

[Enter Juliet above at a window.]

But soft! What light through yonder window breaks?  
It is the east, and Juliet is the sun!

4 Arise, fair sun, and kill the envious moon,  
Who is already sick and pale with grief  
6 That thou her maid art far more fair than she.  
Be not her maid, since she is envious.  
8 Her vestal livery is but sick and green,  
And none but fools do wear it. Cast it off.  
10 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  
17 To twinkle in their spheres till they return.  
18 What if her eyes were there, they in her head?  
The brightness of her cheek would shame those stars  
20 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 wingèd messenger of heaven  
29 Unto the white-upturnèd wond'ring eyes

4 *kill* make invisible by more intense light 6 *her maid* (Diana, moon goddess, was patroness of virgins) 8 *vestal livery* the uniform of Diana's votaries; *sick and green* anemic, the pallor of moonlight 17 *spheres* orbits (the concentric shells that carried the heavenly bodies in Ptolemaic astronomy) 18 *there* i.e., in the stars' spheres 29 *white-upturnèd* (the whites show when the eyes are turned upward)

Of mortals that fall back to gaze on him  
When he bestrides the lazy-pacing clouds  
And sails upon the bosom of the air. 30

**JULIET**

O Romeo, Romeo! wherefore art thou Romeo? 33  
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. 39  
What's Montague? It is nor hand, nor foot, 40  
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. 44  
So Romeo would, were he not Romeo called,  
Retain that dear perfection which he owes 46  
Without that title. Romeo, doff thy name;  
And for thy 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. 50  
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.  
My name, dear saint, is hateful to myself,  
Because it is an enemy to thee.  
Had I it written, I would tear the word.

33 *wherefore* why 39 *though not* even if you were not 44 *word* (Q1 reads "name") 46 *owes* owns

JULIET

My ears have yet not drunk a hundred words  
Of thy tongue's uttering, yet I know the sound.  
60 Art thou not Romeo, and a Montague?

ROMEO

61 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

66 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

70 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,  
73 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 eyes;  
76 And but thou love me, let them find me here.  
My life were better ended by their hate  
78 Than death proroguèd, wanting of thy love.

JULIET

By whose direction found'st thou out this place?

ROMEO

80 By love, that first did prompt me to inquire.  
He lent me counsel, and I lent him eyes.

61 *thee dislike* displeases you 66 *o'erperch* fly over 73 *proof* armored 76 *but unless* 78 *proroguèd* postponed; *wanting of* lacking

I am no pilot; yet, wert thou as far  
As that vast shore washed with the farthest sea, 83  
I should adventure for such merchandise. 84

JULIET

Thou knowest the mask of night is on my face;  
Else would a maiden blush bepaint 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! 89  
Dost thou love me? I know thou wilt say "Ay," 90  
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.  
Or if thou thinkest 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; 99  
But trust me, gentleman, I'll prove more true 100  
Than those that have more cunning to be strange. 101  
I should have been more strange, I must confess,  
But that thou overheard'st, ere I was ware, 103  
My true-love passion. Therefore pardon me,  
And not impute this yielding to light love,  
Which the dark night hath so discoverèd. 106

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 circled orb, 110  
Lest that thy love prove likewise variable.

83 *farthest sea* the Pacific 84 *adventure* risk a voyage 89 *compliment* etiquette 99 *havior* behavior; *light* wanton 101 *strange* aloof, distant 103 *ware* aware of you 106 *discoverèd* revealed

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  
120 Ere one can say "It lightens." Sweet, good night!  
This bud of love, by summer's ripening breath,  
May prove a beauteous flow'r 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 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

130 Wouldst thou withdraw it? For what purpose, love?

JULIET

131 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,  
135 The more I have, for both are infinite.

131 *frank* generous 135 *The more I have* (scholastic theologians debated how love could be given away and yet the giver have more than before)

[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.]

ROMEO

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

140

[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,  
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.

143

NURSE [Within] Madam!

JULIET

I come, anon. – But if thou meanest not well,  
I do beseech thee –

150

NURSE [Within]

Madam!

152

JULIET By and by I come. –

To cease thy strife and leave me to my grief.  
Tomorrow will I send.

153

ROMEO

So thrive my soul –

JULIET

A thousand times good night!

[Exit.]

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.

Enter Juliet [above] again.

143 *bent* purpose 152 *By and by* immediately 153 *strife* striving (editors often follow Q4 and emend to "suit")