

~~Virtue itself turns vice, being misapplied,
And vice sometime by action dignified.~~

Enter ROMEO.

~~Within the infant rind of this weak flower
Poison hath residence, and medicine power:
For this, being smelt, with that part cheers each part, 25
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,
Full soon the canker death eats up that plant. 30~~

ROMEO Good morrow, father. **START**

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:
Care keeps his watch in every old man's eye, 35
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
Thou art uproused with some distemp'rature; 40
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?

22 sometime by action] Q2-4, F; sometimes by action Q1; sometime by action's *Theobald*; sometime's by action *Capell*
22 SD] Q2-4, F; no SD, Q1; placed after 30, *Pope*; ROMEO approaches, unseen by the Friar / NS 23 weak] Q2-4, F; small
Q1, *Pope* 25 smelt, with that part] F; smelt with that part, Q2-4; smelt too, with that part Q1; smelt, with that sense
Pope; smelt, with that act *Collier*² 26 stays] Q2; slays Q3-4, F, Q1 27 kings] Q2-4, F; foes Q1, *Pope*; Kinds *Rowe*³;
Kin *Warburton* 31 father] Q2-4, F; to my Ghostly Confessor Q1 31 Benedicite] Q3-4, Q1; Benedicite Q2; Benedicite F
32 sweet] Q2-4, F; soone Q1, *Boswell* 33 distempered] F4 (distemper'd); distempered Q2-4, F, Q1 40 with] Q2-4,
F; by Q1, *Pope*

22 And vice...dignified i.e. a quality that is in itself a fault may, under certain circumstances, result in a good action (*Kittredge*).

23 infant undeveloped, nascent.

24 medicine power i.e. healing hath power.

25 that part i.e. its scent.

26 stays arrests, brings to a standstill. Q3-4, F, Q1 'slays' is sometimes wrongly preferred.

26 with together with.

28 grace...will divine virtue and unruly human volition (frequently with reference to sexual

excess). NS compares *JC* 2.1.66-9. See above, pp. 24-5.

30 canker canker-worm (which devours the bud secretly from within); compare I.1.142-4.

31 Benedicite! Bless you!

33 distempered disordered (from an imbalance of the bodily humours); compare 'distemp'rature' in 40.

37 unbruised...unstuffed uninjured (by life)...unburdened (by thought).

- ROMEO With Rosaline, my ghostly father? no; 45
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:
I have been feasting with mine enemy,
Where on a sudden one hath wounded me 50
That's by me wounded; both our remedies
Within thy help and holy physic lies.
I bear no hatred, blessèd man; for lo,
My intercession likewise steads my foe.
- FRIAR LAWRENCE Be plain, good son, and homely in thy drift, 55
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 60
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! 65
Is Rosaline, that 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! 70
How much salt water thrown away in waste,

45 father?] F; father Q2-4, Q1 50-1 me... wounded; both] F (*subst.*); me... wounded both, Q2; me... wounded, both Q3-4; mee... wounded, both Q1 55 and] Q2-4, Q1; rest F 61 marriage.] Q3-4 (marriage:); F, Q1; marriage, Q2 62 wooed] Q1 (woo'd), Q5; wooed Q2-4, F 62 vow.] F4; vow: Q2-4, F; voves, Q1 66 that] Q2-4, F; whom Q1, *Pope* 67 Young] Q3, F; yonng Q2; yong Q4, Q1 71 thrown] Q2-3, F; throne Q4; cast Q1

45 ghostly spiritual.
51 both our remedies the cure for both of us.
52 holy physic spiritual remedy (through marriage).
54 intercession likewise steads petition also benefits.
54 foe i.e. Juliet (as a Capulet).
55 homely direct.
56 Riddling Ambiguous, enigmatic.
56 shrift absolution.
63 pass go along. Spencer notes that Romeo as usual is in a hurry. Compare 93-4 and the warning against 'rude will' (28) that 94 conveys.

65 Saint Francis A mild oath, proper to a member of the Franciscan order.
68 hearts...eyes i.e. a young man's love is based on the merely visual ('a painted banquet', *Sonnets* 47.6), a thing of the outward senses ('eyes'), not an 'inward love of heart' (*Sonnets* 46.14).
69 Jesu Maria (By) Jesus (and) Mary, another mild oath suitable to a priest. Shakespeare refers to the Virgin as 'Maria' nowhere else.
69 brine i.e. salt tears, the 'season' (72) or preservative of love.
70 sallow sickly yellow (from the anguish of unrequited love).

To season love, that of it doth not taste!

~~The sun not yet thy sighs from heaven clears,~~

~~Thy old groans yet ringing in mine 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,~~

~~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 bad'st me bury love.

FRIAR LAWRENCE Not in a grave,

To lay one in, another out to have.

ROMEO I pray thee chide me not. Her I love now

Doth grace for grace and love for love allow;

The other did not so.

FRIAR LAWRENCE O 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' rancour to pure love.

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

FRIAR LAWRENCE Wisely and slow, they stumble that run fast. **END**

Exeunt

72 it] Q2-4, F; loue Q1 73 sighs...clears,] Q1; sighes,...cleares Q2-4; sighes,...cleares, F 74 yet ringing] Q2-3, F; yet ring Q4; ring yet Q1, *Pope* 74 mine] Q2; my Q3-4, F, Q1 79 changed?] Q3-4, F; chang'd, Q2; changde, Q1 84 in, another] Q3-4, F; in an other Q2; in another Q1 85 chide...Her] Q2-4, F; chide not, she whom Q1, *Pope* 85 now] Q3-4, F, Q1; now. Q2 88 that] Q2-4, F; and Q1, *Pope* 92 households'] *Capell*; households Q2-4, Q1; houshold F; household f2 93-4] not in Q1

72 that...taste that (despite all the seasoning of tears) your love ('it') now appears insipid (without flavour).

73 sun...clears Compare I.I.124 – a common conceit.

75-6 Lo...yet Compare Brooke (2557-8), though in the context of Juliet's supposed death.

77 wast thyself i.e. sincere, without pretence.

79 sentence moral maxim, aphorism.

80 may fall may be excused for falling.

86 grace favour.

88 Thy...spell i.e. the expression of your love was a schoolboy exercise of memory (rote learning)

by one who couldn't read ('spell') and thus understand what he was mouthing. Compare Sidney, *Astrophil and Stella*, Second Song, 24: 'Who will read must first learne spelling.'

90 In one respect For a special reason.

91-2 For...love Compare Brooke (427-8).

92 To As to.

93 stand on insist on (as a necessity).

94 Wisely...fast Proverbial (Tilley H198; Smith 148, 'Error and repentance are the attendants on hasty decisions' (Publilius Syrus)). Compare 2.6.15.