

~~JULIET Well, thou hast comforted me marvellous much. —230  
 Go in, and tell my lady I am gone,  
 Having displeased my father, to Lawrence' cell,  
 To make confession and to be absolved.~~

~~NURSE Marry, I will, and this is wisely done. [Exit]~~

~~JULIET [She looks after Nurse.]  
 Ancient damnation! O most wicked fiend!  
 Is it more sin to wish me thus forsworn,  
 Or to dispraise my lord with that same tongue  
 Which she hath praised him with above compare  
 So many thousand times? Go, counsellor,  
 Thou and my bosom henceforth shall be twain. —240  
 I'll to the Friar to know his remedy;  
 If all else fail, myself have power to die. Exit~~

## START

[4.I] Enter FRIAR [LAWRENCE] and COUNTY PARIS.

FRIAR LAWRENCE On Thursday, sir? the time is very short.

PARIS My father Capulet will have it so,  
 And I am nothing slow to slack his haste.

FRIAR LAWRENCE You say you do not know the lady's mind?  
 Uneven is the course, I like it not. 5

PARIS Immoderately she weeps for Tybalt's death,  
 And therefore have I little talked of love,  
 For Venus smiles not in a house of tears.  
 Now, sir, her father counts it dangerous  
 That she do give her sorrow so much sway; 10  
 And in his wisdom hastes our marriage

233 absolved] Q3-4, F, Q1; absolu'd Q2 234 SD] Q4; no SD, Q2-3, F, Q1 235 SD] Q1; no SD, Q2-4, F 235 wicked] Q2-4, F; cursed Q1, Dyce<sup>2</sup>; wither'd conj. S. Walker 236 Is it] Q2-4, Q1; It is F 242 SD] Q2-4, Q1; Exeunt. F Act 4, Scene 1 4.1] Rowe; no act or scene division, Q2-4, F; Q1 indicates a break by a row of printer's ornaments above opening SD Location] Capell (after Rowe) 0 SD COUNTY] Q2-4, F; not in Q1 3 slow to slack] Q2-4, F; slacke to slow Q1; slow to back conj. Johnson 7 talked] Q1 (talkt); talke Q2-4, F, Houghton 10 do] Q2; doth Q3-4, F, Q1; should F3

235 Ancient damnation! Cursed old woman!  
 240 bosom inmost secret thoughts. Compare Brooke (2290): 'The secret counsell of her hart the nurse childe seekes to hide.'

240 twain separated, estranged. Compare Tilley T648.

## Act 4, Scene 1

Location Friar Lawrence's cell.

3 nothing slow in no way reluctant.  
 5 Uneven...course The manner of proceeding is inequitable (i.e. one-sided).

8 Venus smiles not i.e. Venus does not cast a favourable aspect on the affairs of love (an astrological reference carried on, Mahood suggests, in 'house of tears' = an inauspicious section of the heavens).

11 marriage Trisyllabic.

To stop the inundation of her tears,  
Which too much minded by herself alone  
May be put from her by society.  
Now do you know the reason of this haste.

15

FRIAR LAWRENCE [*Aside*]

~~I would I knew not why it should be slowed.~~—  
Look, sir, here comes the lady toward my cell.

*Enter* JULIET.

PARIS Happily met, my lady and my wife!

JULIET That may be, sir, when I may be a wife.

PARIS That 'may be' must be, love, on Thursday next.

20

JULIET What must be shall be.

FRIAR LAWRENCE That's a certain text.

PARIS Come you to make confession to this father?

JULIET To answer that, I should confess to you.

PARIS Do not deny to him that you love me.

JULIET I will confess to you that I love him.

25

PARIS So will ye, I am sure, that you love me.

JULIET If I do so, it will be of more price,

Being spoke behind your back, than to your face.

PARIS Poor soul, thy face is much abused with tears:

JULIET The tears have got small victory by that,

30

For it was bad enough before their spite.

PARIS Thou wrong'st it more than tears with that report.

JULIET That is no slander, sir, which is a truth,

And what I spake, I spake it to my face.

PARIS Thy face is mine, and thou hast slandered it.

35

JULIET It may be so, for it is not mine own.

12 tears,] F; teares. Q2-4, Q1 16 SD] *Theobald*; no SD, Q2-4, F, Q1 16 slowed] F (slow'd), Q1; slowed Q2-4 17 toward] Q2; towards Q3-4, F; to Q1 17 SD] Q2-4, F; *Enter Paris*. Q1 (*after 16*) 18 Happily met] Q2-4, F; Welcome my loue Q1, *Pope* 18 wife] Q2-4, F, Q1; life *conj.* *Johnson* 20 'may be'] *Hosley*; may be Q2-4, F, Q1 23 I should] Q2-4, F; were to Q1, *Pope* 26 ye] Q2-4, F; you Q1, *Capell* (Q1 *reading* So I am sure you will that) 26 sure,] F4; sure Q2-4, F, Q1 33 slander...truth] Q2-4, F; wrong sir, that is a truth Q1, *Malone*; slaundersir, which is truth F2; slander, Sir, which is but truth *Rowe*; wrong, sir, that is but a truth *Capell*; wrong, sir, that is a truth *Malone*; slander, sir, that is a truth *Steevens* (1793) 34 my] Q2-4, Q1; thy F

13 too...alone too mind-consuming when she is without company.

14 society companionship.

19-36 Juliet's cool verbal sparring with Paris marks the beginning of a new self-reliance under the pressure of her sudden isolation. This chance meeting with Paris is not in Brooke.

21 What...be Proverbial (Tilley M1331). Com-

pare Marlowe, *Dr Faustus* 1.1.74-5: 'Che sera, sera: / What will be, shall be.'

26 will ye i.e. ye will (confess to him).

27 more price greater worth.

31 bad enough 'conventional self-depreciation in dealing with a compliment' (Kittredge).

34 to my face (1) openly; (2) about my face. Looks back to 28.

Are you at leisure, holy father, now,  
Or shall I come to you at evening mass?

FRIAR LAWRENCE My leisure serves me, pensive daughter, now.

My lord, we must entreat the time alone.

40

PARIS God shield I should disturb devotion!

Juliet, on Thursday early will I rouse ye;

Till then adieu, and keep this holy kiss.

*Exit*

JULIET O shut the door, and when thou hast done so,

Come weep with me, past hope, past cure, past help!

45

FRIAR LAWRENCE O Juliet, I already know thy grief,

It strains me past the compass of my wits.

I hear thou must, and nothing may prorogue it,

On Thursday next be married to this County.

JULIET Tell me not, Friar, that thou hearest of this,

50

Unless thou tell me how I may prevent it.

If in thy wisdom thou canst give no help,

Do thou but call my resolution wise,

And with this knife I'll help it presently. **END**

~~God joined my heart and Romeo's, thou our hands,~~

55

~~And ere this hand, by thee to Romeo's sealed,~~

~~Shall be the label to another deed,~~

~~Or my true heart with treacherous revolt~~

~~Turn to another, this shall slay them both:~~

40 we] Q2-4, Q1; you F; I F2 41 God shield] Q1; Godshield, Q2-4; Godsheid: F 42-3 ] Q2-4, F; *Juliet* farwell, and keep this holy kisse. Q1, *Pope* 42 ye] Q2-4, F; you *Theobald* 43 SD] Q2-4; *Exit Paris*. F, Q1 44 O] Q2-4, F; Goe Q1, *Pope* 45 cure] Q1, *Rowe*; care Q2-4, F, *Houghton* 46 O] Q2-4, F; Ah Q1, *Capell* 47 ] *not in* Q1, *Pope* 47 strains] Q2-4; streames F 52-60 ] *not in* Q1 54 with this] Q2-4; with' his F; with' this F2 55 heart and Romeo's,] F4; heart, and *Romeos* Q2; heart, and *Romeos*, Q3-4, F 56 Romeo's] Q5; *Romeos* Q2-4; *Romeo* F 56 sealed,] Q5; seald: Q2-4, F

38 evening mass Shakespeare has been accused of ignorance or carelessness because mass was not normally celebrated in the evening, but as *OED* points out (*Mass sb' 2c*) 'evening mass' is a direct rendering of Latin *missa vespertina*, where *missa* has the general sense of 'religious service'. In any case, we know that a mass was said about six o'clock in the evening at the Charter-House, London, in the lodgings of the Portuguese ambassador in 1576 (*Queen Elizabeth and Her Times*, ed. Thomas Wright, 1838, II, 37-41).

39 pensive sad, mournful. Paris would understand 'pensive' only in reference to Tybalt's death.

40 entreat...alone pray you now to leave us privately together.

41 shield forbid.

45 \*cure A few eds. (Hoppe most recently) retain Q2 'care' on the grounds that 'past cure' merely anticipates 'past help', but most prefer Q1

'cure' and interpret 'past cure, past help' as meaning 'beyond any final solution, beyond even remedial action'. Compare Tilley C921, *LLL* 5.2.28, *R2* 2.3.171. See the same 'care/cure' misreading in 4.5.65, where 'cure' is necessary to the sense.

47 strains...wits forces me beyond the limits of my power to think clearly.

48 prorogue postpone, delay.

54 knife Elizabethan ladies sometimes wore small household knives at their girdles.

54 it i.e. the intolerable situation, not her 'resolution' (53).

54 presently immediately. Compare 'present counsel' (= immediate advice) in 61.

56 sealed contracted. The legal imagery is carried on (57) in 'label' (= seal), a slip of parchment inserted in a 'deed' (= contract), which bore the signature and seal of the person 'setting his hand' to the document.