



W. Shakespeare

**ROMEO AND JULIET**

*Anthology*  
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## **Dramatis Personae**

ESCALUS, Prince of Verona.

PARIS, a young Nobleman, Kinsman to the Prince.

MONTAGUE & CAPULET, Heads of two Houses at variance with each other.

Uncle to Capulet.

ROMEO, son to Montague.

MERCUTIO, Kinsman to the Prince, & BENVOLIO, Nephew to Montague, Friends to Romeo.

TYBALT, Nephew to Lady Capulet.

FRIAR LAURENCE, a Franciscan.

FRIAR JOHN, of the same Order.

BALTHASAR, Servant to Romeo.

SAMPSON, & GREGORY, Servants to Capulet.

PETER, Servant to Juliet's Nurse.

ABRAHAM, Servant to Montague.

An Apothecary.

Three Musicians.

Page to Mercutio; Page to Paris; another Page; an Officer.

LADY MONTAGUE, Wife to Montague.

LADY CAPULET, Wife to Capulet.

JULIET, Daughter to Capulet.

Nurse to Juliet.

Citizens of Verona; male and female Kinsfolk to both Houses; Masquers, Guards, Watchmen and Attendants.

Chorus.

SCENE. Verona. Once (in the Fifth Act), at Mantua.

## Prologue

*Enter Chorus.*

Chor. *Two households\**, both alike in dignity,  
In fair Verona, where we lay our scene,  
From ancient grudge break to new mutiny, 4  
Where civil blood\* makes civil hands unclean.  
From forth the fatal loins of these two foes  
A pair of star-cross'd lovers take their life;  
Whose misadventur'd piteous overthrows 8  
Do with their death bury their parents' strife.  
The fearful passage of their death-mark'd love,  
And the continuance of their parents' rage,  
Which, but their children's end, nought could remove\*, 12  
Is now the two hours' traffick of our stage;  
The which if you with patient ears attend,  
What here shall miss, our toil shall strive to mend\*.

[*Exit.*

- 
- (7) **star-crossed**—ill-starred, ill-fated, unlucky  
(7) **take their life**—kill themselves  
(8) **misadventur'd**—unfortunate, unlucky  
(8) **piteous**—arousing or deserving pity  
(8) **overthrows**—destruction; *here*, death  
(13) **traffick**—the passage of characters through the play

# Акт I



## Scene I

*Verona. A Public Place.*

*Enter SAMPSON and GREGORY, armed with swords and bucklers\*.*

*Sam.* Gregory, o' my word, we'll not carry coals.

*Gre.* No, for then we should be colliers. 4

*Sam.* I mean, an we be in choler, we'll draw.

*Gre.* Ay, while you live, draw your neck out o' the collar.

*Sam.* I strike quickly, being moved.

*Gre.* But thou art not quickly moved to strike. 8

*Sam.* A dog of the house of Montague moves me.

*Gre.* To move is to stir, and to be valiant is to stand; therefore,  
if thou art moved, thou runnest away.

*Sam.* A dog of that house shall move me to stand: I will take  
the wall of any man or maid of Montague's.

*Gre.* That shows thee a weak slave; for the weakest goes to  
the wall. 12

*Sam.* 'Tis true; and therefore women, being the weaker  
vessels\*, are ever thrust to the wall: therefore I will push

---

(3) **o' my word**—upon my word; I swear it

(3) **carry coals**—here, suffer/tolerate/put up with insolence

(4) **colliers**—coal-miners; used here as an obscene term

(5) **an**—an if; if

(5) **choler**—anger

(5) **draw**—draw the sword; pull out a weapon for use

(6) **ay**—aye, yes

(7) **moved**—caused to have very powerful feelings

(11) **take the wall**—defeat, ruin

(12) **the wall**—an extreme or desperate condition or position

Montague's men from the wall, and thrust his maids to the wall.

*Gre.* The quarrel is between our masters and us their men.

*Sam.* 'Tis all one, I will show myself a tyrant: when I have fought with the men, I will be cruel with the maids; I will cut off their heads.

*Gre.* The heads of the maids? 16

*Sam.* Ay, the heads of the maids, or their maidenheads; take it in what sense thou wilt.

*Gre.* They must take it in sense that feel it.

*Sam.* Me they shall feel while I am able to stand; and 'tis known I am a pretty piece of flesh.

*Gre.* 'Tis well thou art not fish; if thou hadst\*, thou hadst been poor John. Draw thy tool; here comes two of the house of the Montagues. 20

*Enter ABRAHAM and BALTHASAR.*

*Sam.* My naked weapon is out; quarrel, I will back thee.

*Gre.* How! turn thy back and run?

*Sam.* Fear me not. 24

*Gre.* No, marry; I fear thee!

*Sam.* Let us take the law of our sides; let them begin.

*Gre.* I will frown as I pass by, and let them take it as they list.

*Sam.* Nay, as they dare. I will bite my thumb at them; which is a disgrace to them, if they bear it. 28

*Abr.* Do you bite your thumb at us, sir?

*Sam.* I do bite my thumb, sir.

*Abr.* Do you bite your thumb at us, sir?

*Sam.* [*Aside to GREGORY.*] Is the law of our side if I say ay? 32

(17) **maidenheads**—hymen; virginity

(20) **poor John**—a marine fish of Northern Atlantic waters

(24) **Fear me not**—no fear; certainly

(25) **marry**—an exclamation of surprise or emphasis  
(*Middle English Marie = Mary = the Virgin*)

(26) **of our sides**—on our side

(27) **as they list**—as they like, as they choose

(28) **my thumb at them**—make a rude (obscene) gesture at somebody

*Gre.* [*Aside to SAMPSON.*] No.

*Sam.* No, sir, I do not bite my thumb at you, sir; but I bite my thumb, sir.

*Gre.* Do you quarrel, sir?

*Abr.* Quarrel, sir! no, sir.

36

*Sam.* If you do, sir, I am for you: I serve as good a man as you.

*Abr.* No better.

*Sam.* Well, sir.

*Gre.* [*Aside to SAMPSON.*] Say, 'better;' here comes one of my master's kinsmen.

40

*Sam.* Yes, better, sir.

*Abr.* You lie.

*Sam.* Draw, if you be men. Gregory, remember thy swashing blow. [*They fight.*]

*Enter* BENVOLIO.

44

*Ben.* Part, fools! Put up your swords; you know not what you do. [*Beats down their swords.*]

*Enter* TYBALT.

*Tyb.* What! art thou drawn among these heartless hinds?

48

Turn thee, Benvolio, look upon thy death.

*Ben.* I do but keep the peace: put up thy sword,

Or manage it to part these men with me.

*Tyb.* What! drawn, and talk of peace? I hate the word,

52

As I hate hell, all Montagues, and thee.

Have at thee, coward! [*They fight.*]

*Enter several persons of both houses, who join the fray; then enter Citizens, with clubs and partisans.*

*Citizens.* Clubs, bills, and partisans! strike! beat them down! 56  
Down with the Capulets! down with the Montagues!

(37) **I am for you**—I am willing to fight you

(45) **Put up your swords**—Put your swords away

(48) **hinds**—another fish of Atlantic waters (line 20 above)

(54) **Have at thee**—take this (intending to punish)

(56) **partisan**—also partizan, a weapon with a hooked blade and a long handle

*Enter* CAPULET *in his gown, and* LADY CAPULET.

*Cap.* What noise is this? Give me my long sword\*, ho!

*Lady Cap.* A crutch, a crutch! Why call you for a sword? 60

*Cap.* My sword, I say! Old Montague is come,  
And flourishes his blade in spite of me.

*Enter* MONTAGUE *and* LADY MONTAGUE.

*Mon.* Thou villain Capulet! Hold me not\*; let me go. 64

*Lady Mon.* Thou shalt not stir one foot to seek a foe.

*Enter* PRINCE *with his Train.*

*Prin.* Rebellious subjects, enemies to peace,  
Profaners of this neighbour-stained steel,— 68

Will they not hear? What ho! you men, you beasts,

That quench the fire of your pernicious rage  
With purple fountains issuing from your veins,

On pain of torture, from those bloody hands 72

Throw your mistemper'd weapons to the ground,

And hear the sentence of your moved prince.

Three civil brawls, bred of an airy word,

By thee, old Capulet, and Montague, 76

Have thrice disturb'd the quiet of our streets,

And made Verona's ancient citizens

Cast by their grave beseeming ornaments,

To wield old partisans, in hands as old, 80

Canker'd with peace, to part your canker'd hate.

If ever you disturb our streets again

Your lives shall pay the forfeit of the peace.

(62) **in spite of me**—in order to offend me

(66) **Enter Prince...Train**—retinue (group of people who follow somebody around)

(73) **mistemper'd**—wicked, offending

(74) **moved**—angry

(79) **cast by**—cast off, take off

(79) **grave**—dignified

(79) **beseeming**—appropriate, proper, befitting

(79) **ornaments**—*here*, rich clothes

(80) **wield**—hold in one's hand(s) and use (a weapon, etc)

(81) **canker**—(1) to cause to decay, (2) to become infected

For this time, all the rest depart away: 84  
 You, Capulet, shall go along with me;  
 And, Montague, come you this afternoon  
 To know our further pleasure in this case,  
 To old Free-town, our common judgment-place. 88  
 Once more, on pain of death, all men depart. [*Exeunt all*  
*but MONTAGUE, LADY MONTAGUE, and BENVOLIO.*  
*Mon.* Who set this ancient quarrel new abroad?  
 Speak, nephew, were you by when it began?  
*Ben.* Here were the servants of your adversary 92  
 And yours close fighting ere I did approach:  
 I drew to part them; in the instant came  
 The fiery Tybalt, with his sword prepar'd,  
 Which, as he breath'd defiance to my ears, 96  
 He swung about his head, and cut the winds,  
 Who, nothing hurt withal hiss'd him in scorn.  
 While we were interchanging thrusts and blows,  
 Came more and more, and fought on part and part, 100  
 Till the prince came, who parted either part.  
*Lady Mon.* O! where is Romeo? saw you him to-day?  
 Right glad I am he was not at this fray.  
*Ben.* Madam, an hour before the worshipp'd sun 104  
 Peer'd forth the golden window of the east,  
 A troubled mind drave me to walk abroad;  
 Where, underneath the grove of sycamore  
 That westward rooteth from the city's side, 108  
 So early walking did I see your son:  
 Towards him I made; but he was ware of me,

(87) **pleasure**—*here*, what a person wants

(88) **Free-town**—English translation of the Italian name of the Prince's country estate

(89) **on pain of death**—under pain of death

(90) **abroach**—awake; astir

(93) **ere**—before

(98) **who**—which (See also Note to line 157–160)

(106) **drave**—drove (past tense of drive)

(110) **towards him I made**—make towards = make for, move in the direction of somebody/something

(110) **he was ware of me**—to be aware of = to be watchful (on one's guard)

- And stole into the covert of the wood:  
 I, measuring his affections by my own, 112  
 That most are busied when they're most alone,  
 Pursu'd my humour not pursuing his,  
 And gladly shunn'd who gladly fled from me.
- Mon.* Many a morning hath he there been seen, 116  
 With tears augmenting the fresh morning's 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 120  
 The shady curtains from Aurora's\* bed,  
 Away from light steals home my heavy son,  
 And private in his chamber pens himself,  
 Shuts up his windows, locks fair daylight out, 124  
 And makes himself an artificial night.  
 Black and portentous must this humour prove  
 Unless good counsel may the cause remove.
- Ben.* My noble uncle, do you know the cause? 128
- Mon.* I neither know it nor can learn of him.
- Ben.* Have you importun'd him by any means?
- Mon.* Both by myself and many other friends:  
 But he, his own affections' counsellor, 132  
 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, 136  
 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. 140
- Ben.* See where he comes: so please you, step aside;  
 I'll know his grievance, or be much denied.
- Mon.* I would thou wert so happy by thy stay,

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(123) **pens himself**—shuts himself in

(130) **importun'd**—asked persistently, usually in a annoying manner

(142) **grievance**—the cause of harm; hardship

To hear true shrift. Come, madam, let's away. [*Exeunt*  
MONTAGUE and LADY. 144

*Enter* ROMEO.

*Ben.* Good morrow, cousin.

*Rom.* Is the day so young?

*Ben.* But new struck nine. 148

*Rom.* Ay me! sad hours seem long.

Was that my father that went hence so fast?

*Ben.* It was. What sadness\* lengthens Romeo's hours?

*Rom.* Not having that which having makes them short. 152

*Ben.* In love?

*Rom.* Out—

*Ben.* Of love?

*Rom.* Out of her favour, where I am in love. 156

*Ben.* Alas! that love, so gentle in his view,  
Should be so tyrannous and rough in proof.

*Rom.* Alas! that love\*, whose view is muffled still,  
Should, without eyes, see pathways to his will\*. 160

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! 164

O any thing! of nothing first create.

O heavy lightness! serious vanity!

Misshapen chaos of well-seeming forms!

Feather of lead, bright smoke, cold fire, sick health! 168

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

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

Dost thou not laugh?

*Ben.* No, coz, I rather weep. 172

(143) **shrift**—confession to a priest

(144) **let's away**—let us go away

(148) **new**—the new day

(158) **tyrannous**—oppressive

(158) **in proof**—in truth

(159) **muffled**—indistinct

(160) **his will**—love's will (See also Note to lines 157–160)

(172) **coz**—cousin

*Rom.* Good heart, at what?

*Ben.* At thy good heart's oppression.

*Rom.* Why, such is love's transgression.

Griefs of mine own lie heavy in my breast, 176  
 Which thou wilt propagate to have it press'd  
 With more of thine: this love that thou hast shown  
 Doth add more grief to too much of mine own.  
 Love is a smoke rais'd with the fume of sighs; 180  
 Being purg'd, 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. 184  
 Farewell, my coz. [*Going.*]

*Ben.* Soft, I will go along;

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

*Rom.* Tut!\* I have lost myself; I am not here; 188

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

*Ben.* Tell me in sadness, who is that you love.

*Rom.* What! shall I groan and tell thee?

*Ben.* Groan! why, no; 192

But sadly tell me who.

*Rom.* Bid a sick man in sadness make his will;

Ah! word ill urg'd to one that is so ill.

In sadness, cousin, I do love a woman. 196

*Ben.* I aim'd so near when I suppos'd you lov'd.

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

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

*Rom.* Well, in that hit you miss: she'll not be hit 200

With Cupid's\* arrow; she hath Dian's\* wit;

And, in strong proof of chastity well arm'd,

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(173) **good heart**—dear heart (beloved person)

(174) **oppression**—depression, sadness, misery

(187) **an if**—if

(190) **in sadness**—seriously

(193) **sadly**—seriously

(195) **ill urg'd**—wrongly recommended; unsuitable

(198) **mark-man**—marksman; a person skilled in accurate shooting

(201) **wit**—mind; good sense

From love's weak childish bow\* she lives unharm'd.  
 She will not stay the siege\* of loving terms, 204  
 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. 208  
*Ben.* Then she hath sworn that she will still live chaste?  
*Rom.* She hath, and in that sparing makes huge waste;  
 For beauty, starv'd with her severity,  
 Cuts beauty off from all posterity. 212  
 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. 216  
*Ben.* Be rul'd by me; forget to think of her.  
*Rom.* O! teach me how I should forget to think.  
*Ben.* By giving liberty unto thine eyes:  
 Examine other beauties. 220  
*Rom.* '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; 224  
 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 228  
 Where I may read who pass'd that passing fair?  
 Farewell: thou canst not teach me to forget.  
*Ben.* I'll pay that doctrine, or else die in debt. [*Exeunt.*]

(206) **ope**—open

(206) **lap**—a hanging or flapping part of a garment; a secure place

(206) **gold**—money in large sums

(214) **to merit bliss**—to earn salvation

(215) **she hath forsworn**—forswear = renounce

(217) **be rul'd by me**—do as I command you

(225) **strucken**—struck

(231) **I'll pay that doctrine**—probably, I'll gain revenge on those words  
 (I'll pay you back for this)