at our solemnity this night.

**Capulet**

Young Romeo is it?

**Tybalt**

'Tis he, that villain Romeo.

**Capulet**

Content thee, gentle coz, let him alone;  
He bears him like a portly gentleman;  
And, to say truth, Verona brags of him  
To be a virtuous and well-govern'd youth:  
I would not for the wealth of all the town  
Here in my house do him disparagement:  
Therefore be patient, take no note of him:  
It is my will, the which if thou respect,  
Show a fair presence and put off these frowns,  
And ill-beseeming semblance for a feast.

**Tybalt**

It fits, when such a villain is a guest:  
I'll not endure him.

**Capulet**

He shall be endured:  
What, goodman boy! I say, he shall: go to;  
Am I the master here, or you? go to.  
You'll not endure him! God shall mend my soul!  
You'll make a mutiny among my guests!  
You will set cock-a-hoop! you'll be the man!

**Tybalt**

Why, uncle, 'tis a shame.

**Capulet**

Go to, go to;

You are a saucy boy: is't so, indeed?

This trick may chance to scathe you, I know what:

You must contrary me! marry, 'tis time.

Well said, my hearts! You are a princox; go:

Be quiet, or--More light, more light! For shame!

I'll make you quiet. What, cheerly, my hearts!

**Tybalt**

Patience perforce with wilful choler meeting

Makes my flesh tremble in their different greeting.

I will withdraw: but this intrusion shall

Now seeming sweet convert to bitter gall.

*Exit*

**Romeo**

*To JULIET* If I profane with my unworhiest hand

This holy shrine, the gentle fine is this:

My lips, two blushing pilgrims, ready stand

To smooth that rough touch with a tender kiss.

**Juliet**

Good pilgrim, you do wrong your hand too much,

Which mannerly devotion shows in this;

For saints have hands that pilgrims' hands do touch,

And palm to palm is holy palmers' kiss.

**Romeo**

Have not saints lips, and holy palmers too?

**Juliet**

Ay, pilgrim, lips that they must use in prayer.

**Romeo**

O, then, dear saint, let lips do what hands do;

They pray, grant thou, lest faith turn to despair.

**Juliet**

Saints do not move, though grant for prayers' sake.

**Romeo**

Then move not, while my prayer's effect I take.

Thus from my lips, by yours, my sin is purged.

**Juliet**

Then have my lips the sin that they have took.

**Romeo**

Sin from thy lips? O trespass sweetly urged!

Give me my sin again.

**Juliet**

You kiss by the book.

**Nurse**

Madam, your mother craves a word with you.

**Romeo**

What is her mother?

**Nurse**

Marry, bachelor,  
Her mother is the lady of the house,  
And a good lady, and a wise and virtuous  
I nursed her daughter, that you talk'd withal;  
I tell you, he that can lay hold of her  
Shall have the chinks.

**Romeo**

Is she a Capulet?  
O dear account! my life is my foe's debt.

**Benvolio**

Away, begone; the sport is at the best.

**Romeo**

Ay, so I fear; the more is my unrest.

**Capulet**

Nay, gentlemen, prepare not to be gone;  
We have a trifling foolish banquet towards.  
Is it e'en so? why, then, I thank you all  
I thank you, honest gentlemen; good night.  
More torches here! Come on then, let's to bed.  
Ah, sirrah, by my fay, it waxes late:  
I'll to my rest.

*Exeunt all but JULIET and Nurse*

**Juliet**

Come hither, nurse. What is yond gentleman?

**Nurse**

The son and heir of old Tiberio.

**Juliet**

What's he that now is going out of door?

**Nurse**

Marry, that, I think, be young Petrucio.

**Juliet**

What's he that follows there, that would not dance?

**Nurse**

I know not.

**Juliet**

Go ask his name: if he be married.

My grave is like to be my wedding bed.

**Nurse**

His name is Romeo, and a Montague;

The only son of your great enemy.

**Juliet**

My only love sprung from my only hate!

Too early seen unknown, and known too late!

Prodigious birth of love it is to me,

That I must love a loathed enemy.

**Nurse**

What's this? what's this?

**Juliet**

A rhyme I learn'd even now

Of one I danced withal.

*One calls within 'Juliet.'*

**Nurse**

Anon, anon!

Come, let's away; the strangers all are gone.

*Exeunt*

**ACT II**

**PROLOGUE**

*Enter Chorus*

**Chorus**

Now old desire doth in his death-bed lie,  
And young affection gapes to be his heir;  
That fair for which love groan'd for and would die,  
With tender Juliet match'd, is now not fair.  
Now Romeo is beloved and loves again,  
Alike bewitched by the charm of looks,  
But to his foe supposed he must complain,  
And she steal love's sweet bait from fearful hooks:  
Being held a foe, he may not have access

To breathe such vows as lovers use to swear;  
And she as much in love, her means much less  
To meet her new-beloved any where:  
But passion lends them power, time means, to meet  
Tempering extremities with extreme sweet.

*Exit*

**SCENE I. A lane by the wall of Capulet's orchard.**

*Enter ROMEO*

**Romeo**

Can I go forward when my heart is here?

Turn back, dull earth, and find thy centre out.

*He climbs the wall, and leaps down within it*

*Enter BENVOLIO and MERCUTIO*

**Benvolio**

Romeo! my cousin Romeo!

**Mercutio**

He is wise;

And, on my lie, hath stol'n him home to bed.

**Benvolio**

He ran this way, and leap'd this orchard wall:

Call, good Mercutio.

**Mercutio**

Nay, I'll conjure too.

Romeo! humours! madman! passion! lover!  
Appear thou in the likeness of a sigh:  
Speak but one rhyme, and I am satisfied;  
Cry but 'Ay me!' pronounce but 'love' and 'dove';  
Speak to my gossip Venus one fair word,  
One nick-name for her purblind son and heir,  
Young Adam Cupid, he that shot so trim,  
When King Cophetua loved the beggar-maid!  
He heareth not, he stirreth not, he moveth not;  
The ape is dead, and I must conjure him.  
I conjure thee by Rosaline's bright eyes,  
By her high forehead and her scarlet lip,  
By her fine foot, straight leg and quivering thigh  
And the demesnes that there adjacent lie,  
That in thy likeness thou appear to us!

**Benvolio**

And if he hear thee, thou wilt anger him.

**Mercutio**

This cannot anger him: 'twould anger him  
To raise a spirit in his mistress' circle  
Of some strange nature, letting it there stand  
Till she had laid it and conjured it down;  
That were some spite: my invocation

Is fair and honest, and in his mistress' name

I conjure only but to raise up him.

**Benvolio**

Come, he hath hid himself among these trees,

To be consorted with the humorous night:

Blind is his love and best befits the dark.

**Mercutio**

If love be blind, love cannot hit the mark.

Now will he sit under a medlar tree,

And wish his mistress were that kind of fruit

As maids call medlars, when they laugh alone.

Romeo, that she were, O, that she were

An open et caetera, thou a poperin pear!

Romeo, good night: I'll to my truckle-bed;

This field-bed is too cold for me to sleep:

Come, shall we go?

**Benvolio**

Go, then; for 'tis in vain

To seek him here that means not to be found.

*Exeunt*

**SCENE II. Capulet's orchard.**

*Enter ROMEO*

**Romeo**

He jests at scars that never felt a wound.

*JULIET appears above at a window*

But, soft! what light through yonder window breaks?

It is the east, and Juliet is the sun.

Arise, fair sun, and kill the envious moon,

Who is already sick and pale with grief,

That thou her maid art far more fair than she:

Be not her maid, since she is envious;

Her vestal livery is but sick and green

And none but fools do wear it; cast it off.

It is my lady, O, it is my love!

O, that she knew she were!

She speaks yet she says nothing: what of that?

Her eye discourses; I will answer it.

I am too bold, 'tis not to me she speaks:

Two of the fairest stars in all the heaven,

Having some business, do entreat her eyes

To twinkle in their spheres till they return.

What if her eyes were there, they in her head?

The brightness of her cheek would shame those stars,

As daylight doth a lamp; her eyes in heaven

Would through the airy region stream so bright

That birds would sing and think it were not night.

See, how she leans her cheek upon her hand!

O, that I were a glove upon that hand,

That I might touch that cheek!

**Juliet**

Ay me!

**Romeo**

She speaks:

O, speak again, bright angel! for thou art

As glorious to this night, being o'er my head

As is a winged messenger of heaven

Unto the white-upturned wondering eyes

Of mortals that fall back to gaze on him

When he bestrides the lazy-pacing clouds

And sails upon the bosom of the air.

**Juliet**

O Romeo, Romeo! wherefore art thou Romeo?

Deny thy father and refuse thy name;

Or, if thou wilt not, be but sworn my love,

And I'll no longer be a Capulet.

**Romeo**

*Aside* Shall I hear more, or shall I speak at this?

**Juliet**

'Tis but thy name that is my enemy;  
Thou art thyself, though not a Montague.  
What's Montague? it is nor hand, nor foot,  
Nor arm, nor face, nor any other part  
Belonging to a man. O, be some other name!  
What's in a name? that which we call a rose  
By any other name would smell as sweet;  
So Romeo would, were he not Romeo call'd,  
Retain that dear perfection which he owes  
Without that title. Romeo, doff thy name,  
And for that name which is no part of thee  
Take all myself.

**Romeo**

I take thee at thy word:  
Call me but love, and I'll be new baptized;  
Henceforth I never will be Romeo.

**Juliet**

What man art thou that thus bescreen'd in night  
So stumblest on my counsel?

**Romeo**

By a name  
I know not how to tell thee who I am:  
My name, dear saint, is hateful to myself,

Because it is an enemy to thee;

Had I it written, I would tear the word.

**Juliet**

My ears have not yet drunk a hundred words

Of that tongue's utterance, yet I know the sound:

Art thou not Romeo and a Montague?

**Romeo**

Neither, fair saint, if either thee dislike.

**Juliet**

How camest thou hither, tell me, and wherefore?

The orchard walls are high and hard to climb,

And the place death, considering who thou art,

If any of my kinsmen find thee here.

**Romeo**

With love's light wings did I o'er-perch these walls;

For stony limits cannot hold love out,

And what love can do that dares love attempt;

Therefore thy kinsmen are no let to me.

**Juliet**

If they do see thee, they will murder thee.

**Romeo**

Alack, there lies more peril in thine eye

Than twenty of their swords: look thou but sweet,

And I am proof against their enmity.

**Juliet**

I would not for the world they saw thee here.

**Romeo**

I have night's cloak to hide me from their sight;

And but thou love me, let them find me here:

My life were better ended by their hate,

Than death prorogued, wanting of thy love.

**Juliet**

By whose direction found'st thou out this place?

**Romeo**

By love, who first did prompt me to inquire;

He lent me counsel and I lent him eyes.

I am no pilot; yet, wert thou as far

As that vast shore wash'd with the farthest yonder

sea,

I would adventure for such merchandise.

**Juliet**

Thou know'st the mask of night is on my face,

Else would a maiden blush bepaint my cheek

For that which thou hast heard me speak to-night

Fain would I dwell on form, fain, fain deny

What I have spoke: but farewell compliment!

Dost thou love me? I know thou wilt say 'Ay,'  
And I will take thy word: yet if thou swear'st,  
Thou mayst prove false; at lovers' perjuries  
Then say, Jove laughs. O gentle Romeo,  
If thou dost love, pronounce it faithfully:  
Or if thou think'st I am too quickly won,  
I'll frown and be perverse and say thee nay,  
So thou wilt woo; but else, not for the world.  
In truth, fair Montague, I am too fond,  
And therefore thou mayst think my 'havior light:  
But trust me, gentleman, I'll prove more true  
Than those that have more cunning to be strange.  
I should have been more strange, I must confess,  
But that thou overheard'st, ere I was ware,  
My true love's passion: therefore pardon me,  
And not impute this yielding to light love,  
Which the dark night hath so discovered.

**Romeo**

Lady, by yonder blessed moon I swear  
That tips with silver all these fruit-tree tops--

**Juliet**

O, swear not by the moon, the inconstant moon,  
That monthly changes in her circled orb,

Lest that thy love prove likewise variable.

**Romeo**

What shall I swear by?

**Juliet**

Do not swear at all;

Or, if thou wilt, swear by thy gracious self,

Which is the god of my idolatry,

And I'll believe thee.

**Romeo**

If my heart's dear love--

**Juliet**

Well, do not swear: although I joy in thee,

I have no joy of this contract to-night:

It is too rash, too unadvised, too sudden;

Too like the lightning, which doth cease to be

Ere one can say 'It lightens.' Sweet, good night!

This bud of love, by summer's ripening breath,

May prove a beauteous flower when next we meet.

Good night, good night! as sweet repose and rest

Come to thy heart as that within my breast!

**Romeo**

O, wilt thou leave me so unsatisfied?

**Juliet**

What satisfaction canst thou have to-night?

**Romeo**

The exchange of thy love's faithful vow for mine.

**Juliet**

I gave thee mine before thou didst request it:

And yet I would it were to give again.

**Romeo**

Wouldst thou withdraw it? for what purpose, love?

**Juliet**

But to be frank, and give it thee again.

And yet I wish but for the thing I have:

My bounty is as boundless as the sea,

My love as deep; the more I give to thee,

The more I have, for both are infinite.

*Nurse calls within*

I hear some noise within; dear love, adieu!

Anon, good nurse! Sweet Montague, be true.

Stay but a little, I will come again.

*Exit, above*

**Romeo**

O blessed, blessed night! I am afeard.

Being in night, all this is but a dream,

Too flattering-sweet to be substantial.

*Re-enter JULIET, above*

**Juliet**

Three words, dear Romeo, and good night indeed.

If that thy bent of love be honourable,

Thy purpose marriage, send me word to-morrow,

By one that I'll procure to come to thee,

Where and what time thou wilt perform the rite;

And all my fortunes at thy foot I'll lay

And follow thee my lord throughout the world.

**Nurse**

*Within Madam!*

**Juliet**

I come, anon.--But if thou mean'st not well,

I do beseech thee--

**Nurse**

*Within Madam!*

**Juliet**

By and by, I come:--

To cease thy suit, and leave me to my grief:

To-morrow will I send.

**Romeo**

So thrive my soul--

**Juliet**

A thousand times good night!

*Exit, above*

**Romeo**

A thousand times the worse, to want thy light.

Love goes toward love, as schoolboys from  
their books,

But love from love, toward school with heavy looks.

*Retiring Re-enter JULIET, above*

**Juliet**

Hist! Romeo, hist! O, for a falconer's voice,

To lure this tassel-gentle back again!

Bondage is hoarse, and may not speak aloud;

Else would I tear the cave where Echo lies,

And make her airy tongue more hoarse than mine,

With repetition of my Romeo's name.

**Romeo**

It is my soul that calls upon my name:

How silver-sweet sound lovers' tongues by night,

Like softest music to attending ears!

**Juliet**

Romeo!

**Romeo**

My dear?

**Juliet**

At what o'clock to-morrow

Shall I send to thee?

**Romeo**

At the hour of nine.

**Juliet**

I will not fail: 'tis twenty years till then.

I have forgot why I did call thee back.

**Romeo**

Let me stand here till thou remember it.

**Juliet**

I shall forget, to have thee still stand there,

Remembering how I love thy company.

**Romeo**

And I'll still stay, to have thee still forget,

Forgetting any other home but this.

**Juliet**

'Tis almost morning; I would have thee gone:

And yet no further than a wanton's bird;

Who lets it hop a little from her hand,

Like a poor prisoner in his twisted gyves,

And with a silk thread plucks it back again,

So loving-jealous of his liberty.

**Romeo**

I would I were thy bird.

**Juliet**

Sweet, so would I:

Yet I should kill thee with much cherishing.

Good night, good night! parting is such

sweet sorrow,

That I shall say good night till it be morrow.

*Exit above*

**Romeo**

Sleep dwell upon thine eyes, peace in thy breast!

Would I were sleep and peace, so sweet to rest!

Hence will I to my ghostly father's cell,

His help to crave, and my dear hap to tell.

*Exit*

**SCENE III. Friar Laurence's cell.**

*Enter FRIAR Laurence, with a basket*

**Friar Laurence**

The grey-eyed morn smiles on the frowning night,

Chequering the eastern clouds with streaks of light,

And flecked darkness like a drunkard reels

From forth day's path and Titan's fiery wheels:

Now, ere the sun advance his burning eye,

The day to cheer and night's dank dew to dry,  
I must up-fill this osier cage of ours  
With baleful weeds and precious-juiced flowers.  
The earth that's nature's mother is her tomb;  
What is her burying grave that is her womb,  
And from her womb children of divers kind  
We sucking on her natural bosom find,  
Many for many virtues excellent,  
None but for some and yet all different.  
O, mickle is the powerful grace that lies  
In herbs, plants, stones, and their true qualities:  
For nought so vile that on the earth doth live  
But to the earth some special good doth give,  
Nor aught so good but strain'd from that fair use  
Revolts from true birth, stumbling on abuse:  
Virtue itself turns vice, being misapplied;  
And vice sometimes by action dignified.  
Within the infant rind of this small flower  
Poison hath residence and medicine power:  
For this, being smelt, with that part cheers each part;  
Being tasted, slays all senses with the heart.  
Two such opposed kings encamp them still  
In man as well as herbs, grace and rude will;

And where the worser is predominant,  
Full soon the canker death eats up that plant.

*Enter ROMEO*

**Romeo**

Good morrow, father.

**Friar Laurence**

Benedicite!

What early tongue so sweet saluteth me?

Young son, it argues a distemper'd head

So soon to bid good morrow to thy bed:

Care keeps his watch in every old man's eye,

And where care lodges, sleep will never lie;

But where unbruised youth with unstuff'd brain

Doth couch his limbs, there golden sleep doth reign:

Therefore thy earliness doth me assure

Thou art up-roused by some distemperature;

Or if not so, then here I hit it right,

Our Romeo hath not been in bed to-night.

**Romeo**

That last is true; the sweeter rest was mine.

**Friar Laurence**

God pardon sin! wast thou with Rosaline?

**Romeo**

With Rosaline, my ghostly father? no;  
I have forgot that name, and that name's woe.

**Friar Laurence**

That's my good son: but where hast thou been, then?

**Romeo**

I'll tell thee, ere thou ask it me again.  
I have been feasting with mine enemy,  
Where on a sudden one hath wounded me,  
That's by me wounded: both our remedies  
Within thy help and holy physic lies:  
I bear no hatred, blessed man, for, lo,  
My intercession likewise steads my foe.

**Friar Laurence**

Be plain, good son, and homely in thy drift;  
Riddling confession finds but riddling shrift.

**Romeo**

Then plainly know my heart's dear love is set  
On the fair daughter of rich Capulet:  
As mine on hers, so hers is set on mine;  
And all combined, save what thou must combine  
By holy marriage: when and where and how  
We met, we woo'd and made exchange of vow,  
I'll tell thee as we pass; but this I pray,

That thou consent to marry us to-day.

**Friar Laurence**

Holy Saint Francis, what a change is here!

Is Rosaline, whom thou didst love so dear,

So soon forsaken? young men's love then lies

Not truly in their hearts, but in their eyes.

Jesu Maria, what a deal of brine

Hath wash'd thy sallow cheeks for Rosaline!

How much salt water thrown away in waste,

To season love, that of it doth not taste!

The sun not yet thy sighs from heaven clears,

Thy old groans ring yet in my ancient ears;

Lo, here upon thy cheek the stain doth sit

Of an old tear that is not wash'd off yet:

If e'er thou wast thyself and these woes thine,

Thou and these woes were all for Rosaline:

And art thou changed? pronounce this sentence then,

Women may fall, when there's no strength in men.

**Romeo**

Thou chid'st me oft for loving Rosaline.

**Friar Laurence**

For doting, not for loving, pupil mine.

**Romeo**

And bad'st me bury love.

**Friar Laurence**

Not in a grave,

To lay one in, another out to have.

**Romeo**

I pray thee, chide not; she whom I love now

Doth grace for grace and love for love allow;

The other did not so.

**Friar Laurence**

O, she knew well

Thy love did read by rote and could not spell.

But come, young waverer, come, go with me,

In one respect I'll thy assistant be;

For this alliance may so happy prove,

To turn your households' rancour to pure love.

**Romeo**

O, let us hence; I stand on sudden haste.

**Friar Laurence**

Wisely and slow; they stumble that run fast.

*Exeunt*

**SCENE IV. A street.**

*Enter BENVOLIO and MERCUTIO*

**Mercutio**

Where the devil should this Romeo be?

Came he not home to-night?

**Benvolio**

Not to his father's; I spoke with his man.

**Mercutio**

Ah, that same pale hard-hearted wench, that Rosaline.

Torments him so, that he will sure run mad.

**Benvolio**

Tybalt, the kinsman of old Capulet,

Hath sent a letter to his father's house.

**Mercutio**

A challenge, on my life.

**Benvolio**

Romeo will answer it.

**Mercutio**

Any man that can write may answer a letter.

**Benvolio**

Nay, he will answer the letter's master, how he

dares, being dared.

**Mercutio**

Alas poor Romeo! he is already dead; stabbed with a  
white wench's black eye; shot through the ear with a  
love-song; the very pin of his heart cleft with the  
blind bow-boy's butt-shaft: and is he a man to  
encounter Tybalt?

**Benvolio**

Why, what is Tybalt?

**Mercutio**

More than prince of cats, I can tell you. O, he is  
the courageous captain of compliments. He fights as  
you sing prick-song, keeps time, distance, and  
proportion; rests me his minim rest, one, two, and  
the third in your bosom: the very butcher of a silk  
button, a duellist, a duellist; a gentleman of the  
very first house, of the first and second cause:  
ah, the immortal passado! the punto reverso! the  
hai!

**Benvolio**

The what?

**Mercutio**

The pox of such antic, lispings, affecting  
fantasticoes; these new tuners of accents! 'By Jesu,  
a very good blade! a very tall man! a very good

whore! Why, is not this a lamentable thing,  
grandsire, that we should be thus afflicted with  
these strange flies, these fashion-mongers, these  
perdona-mi's, who stand so much on the new form,  
that they cannot at ease on the old bench? O, their  
bones, their bones!

*Enter Romeo*

**Benvolio**

Here comes Romeo, here comes Romeo.

**Mercutio**

Without his roe, like a dried herring: flesh, flesh,  
how art thou fishified! Now is he for the numbers  
that Petrarch flow'd in: Laura to his lady was but a  
kitchen-wench; marry, she had a better love to  
be-rhyme her; Dido a dowdy; Cleopatra a gipsy;  
Helen and Hero hildings and harlots; Thisbe a grey  
eye or so, but not to the purpose. Signior  
Romeo, bon jour! there's a French salutation  
to your French slop. You gave us the counterfeit  
fairly last night.

**Romeo**

Good morrow to you both. What counterfeit did I give you?

**Mercutio**

The ship, sir, the slip; can you not conceive?

**Romeo**

Pardon, good Mercutio, my business was great; and in  
such a case as mine a man may strain courtesy.

**Mercutio**

That's as much as to say, such a case as yours  
constrains a man to bow in the hams.

**Romeo**

Meaning, to court'sy.

**Mercutio**

Thou hast most kindly hit it.

**Romeo**

A most courteous exposition.

**Mercutio**

Nay, I am the very pink of courtesy.

**Romeo**

Pink for flower.

**Mercutio**

Right.

**Romeo**

Why, then is my pump well flowered.

**Mercutio**

Well said: follow me this jest now till thou hast

worn out thy pump, that when the single sole of it  
is worn, the jest may remain after the wearing sole singular.

**Romeo**

O single-soled jest, solely singular for the  
singleness.

**Mercutio**

Come between us, good Benvolio; my wits faint.

**Romeo**

Switch and spurs, switch and spurs; or I'll cry a match.

**Mercutio**

Nay, if thy wits run the wild-goose chase, I have  
done, for thou hast more of the wild-goose in one of  
thy wits than, I am sure, I have in my whole five:  
was I with you there for the goose?

**Romeo**

Thou wast never with me for any thing when thou wast  
not there for the goose.

**Mercutio**

I will bite thee by the ear for that jest.

**Romeo**

Nay, good goose, bite not.

**Mercutio**

Thy wit is a very bitter sweeting; it is a most

sharp sauce.

**Romeo**

And is it not well served in to a sweet goose?

**Mercutio**

O here's a wit of cheveril, that stretches from an  
inch narrow to an ell broad!

**Romeo**

I stretch it out for that word 'broad;' which added  
to the goose, proves thee far and wide a broad goose.

**Mercutio**

Why, is not this better now than groaning for love?  
now art thou sociable, now art thou Romeo; now art  
thou what thou art, by art as well as by nature:  
for this drivelling love is like a great natural,  
that runs lolling up and down to hide his bauble in a hole.

**Benvolio**

Stop there, stop there.

**Mercutio**

Thou desirest me to stop in my tale against the hair.

**Benvolio**

Thou wouldst else have made thy tale large.

**Mercutio**

O, thou art deceived; I would have made it short: