Now old desire doth in his deathbed lie,
And young affection gapes to be his heir.
That fair for which love groaned for and would die
With tender Juliet matched, is now not fair.

Now Romeo is beloved and loves again,
Alike bewitchèd 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 anywhere.

But passion lends them power, time means, to meet,
Tempering extremities with extreme sweet.

Now Romeo’s old feelings of desire are dying, and a new desire is eager to take their place. Romeo groaned for the beautiful Rosaline and said he would die for her, but compared with tender Juliet, Rosaline doesn’t seem beautiful now. Now someone loves Romeo, and he’s in love again—both of them falling for each other’s good looks. But he has to make his speeches of love to a woman who’s supposed to be his enemy. And she’s been hooked by someone she should fear. Because he’s an enemy, Romeo has no chance to see Juliet and say the things a lover normally says. And Juliet’s just as much in love as he, but she has even less opportunity to meet her lover. But love gives them power, and time gives them the chance to meet, sweetening the extreme danger with intense pleasure.
Enter ROMEO alone

ROMEO
Can I go forward when my heart is here?
Turn back, dull earth, and find thy center out.

MOVES AWAY Enter BENVOLIO with MERCUTIO

BENVOLIO
Romeo, my cousin Romeo! Romeo!

MERCUTIO
He is wise,
And, on my life, hath stol'n him home to bed.

BENVOLIO
He ran this way and leapt 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 nickname for her purblind son and heir,
Young Abraham Cupid, he that shot so true
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
An 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. 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.—
O Romeo, that she were! Oh, that she were
An open arse, and thou a poperin pear.
Romeo, good night. I'll to my truckle bed.

BENVOLIO
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

BENVOLIO
If he hears you, you'll make him angry.

MERCUTIO
What I'm saying can't anger him. He would be angry if I
summoned a strange spirit for her to have sex with—
that's what would make him angry. The things I'm
saying are fair and honest. All I'm doing is saying the
name of the woman he loves to lure him out of the
darkness.

BENVOLIO
Come on. He's hidden behind these trees to keep the
night company. His love is blind, so it belongs in the
dark.

MERCUTIO
If love is blind, it can't hit the target. Now he'll sit under
a [medlar] tree and wish his mistress were one of those
fruits that look like female genitalia. Oh Romeo, I wish
she were an open-arse, and you a Popperin pear to “pop
her in.” Good night, Romeo. I'll go to my little trundle
bed. This open field is too cold a place for me to sleep.
(to BENVOLIO) Come on, should we go?

BENVOLIO
Let's go. There's no point in looking for him if he doesn't
want to be found.

BENVOLIO and MERCUTIO exit.
ROMEO returns
He jests at scars that never felt a wound.

JULIET appears in a window above
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. Oh, it is my love.
Oh, 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 eye 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.
Oh, that I were a glove upon that hand

That I might touch that cheek!

JULIET
Ay me!

ROMEO
It's easy for someone to joke about scars if they've never been cut.

JULIET enters on the balcony.
But wait, what's that light in the window over there? It is the east, and Juliet is the sun. Rise up, beautiful sun, and kill the jealous moon. The moon is already sick and pale with grief because you, Juliet, her maid, are more beautiful than she.

Don't be her maid, because she is jealous. Virginity makes her look sick and green. Only fools hold on to their virginity. Let it go. Oh, there's my lady! Oh, it is my love. Oh, I wish she knew how much I love her. She's talking, but she's not saying anything. So what? Her eyes are saying something. I will answer them. I am too bold. She's not talking to me. Two of the brightest stars in the whole sky had to go away on business, and they're asking her eyes to twinkle in their places until they return. What if her eyes were in the sky and the stars were in her head?—The brightness of her cheeks would outshine the stars the way the sun outshines a lamp. If her eyes were in the night sky, they would shine so brightly through space that birds would start singing, thinking her light was the light of day. Look how she leans her hand on her cheek. Oh, I wish I was the glove on that hand so that I could touch that cheek.

JULIET
Oh, my!
(aside) She speaks.  
O, speak again, bright angel! For thou art  
As glorious to this night, being o'er my head,  
As is a wingèd messenger of heaven  
Unto the white, upturnèd, wondering eyes  
Of mortals that fall back to gaze on him  
When he bestrides the lazy-puffing clouds  
And sails upon the bosom of the air.

She speaks. Oh, speak again, bright angel.  
You are as glorious as an angel tonight. You shine above  
me, like a winged messenger from heaven who makes  
mortal men fall on their backs to look up at the sky,  
watching the angel walking on the clouds and sailing  
on the air.

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.

Oh, Romeo, Romeo, why do you have to be Romeo?  
Forget about your father and change your name. Or else,  
if you won't change your name, just swear you love me  
and I'll stop being a Capulet.

(aside) Shall I hear more, or shall I speak at this?

Should I listen for more, or should I speak now?

’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 word would smell as sweet.

So Romeo would, were he not Romeo called,  
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.

I take thee at thy word.

(aside) She speaks. Oh, speak again, bright angel.  
You are as glorious as an angel tonight. You shine above  
me, like a winged messenger from heaven who makes  
mortal men fall on their backs to look up at the sky,  
watching the angel walking on the clouds and sailing  
on the air.

Oh, Romeo, Romeo, why do you have to be Romeo?  
Forget about your father and change your name. Or else,  
if you won’t change your name, just swear you love me  
and I’ll stop being a Capulet.

Should I listen for more, or should I speak now?

It’s only your name that’s my enemy. You’d still be yourself even if you  
stopped being a Montague. What’s a Montague anyway?  
It isn’t a hand, a foot, an arm, a face, or any other part  
of a man. Oh, be some other name! What does a name  
mean? The thing we call a rose would smell just as sweet  
if we called it by any other name. Romeo would be just  
as perfect even if he wasn’t called Romeo. Romeo, lose  
your name. Trade in your name—which really has  
nothing to do with you—and take all of me in exchange.

I trust your words. Just call me your love,
Romeo and Juliet Act 2

50  Call me but love, and I'll be new baptized.  
    Henceforth I never will be Romeo.

JULIET  
    What man art thou that, thus bescreened in night,  
    So stumblest on my counsel?

ROMEO  
    By a name  
    I know not how to tell thee who I am.

55  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 uttering, yet I know the sound.

60  Art thou not Romeo, and a Montague?

ROMEO  
    Neither, fair maid, 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'erperch these walls,  
    For stony limits cannot hold love out,  
    And what love can do, that dares love attempt.  
    Therefore thy kinsmen are no stop 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.

and I will take a new name. From now on I will never be Romeo again.

JULIET  
    Who are you? Why do you hide in the darkness and  
    listen to my private thoughts?

ROMEO  
    I don't know how to tell you who I am by telling you a  
    name. I hate my name, dear saint, because my name is  
    your enemy. If I had it written down, I would tear up the  
    paper.

JULIET  
    I haven't heard you say a hundred words yet, but I  
    recognize the sound of your voice. Aren't you Romeo?  
    And aren't you a Montague?

ROMEO  
    I am neither of those things if you dislike them.

JULIET  
    Tell me, how did you get in here? And why did you  
    come? The orchard walls are high, and it's hard to climb  
    over them. If any of my relatives find you here they'll kill  
    you because of who you are.

ROMEO  
    I flew over these walls with the light wings of love. Stone  
    walls can't keep love out. Whatever a man in love can  
    possibly do, his love will make him try to do it.  
    Therefore your relatives are no obstacle.

JULIET  
    If they see you, they'll murder you.

ROMEO  
    Alas, one angry look from you would be worse than  
    twenty of your relatives with swords. Just look at me  
    kindly, and I'm invincible against their hatred.
JULIET
I would not for the world they saw thee here.

ROMEO
I have night’s cloak to hide me from their eyes,
And but thou love me, let them find me here.
My life were better ended by their hate
Than death proroguèd, wanting of thy love.

JULIET
By whose direction found’st thou out this place?

ROMEO
By love, that 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 washed with the farthest sea,
I would adventure for such merchandise.

JULIET
Thou know’st the mask of night is on my face,
Else would a maiden blush repaint my cheek
For that which thou hast heard me speak tonight.
Fain would I dwell on form. Fain, fain deny
What I have spoke. But farewell compliment!

ROMEO
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,
They say, Jove laughs. O gentle Romeo,
If thou dost love, pronounce it faithfully.

JULIET
You can’t see my face because it’s dark out. Otherwise,
you’d see me blushing about the things you’ve heard me
say tonight. I would be happy to keep up good manners
and deny the things I said. But forget about good
manners. Do you love me? I know you’ll say “yes,” and
I’ll believe you. But if you swear you love me, you might
turn out to be lying. They say Jove laughs when lovers
lie to each other. Oh Romeo, if you really love me, say it
truly. Or if you think it’s too easy and quick to win my
heart, I’ll frown and play hard-to-get, as long as that will
make you try to win me, but otherwise I wouldn’t act
that way for anything. In truth, handsome Montague, I
like you too much, so you may think my behavior is
loose. But trust me, gentleman, I’ll prove myself more
faithful than girls who act coy and play hard-to-get. I
should have been more standoffish, I confess, but you
overheard me talking about the love in my heart when I
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.

And didn't know you were there. So excuse me, and do not assume that because you made me love you so easily my love isn't serious.

ROMEO
Lady, by yonder blessèd moon I vow,
That tips with silver all these fruit-tree tops—

JULIET
O, swear not by the moon, th' inconstant moon,
That monthly changes in her circle 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 tonight.
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
Oh, wilt thou leave me so unsatisfied?
JULIET
What satisfaction canst thou have tonight?

ROMEO
Th' 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 from 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 JULIET, above

ROMEO
O blessèd, blessèd night! I am afeard, Being in night, all this is but a dream, Too flattering sweet to be substantial.

Enter JULIET, above

JULIET
Three words, dear Romeo, and good night indeed. If that thy bent of love be honorable, Thy purpose marriage, send me word tomorrow

130 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.

The NURSE calls from offstage.
I hear a noise inside. Dear love, goodbye—Just a minute, good Nurse. Sweet Montague, be true. Stay here for a moment. I'll come back.

Exit JULIET, above

ROMEO
Oh, blessed, blessed night! Because it's dark out, I'm afraid all this is just a dream, too sweet to be real.

JULIET
Three words, dear Romeo, and then it's good night for real. If your intentions as a lover are truly honorable and you want to marry me, send me word tomorrow. I'll send a messenger to you, and you can pass on a message
Romeo and Juliet Act 2

150 I come, anon.—But if thou mean'st not well,
   I do beseech thee—

NURSE
(from within) Madam!

JULIET
By and by, I come.—
   To cease thy strife and leave me to my grief.

ROMEO
So thrive my soul—

JULIET
A thousand times good night!

Exit JULIET, above

Moves to exit Reenter JULIET, above

JULIET
Hist! Romeo, hist!—Oh, 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,
165 And make her airy tongue more hoarse than mine,
telling me where and when we’ll be married. I’ll lay all
my fortunes at your feet and follow you, my lord, all
over the world.

NURSE
(offstage) Madam!

JULIET
(to the NURSE) I’ll be right there! (to ROMEO) But if
you don’t have honorable intentions, I beg you—

NURSE
(offstage) Madam!

JULIET
Alright, I’m coming!—I beg you to stop trying for me
and leave me to my sadness. Tomorrow I’ll send the
messenger.

ROMEO
Ma thousand times the worse to want thy light.
Love goes toward love as schoolboys from their books,
160 But love from love, toward school with heavy looks.

JULIET
A thousand times good night.

JULIET exits.

ROMEO
Leaving you is a thousand times worse than being near
you. A lover goes toward his beloved as enthusiastically
as a schoolboy leaving his books, but when he leaves his
girlfriend, he feels as miserable as the schoolboy on his
way to school.

ROMEO starts to leave. JULIET returns, on her
balcony.

JULIET
Hist, Romeo! Hist! Oh, I wish I could make a falconer’s
call, so I could bring my little falcon back again. I’m
trapped in my family’s house, so I must be quiet.
Otherwise I would rip open the cave where Echo sleeps.
I would make her repeat his name until her voice grew
Romeo and Juliet Act 2

With repetition of “My Romeo!”

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
170 Romeo!

ROMEO
My nyas?

JULIET
What o'clock tomorrow
Shall I send to thee?

ROMEO
By the hour of nine.

JULIET
I will not fail. 'Tis twenty year till then.
I have forgot why I did call thee back.

ROMEO
Let me stand here till thou remember it.

JULIET
175 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.

ROMEO
180 And yet no further than a wanton’s bird,
That lets it hop a little from his hand
Like a poor prisoner in his twisted gyves,
And with a silken thread plucks it back again,
So loving-jealous of his liberty.

more hoarse than mine by repeating, “My Romeo!”

ROMEO
My soul is calling out my name. The sound of lovers
calling each others names through the night is silver-
sweet. It's the sweetest sound a lover ever hears.

JULIET
Romeo!

ROMEO
My baby hawk?

JULIET
What time tomorrow should I send a messenger to you?

ROMEO
By nine o'clock.

JULIET
I won't fail. From now until then seems like twenty
years. I have forgotten why I called you back.

ROMEO
Let me stand here until you remember your reason.

JULIET
I'll forget it, and you'll have to stand there forever. I'll
only remember how much I love your company.

ROMEO
I'll keep standing here, even if you keep forgetting. I'll
forget that I have any home besides this spot right here.

JULIET
It's almost morning. I want to make you go, but I'd only
let you go as far as a spoiled child lets his pet bird go. He
lets the bird hop a little from his hand and then yanks
him back by a string.
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 JULIET, above

ROMEO
I wish I was your bird.

JULIET
My sweet, so do I. But I would kill you by petting you too much. Good night, good night. Parting is such sweet sorrow that I'll say good night until tonight becomes tomorrow.

JULIET exits.

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 friar's close cell,
His help to crave and my dear hap to tell.

Exit

ROMEO
I hope you sleep peacefully. I wish I were Sleep and Peace, so I could spend the night with you. Now I'll go see my priest, to ask for his help and tell him about my good luck.

He exits.
FRIAR LAWRENCE enters by himself, carrying a basket.

FRIAR LAWRENCE
The smiling morning is replacing the frowning night. Darkness is stumbling out of the sun’s path like a drunk man. Now, before the sun comes up and burns away the dew, I have to fill this basket of mine with poisonous weeds and medicinal flowers. The Earth is nature’s mother and also nature’s tomb. Plants are born out of the Earth, and they are buried in the Earth when they die. From the Earth’s womb, many different sorts of plants and animals come forth, and the Earth provides her children with many excellent forms of nourishment. Everything nature creates has some special property, and each one is different. Herbs, plants, and stones possess great power. There is nothing on Earth that is so evil that it does not provide the earth with some special quality. And there is nothing that does not turn bad if it’s put to the wrong use and abused. Virtue turns to vice if it’s misused. Vice sometimes becomes virtue through the right activity.

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, stays all senses with the heart.
Two such opposèd kings encamp them still,
In man as well as herbs—grace and rude will.
And where the worser is predominant,

30 Full soon the canker death
eats up that plant.

ROMEO
Good morrow, Father.

FRIAR LAWRENCE
Benedicite.
What early tongue so sweet saluteth me?
Young son, it argues a distempered head
So soon to bid good morrow to thy bed.

35 Care keeps his watch in every old man's eye,
And where care lodges, sleep will never lie.
But where unbruised youth with unstuffed brain
Doth couch his limbs, there golden sleep doth reign.
Therefore thy earliness doth me assure

40 Thou art uproused by some distemperature.
Or if not so, then here I hit it right:
Our Romeo hath not been in bed tonight.

ROMEO
That last is true. The sweeter rest was mine.

FRIAR LAWRENCE
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 LAWRENCE
That's my good son. But where hast thou been, then?

ROMEO
I'll tell thee ere thou ask it me again.

When evil is dominant, death soon kills the body like cancer.

ROMEO
Good morning, father.

FRIAR LAWRENCE
God bless you. Who greets me so early in the morning?
Young man, something's wrong if you're getting out of bed this early. Every old man has worries, and worried men never get any sleep, but young men shouldn't have a care in the world. They should get to bed early and get plenty of sleep. Therefore, the fact that you're awake this early tells me you've been upset with some anxiety. If that's not the case, then this must be the answer: You, Romeo, have not been to bed tonight.

ROMEO
Your last guess is right. I enjoyed a sweeter rest than sleep.

FRIAR LAWRENCE
May God forgive you if you've sinned!—Were you with Rosaline?

ROMEO
With Rosaline, father? No, I have forgotten that girl and all the sadness she brought me.

FRIAR LAWRENCE
That's good, my boy. But where have you been?

ROMEO
I'll tell you before you have to ask me again. I have been
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 LAWRENCE
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 wooed and made exchange of vow,
I'll tell thee as we pass, but this I pray:
That thou consent to marry us today.

FRIAR LAWRENCE
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 washed 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 washed off yet.
If e'er thou wast thyself and these woes thine,
feasting with my enemy. Suddenly someone wounded me with love and was wounded with love by me. You have the sacred power to cure both of us. I carry no hatred, holy man, because my request will benefit my enemy.

FRIAR LAWRENCE
Speak plainly, make your meaning clear, my son. A jumbled confession can only receive a jumbled absolution.

ROMEO
I love rich Capulet's daughter. I love her, and she loves me. We're bound to each other in every possible way, except we need you to marry us. I'll tell you more later about when and where we met, how we fell in love, and how we exchanged promises, but now I'm begging you: please, agree to marry us today.

FRIAR LAWRENCE
Holy Saint Francis, this is a drastic change! Have you given up so quickly on Rosaline, whom you loved so much? Then young men love with their eyes, not with their hearts. Jesus and Mary, how many tears did you cry for Rosaline? How many salty tear-drops did you waste salting a love you never tasted? The sun hasn't yet melted away the fog you made with all your sighs. The groans you used to make are still ringing in my old ears. There's still a stain on your cheek from an old tear that hasn't been washed off yet. If you were ever yourself, and this sadness was yours, you and your sadness were all for Rosaline. And now you've changed? Then repeat this after me: you can't expect women to be faithful
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 LAWRENCE
For doting, not for loving, pupil mine.

ROMEO
And badest me bury love.

FRIAR LAWRENCE
Not in a grave,
To lay one in, another out to have.

ROMEO
I pray thee, chide not. Her I love now
Doth grace for grace and love for love allow.
The other did not so.

FRIAR LAWRENCE
Oh, she knew well
Thy love did read by rote, that 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’ rancor to pure love.

ROMEO
Oh, let us hence. I stand on sudden haste.

FRIAR LAWRENCE
Wisely and slow. They stumble that run fast.

ROMEO
You scolded me often for loving Rosaline.

FRIAR LAWRENCE
I scolded you for obsessing about her, not for loving her,
my student.

ROMEO
And you told me to bury my love.

FRIAR LAWRENCE
I didn’t tell you to get rid of one love and replace her
with another.

ROMEO
Please, I beg you, don’t scold me. The girl I love now
returns my love. The other girl did not love me.

FRIAR LAWRENCE
Oh, she knew very well that you were acting like you
were in love without really knowing what love means.
But come on, inconsistent young man, come with me.
I’ll help you with your secret wedding. This marriage
may be lucky enough to turn the hatred between your
families into pure love.

ROMEO
Let’s get out of here. I’m in a rush.

FRIAR LAWRENCE
Go wisely and slowly. Those who rush stumble and fall.

Exeunt

They exit.
Enter **BENVOLIO** and **MERCUTIO**

**MERCUTIO**
Where the devil should this Romeo be?
Came he not home tonight?

**BENVOLIO**
Not to his father's. I spoke with his man.

**MERCUTIO**
Why, that same pale hard-hearted wench, that Rosaline,
Torments him so, that he will sure run mad.

**BENVOLIO**
Tybalt, the kinsman to 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. Oh, he's the courageous captain of compliments. He fights as you sing prick-song, keeps time, distance, and proportion. He rests his minim rests—one, two, and the third in your bosom. The very butcher of a silk button, a duelist, a duelist, a gentleman of the very first house of the first and second cause. Ah, the immortal passado, the punto reverso, the hai!

BENVOLIO
15 The what?
MERCUTIO
The pox of such antic, lisping, affecting fantasmines, 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 "pardon me's," who stand so much on the new form, that they cannot sit at ease on the old bench? Oh, their bones, their bones!

Enter ROMEO

BENVOLIO
Here comes Romeo, here comes Romeo.
MERCUTIO
Without his roe, like a dried herring. O flesh, flesh, how art thou fishified! Now is he for the numbers that Petrarch flowed in. Laura to his lady was but a kitchen-wench—marry, she had a better love to berhyme her—Dido a

MERCUTIO
He's tougher than the Prince of Cats. He does everything by the book. He fights like you sing at a recital, paying attention to time, distance, and proportion. He takes the proper breaks: one, two, and the third in your heart. He's the butcher who can hit any silk button. A master of duels. He's a gentleman from the finest school of fencing. He knows how to turn any argument into a swordfight. He knows passado—the forward thrust—the punto reverso—the backhand thrust—and the hai—the thrust that goes straight through.

BENVOLIO
He knows what?
MERCUTIO
I hate these crazy, affected guys who use foreign phrases and newfangled expressions. I hate their strange manners and their weird accents! I hate it when they say, "By Jesus, this is a very good blade, a very brave man, a very good whore." Isn't this a sad thing, my good man? Why should we put up with these foreign buzzards, these fashionmongers, these guys who say "pardon me," these guys who care so much about manners that they can't kick back on a bench without whining? "Oh, my aching bones!"

ROMEo enters.

BENVOLIO
Here comes Romeo, here comes Romeo!
MERCUTIO
He looks skinny, like a dried herring without its eggs, and he hasn't got his girl. O flesh, flesh, you've turned pale and weak like a fish. Now he's ready for Petrarch's poetry. Compared to Romeo's girl, Laura was a kitchen
dowdy, Cleopatra a gypsy, Helen and Hero hildings and harlots, Thisbe a grey eye or so, but not to the purpose.—Signior Romeo, bonjour! 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 slip, 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 curtsy”?

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
Sure wit, 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 solely singular.

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

MERCUTIO
Come between us, good Benvolio. My wits faints.

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

MERCUTIO
Nay, if our wits run the wild-goose chase, I am 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 anything 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 into a sweet goose?

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

ROMEO
Well, then my pump is well decorated with flowers.

MERCUTIO
Alright my witty friend, this joke has worn out your pump. Its thin skin is all worn out. The joke is all you have left.

ROMEO
This is a bad joke. It's all silliness.

MERCUTIO
Come break this up, Benvolio. I'm losing this duel of wits.

ROMEO
Keep going, keep going, or I'll declare myself the winner.

MERCUTIO
Now, if our jokes go on a wild-goose chase, I'm finished. You have more wild goose in one of your jokes than I have in five of mine. Was I even close to you in the chase for the goose?

ROMEO
You were never with me for anything if you weren't there for the goose.

MERCUTIO
I'll bite you on the ear for that joke.

ROMEO
No, good goose, don't bite me.

MERCUTIO
Your joke is a very bitter apple. Your humor is a spicy sauce.

ROMEO
Then isn't it just the right dish for a sweet goose?

MERCUTIO
Oh, that's a joke made out of leather that spreads itself thin, from the width of an inch to as fat as a yard.
Romeo and Juliet Act 2

**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 driveling 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**
Oh, thou art deceived. I would have made it short, for I was come to the whole depth of my tale, and meant, indeed, to occupy the argument no longer.

Enter Nurse and her man Peter

**ROMEO**
Here’s goodly gear.

**BENVOLIO**
A sail, a sail!

**MERCUTIO**
Two, two—a shirt and a smock.

**NURSE**
Peter!

**ROMEO**
I stretch my joke for that word “fat.” If you add that word to the word “goose,” it shows that you are a fat goose.

**MERCUTIO**
Why, isn’t all this joking better than groaning about love? Now you’re sociable. Now you’re Romeo. Now you are what you’ve learned to be and what you are naturally. This love of yours was like a blithering idiot who runs up and down looking for a hole to hide his toy in.

**BENVOLIO**
Stop there, stop there.

**MERCUTIO**
You want me to stop my tale before I’m done.

**BENVOLIO**
Otherwise your tale would have gotten too long.

**MERCUTIO**
Oh, you’re wrong. I would have made it short. I had come to the deepest part of my tale, and I planned to say nothing more on the topic.

The Nurse enters with her servant, Peter.

**ROMEO**
Here’s something good.

**BENVOLIO**
A sail, a sail!

**MERCUTIO**
There’s two—a man and a woman.

**NURSE**
Peter!
PETER
Anon!

NURSE
My fan, Peter.

MERCUTIO
Good, Peter, to hide her face, for her fan's the fairer face.

NURSE
God ye good morrow, gentlemen.

MERCUTIO
55 God ye good e'en, fair gentlewoman.

NURSE
Is it good e'en?

MERCUTIO
'Tis no less, I tell you, for the bawdy hand of the dial is now upon the prick of noon.

NURSE
Out upon you! What a man are you?

MERCUTIO
One, gentlewoman, that God hath made, himself to mar.

NURSE
60 By my troth, it is well said. “For himself to mar,” quoth he? Gentlemen, can any of you tell me where I may find the young Romeo?

ROMEO
I can tell you, but young Romeo will be older when you have found him than he was when you sought him. I am the youngest of that name, for fault of a worse.

NURSE
You say well.

PETER
I'm at your service.

NURSE
Give me my fan, Peter.

MERCUTIO
Good Peter, give her her fan to hide her face. Her fan is prettier than her face.

NURSE
Good morning, gentlemen.

MERCUTIO
Good afternoon, fair lady.

NURSE
Is it now afternoon?

MERCUTIO
It's not earlier than that, I tell you. The [lust hand] of the clock is now pricking noon.

NURSE
Get out of here! What kind of man are you?

MERCUTIO
I'm a man, my lady, that God has made for himself to ruin.

NURSE
I swear, you speak the truth. “For himself to ruin,” he says. Gentlemen, can any of you tell me where I can find young Romeo?

ROMEO
I can tell you, but young Romeo will be older when you find him than he was when you started looking for him. I am the youngest man by that name, because there is no one younger, or worse.

NURSE
You speak well.
MERCUITIO  
Yea, is the worst well? Very well took, i’ faith, wisely, wisely.

NURSE  
If you be he, sir, I desire some confidence with you.

BENVOLIO  
She will indite him to some supper.

MERCUITIO  
A bawd, a bawd, a bawd! So ho!

ROMEO  
What hast thou found?

MERCUITIO  
No hare, sir, unless a hare, sir, in a Lenten pie—that is, something stale and hoar ere it be spent.

(sings)  
An old hare hoar,  
And an old hare hoar,  
Is very good meat in Lent.  
But a hare that is hoar  
Is too much for a score  
When it hoars ere it be spent.

(speaks)  
Romeo, will you come to your father's? We'll to dinner, thither.

ROMEO  
I will follow you.

MERCUITIO  
Is the worst well? Very well taken, I believe, very wise.

NURSE  
(to ROMEO) If you're the Romeo I'm looking for, sir, I would like to have a confidence with you.

BENVOLIO  
She will indite him to some dinner party.

MERCUITIO  
A pimp! A pimp! A pimp! I've found it out.

ROMEO  
What have you found out?

MERCUITIO  
She's not a prostitute unless she's using her ugliness to hide her promiscuity.

(he walks by them and sings)  
Old rabbit meat is good to eat,  
If you can't get anything else.  
But if it's so old,  
That it goes bad before you eat it,  
Then it was a waste of money.

(speaking)  
Romeo, are you going to your father's for lunch? Let's go there.

ROMEO  
I'll follow after you.
MERCUTIO
Farewell, ancient lady. Farewell, lady, lady, lady.

Exeunt MERCUTIO and BENVOLIO

NURSE
I pray you, sir, what saucy merchant was this that was so full of his ropery?

ROMEO
75 A gentleman, Nurse, that loves to hear himself talk, and will speak more in a minute than he will stand to in a month.

NURSE
An he speak any thing against me, I'll take him down, an he were lustier than he is, and twenty such Jacks. And if I cannot, I'll find those that shall. Scurvy knave! I am none of his flirt-gills. I am none of his skains-mates. (to PETER) And thou must stand by, too, and suffer every knave to use me at his pleasure?

PETER
I saw no man use you at his pleasure. If I had, my weapon should quickly have been out, I warrant you. I dare draw as soon as another man if I see occasion in a good quarrel and the law on my side.

NURSE
Now, afore God, I am so vexed that every part about me quivers. Scurvy knave! (to ROMEO) Pray you, sir, a word. And as I told you, my young lady bid me inquire you out. What she bade me say, I will keep to myself. But first let me tell ye, if ye should lead her into a fool's paradise, as they say, it were a very gross kind of behavior, as they say. For the gentlewoman is young, and therefore, if you should deal double with her,

MERCUTIO
Goodbye, old lady. Goodbye, lady, lady, lady.

BENVOLIO and MERCUTIO exit.

NURSE
Please tell me, sir, who was that foulmouthed punk who was so full of crude jokes?

ROMEO
Nurse, he's a man who likes to hear the sound of his own voice. He says more in one minute than he does in a whole month.

NURSE
If he says anything against me, I'll humble him, even if he were stronger than he is—and twenty punks like him. If I can't do it myself, I'll find someone who can. That dirty rat! I'm not one of his sluts. I'm not one of his punk friends who carries a knife. (to PETER) And you just stand there letting every jerk make fun of me for kicks.

PETER
I didn't see anybody use you for kicks. If I had seen something like that, I would have quickly pulled out my weapon. Believe me, I'll draw my sword as quick as any other man if I see a fight starting and the law is on my side.

NURSE
Now, I swear, I'm so angry that I'm shaking all over. That rotten scoundrel! (to ROMEO) Now, please, may I have a word with you, sir? My young mistress asked me to find you. What she asked me to say I'll keep to myself. But let me tell you this first. If you lead her into a fool's paradise, as the saying goes, it would be an outrageous crime because the girl is so young. And if you try to trick her, it would be an evil thing to do to any woman and
truly it were an ill thing to be offered to any gentlewoman, and very weak dealing.

**ROMEO**
Nurse, commend me to thy lady and mistress. I protest unto thee—

**NURSE**
Good heart, and i’faith, I will tell her as much. Lord, Lord, she will be a joyful woman.

**ROMEO**
What wilt thou tell her, Nurse? Thou dost not mark me.

**NURSE**
I will tell her, sir, that you do protest, which, as I take it, is a gentlemanlike offer.

**ROMEO**
Bid her devise some means to come to shrift this afternoon.
And there she shall at Friar Lawrence’ cell be shrived and married. *(gives her coins)* Here is for thy pains.

**NURSE**
No, truly, sir. Not a penny.

**ROMEO**
Go to. I say you shall.

**NURSE** *(takes the money)* This afternoon, sir? Well, she shall be there.

**ROMEO**
And stay, good Nurse. Behind the abbey wall within this hour my man shall be with thee and bring thee cords made like a tackled stair, which to the high top-gallant of my joy must be my convoy in the secret night.

very poor behavior.

**ROMEO**
Nurse, give my regards to to your lady. I swear to you—

**NURSE**
You have a good heart, and believe me, I'll tell her that. Lord, Lord, she'll be a happy woman.

**ROMEO**
What are you going to tell her, Nurse? You're not paying attention to me.

**NURSE**
Sir, I'll tell her that you protest to her, which I think is the gentlemanly thing to do.

**ROMEO**
Tell her to devise a plan to get out of her house and come to confession at the abbey this afternoon. At Friar Lawrence’s cell she can make confession and be married. *(giving her coins)* Here is a reward for your efforts.

**NURSE**
No, really, I won't take a penny.

**ROMEO**
Go on, I insist you take it.

**NURSE** *(taking the money)* This afternoon, sir? She’ll be there.

**ROMEO**
Wait good Nurse. Within an hour, one of my men will come to you behind the abbey wall and give you a rope ladder. I’ll use the rope ladder to climb over the walls at night. Then I’ll meet Juliet joyfully and in secret. Goodbye. Be honest and helpful, and I'll repay you for
Romeo and Juliet Act 2

Farewell. Be trusty, and I'll quit thy pains. Farewell. Commend me to thy mistress.

**NURSE**
Now God in heaven bless thee! Hark you, sir.

**ROMEO**
What sayst thou, my dear Nurse?

**NURSE**
Is your man secret? Did you ne'er hear say, “Two may keep counsel, putting one away”?

**ROMEO**
Warrant thee, my man's as true as steel.

**NURSE**
Well, sir, my mistress is the sweetest lady.—Lord, Lord! when 'twas a little prating thing.—Oh, there is a nobleman in town, one Paris, that would fain lay knife aboard, but she, good soul, had as lief see a toad, a very toad, as see him. I anger her sometimes and tell her that Paris is the properer man. But, I'll warrant you, when I say so, she looks as pale as any clout in the versal world. Doth not *rosemary* and *Romeo* begin both with a letter?

**ROMEO**
Ay, Nurse, what of that? Both with an *R*.

**NURSE**
Ah, mocker, that's the dog's name. *R* is for the—No, I know it begins with some other letter, and she hath the prettest sententious of it, of you and rosemary, that it would do you good to hear it.

**ROMEO**
Commend me to thy lady.

**NURSE**
Ay, a thousand times.—Peter!

your efforts. Goodbye. Sing my praises to your mistress.

**NURSE**
May God in heaven bless you. Now please listen, sir.

**ROMEO**
What do you have to say, my dear Nurse?

**NURSE**
Can your man keep a secret? Haven't you ever heard the saying, “Two can conspire to put one away”?

**ROMEO**
I assure you, my man is as true as steel.

**NURSE**
Well, sir, my mistress is the sweetest lady. Lord, Lord, when she was a little baby—Oh, there is one nobleman in the city, a guy named Paris, who would be happy to claim her as his own. Juliet would rather look at a toad than at him. I make her angry sometimes by saying that Paris is more handsome than you are. But when I say so, I swear she turns white as a sheet. Don't *rosemary* and “Romeo” begin with the same letter?

**ROMEO**
Yes, Nurse, what about that? They both begin with the letter “R.”

**NURSE**
Ah, you joker—that's the dog's name. “R” is for the—no, I know it begins with another letter. She says the most beautiful things about you and rosemary. It would be good for you to hear the things she says.

**ROMEO**
Give my compliments to your lady.

**NURSE**
Yes, a thousand times. Peter!
PETER
Anon!

NURSE
Before and apace.

PETER
I'm ready.

NURSE
(giving PETER her fan) Go ahead. Go quickly.

Exeunt  They all exit
Act 2, Scene 5

Enter JULIET

JULIET

The clock struck nine when I did send the Nurse.
In half an hour she promised to return.
Perchance she cannot meet him. That’s not so.
Oh, she is lame! Love’s heralds should be thoughts,
Which ten times faster glide than the sun’s beams,
Driving back shadows over louring hills.
Therefore do nimble-pinioned doves draw love
And therefore hath the wind-swift Cupid wings.
Now is the sun upon the highmost hill
Of this day’s journey, and from nine till twelve
Is three long hours, yet she is not come.
Had she affections and warm youthful blood,
She would be as swift in motion as a ball.
My words would bandy her to my sweet love,
And his to me.

But old folks, many feign as they were dead,
Unwieldy, slow, heavy, and pale as lead.

Enter NURSE and PETER

NURSE

O God, she comes.—O honey Nurse, what news?
Hast thou met with him? Send thy man away.

JULIET

Now, good sweet Nurse— O Lord, why look’st thou sad?
Though news be sad, yet tell them merrily.
If good, thou shamest the music of sweet news

Enter NURSE and PETER

JULIET enters.

JULIET

I sent the Nurse at nine o’clock. Maybe she can’t find
him. That can’t be. Oh, she’s slow! Love’s messengers
should be thoughts, which fly ten times faster than
sunbeams. They should be strong enough to push
shadows over the dark hills. That’s the way doves carry
Venus so fast, and that’s why Cupid has wings that let
him fly as fast as the wind. Now it’s noon. That’s three
hours since nine o’clock, but she hasn’t come back. If
she was young and passionate, she’d move as fast as a
ball. My words would bounce her to my sweet love, and
his words would bounce her back to me. But a lot of old
people act like they’re already dead—sluggish, slow, fat,
and colorless, like lead.

The NURSE and PETER enter.

NURSE

Oh my God, here she comes! Oh sweet Nurse, what
news do you bring? Have you spoken to him? Send your
man away.

JULIET

Now, good sweet Nurse—Oh Lord, why do you look so
sad? Even if the news is sad, tell me with a smile on your
face. If the news is good, you’re ruining the sweet news
By playing it to me with so sour a face.

**NURSE**

25 I am aweary. Give me leave awhile.
   Fie, how my bones ache! What a jaunt have I!

**JULIET**

I would thou hadst my bones and I thy news.
Nay, come, I pray thee, speak. Good, good Nurse, speak.

**NURSE**

Jesu, what haste! Can you not stay awhile?

Do you not see that I am out of breath?

**JULIET**

How art thou out of breath when thou hast breath
To say to me that thou art out of breath?
The excuse that thou dost make in this delay
Is longer than the tale thou dost excuse.

Is thy news good, or bad? Answer to that.
Say either, and I'll stay the circumstance.
Let me be satisfied. Is 't good or bad?

**NURSE**

Well, you have made a simple choice. You know not how to choose a man. Romeo! No, not he, though his face be better than any man’s, yet his leg excels all men’s, and for a hand and a foot and a body, though they be not to be talked on, yet they are past compare. He is not the flower of courtesy, but, I'll warrant him, as gentle as a lamb. Go thy ways, wench. Serve God. What, have you dined at home?

**JULIET**

No, no. But all this did I know before.

What says he of our marriage? What of that?

by playing a trick with a sour face like that.

**NURSE**

I am tired. Leave me alone for a minute. Oh my, my bones ache so much. I've been running all over the place.

**JULIET**

I wish you had my bones, and I had your news. Come on now, I beg you, speak, good Nurse, speak.

**NURSE**

Sweet Jesus, you're in such a hurry! Can't you wait for a moment? Don't you see that I'm out of breath?

**JULIET**

How can you be out of breath when you have enough breath to tell me that you're out of breath? The excuse you make to delay the news is longer than the news itself. Is the news good or bad? Answer that question. Tell me if it's good or bad, and I'll wait for the details. Tell me so I can be satisfied. Is it good or bad?

**NURSE**

Well, you have made a foolish choice. You don't know how to pick a man. Romeo? No, not him, though his face is more handsome than any man’s, and his legs are prettier, and as for his hands and feet and body, they’re not much to speak of, and yet they’re beyond compare. He's not the most polite man in the world, but, believe me, he's gentle as a lamb. Well, do what you want. Be good. Have you had lunch yet?

**JULIET**

No, I haven't had lunch. Everything you told me I already knew. What does he say about our marriage? What about that?
NURSE
Lord, how my head aches! What a head have I! It beats as it would fall in twenty pieces. My back a' t' other side. Ah, my back, my back! Beshrew your heart for sending me about, To catch my death with jaunting up and down!

JULIET
I' faith, I am sorry that thou art not well. Sweet, sweet, sweet Nurse, tell me, what says my love?

NURSE
Your love says, like an honest gentleman, and a courteous, and a kind, and a handsome, and, I warrant, a virtuous— Where is your mother?

JULIET
Where is my mother? Why, she is within. Where should she be? How oddly thou repliest! “Your love says, like an honest gentleman, 'Where is your mother?'”

NURSE
O God's lady dear, Are you so hot? Marry, come up, I trow. Is this the poultice for my aching bones? Henceforward do your messages yourself.

JULIET
Here's such a coil. Come, what says Romeo?

NURSE
Have you got leave to go to shrift today?

JULIET
I have.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>NURSE</strong></th>
<th><strong>JULIET</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Then hie you hence to Friar Lawrence's cell. There stays a husband to make you a wife. Now comes the wanton blood up in your cheeks. They'll be in scarlet straight at any news. Hie you to church. I must another way To fetch a ladder, by the which your love Must climb a bird's nest soon when it is dark. I am the drudge and toil in your delight, But you shall bear the burden soon at night. Go. I'll to dinner. Hie you to the cell.</td>
<td>Hie to high fortune! Honest Nurse, farewell. Wish me luck. Thank you, dear Nurse.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NURSE**
Then hurry up and rush over to Friar Lawrence's cell. There's a husband there who's waiting to make you his wife. Now I see the blood rushing to your cheeks. You blush bright red as soon as you hear any news. Go to the church. I must go by a different path to get a rope ladder. Your love will use it to climb up to your window while it's dark. I do the drudge work for your pleasure. But soon you'll be doing a wife's work all night long. Go. I'll go to lunch. You go to Friar Lawrence's cell.

**JULIET**
They exit.
Enter FRIAR LAWRENCE and ROMEO

FRIAR LAWRENCE
So smile the heavens upon this holy act
That after-hours with sorrow chide us not.

ROMEO
Amen, amen. But come what sorrow can,
It cannot countervail the exchange of joy
That one short minute gives me in her sight.
Do thou but close our hands with holy words,
Then love-devouring death do what he dare;
It is enough I may but call her mine.

FRIAR LAWRENCE
These violent delights have violent ends
And in their triumph die, like fire and powder,
Which, as they kiss, consume. The sweetest honey
Is loathsome in his own deliciousness
And in the taste confounds the appetite.
Therefore love moderately. Long love doth so.

JULIET enters in a rush and embraces ROMEO.

Here comes the lady. Oh, so light a foot
Will ne'er wear out the everlasting flint.
A lover may bestride the gossamers
That idles in the wanton summer air,
And yet not fall. So light is vanity.

JULIET
Good even to my ghostly confessor.

FRIAR LAWRENCE
Romeo shall thank thee, daughter, for us both.
**JULIET**
As much to him, else is his thanks too much.

**ROMEO**
Ah, Juliet, if the measure of thy joy
25 Be heaped like mine, and that thy skill be more
   To blazon it, then sweeten with thy breath
This neighbor air, and let rich music's tongue
Unfold the imagined happiness that both
Receive in either by this dear encounter.

**JULIET**
Conceit, more rich in matter than in words,
   Brags of his substance, not of ornament.
They are but beggars that can count their worth.
But my true love is grown to such excess
   I cannot sum up sum of half my wealth.

**FRIAR LAWRENCE**
Come, come with me, and we will make short work.
   For, by your leaves, you shall not stay alone
Till holy church incorporate two in one.

**JULIET**
I'll give him equal thanks, so we're even.

**ROMEO**
Ah, Juliet if you're as happy as I am, and you're better
with words, tell me about the happiness you imagine
we'll have in our marriage.

**JULIET**
I can imagine more than I can say—I have more on my
mind than words. Anyone who can count how much he
has is poor. My true love has made me so rich that I
can't count even half of my wealth.

**FRIAR LAWRENCE**
Come, come with me, and we'll do the job quickly.
Because if you don't mind, I'm not leaving you two alone
until you're united in marriage.

_They exit._