

43 Wilt thou not, Jule?" and, by my holiday,
The pretty wretch left crying and said "Ay."
To see now how a jest shall come about!
I warrant, an I should live a thousand years,
I never should forget it. "Wilt thou not, Jule?" quoth he,
48 And, pretty fool, it stinted and said "Ay."

CAPULET'S WIFE

Enough of this. I pray thee hold thy peace.

NURSE

50 Yes, madam. Yet I cannot choose but laugh
To think it should leave crying and say "Ay."
52 And yet, I warrant, it had upon it brow
53 A bump as big as a young cock'rel's stone –
A perilous knock – and it cried bitterly.
"Yea," quoth my husband, "fall'st upon thy face?
Thou wilt fall backward when thou comest to age;
Wilt thou not, Jule?" It stinted and said "Ay."

JULIET

58 And stint thou too, I pray thee, nurse, say I.

NURSE

Peace, I have done. God mark thee to his grace!
60 Thou wast the prettiest babe that e'er I nursed.
An I might live to see thee married once,
I have my wish.

CAPULET'S WIFE

Marry, that "marry" is the very theme
I came to talk of. Tell me, daughter Juliet,
How stands your disposition to be married?

JULIET

It is an honor that I dream not of.

NURSE

An honor? Were not I thine only nurse,
I would say thou hadst sucked wisdom from thy teat.

43 *holiday* holiday, holy relic 48 *stinted* stopped 52 *it brow* its brow 53 *stone* testicle 58 *say I* (a pun on "ay" and "I"; cf. III.2.45–50)

CAPULET'S WIFE

Well, think of marriage now. Younger than you,
Here in Verona, ladies of esteem, 70
Are made already mothers. By my count,
I was your mother much upon these years 72
That you are now a maid. Thus then in brief:
The valiant Paris seeks you for his love.

NURSE

A man, young lady, lady, such a man
As all the world – why he's a man of wax. 76

CAPULET'S WIFE

Verona's summer hath not such a flower.

NURSE

Nay, he's a flower, in faith – a very flower.

CAPULET'S WIFE

What say you? Can you love the gentleman?
This night you shall behold him at our feast. 80
Read o'er the volume of young Paris' face,
And find delight writ there with beauty's pen;
Examine every married lineament, 83
And see how one another lends content;
And what obscured in this fair volume lies 85
Find written in the margent of his eyes. 86
This precious book of love, this unbound lover, 87
To beautify him only lacks a cover. 88
The fish lives in the sea, and 'tis much pride 89
For fair without the fair within to hide. 90
That book in many's eyes doth share the glory,

72 *much . . . years* at much the same age (Juliet's mother is claiming to be twenty-eight; she may be exaggerating her youth) 76 *a man of wax* handsome, as a wax model 83 *married lineament* harmonious feature 85 *what . . . lies* i.e., his concealed inner qualities of character 86 *margin* marginal gloss 87 *unbound* (like a book and because still unmarried) 88 *a cover* i.e., a wife 89–94 *The fish . . . no less* i.e., as the sea enfolds the fish and the cover enfolds the book, so you shall enfold Paris (in your arms), enhancing your good qualities by sharing his

That in gold clasps locks in the golden story;
So shall you share all that he doth possess,
By having him making yourself no less.

NURSE

95 No less? Nay, bigger! Women grow by men.

CAPULET'S WIFE

Speak briefly, can you like of Paris' love?

JULIET

I'll look to like, if looking liking move;

98 But no more deep will I endart mine eye
Than your consent gives strength to make it fly.

Enter Peter.

100 PETER Madam, the guests are come, supper served up,
101 you called, my young lady asked for, the nurse cursed
in the pantry, and everything in extremity. I must
hence to wait. I beseech you follow straight.

CAPULET'S WIFE

We follow thee. *[Exit Peter.]*

Juliet, the county stays.

NURSE

Go, girl, seek happy nights to happy days. *Exeunt.*

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1.4 *Enter Romeo, Mercutio, Benvolio, with five or six
other Maskers; Torchbearers.*

ROMEO

1 What, shall this speech be spoke for our excuse?
Or shall we on without apology?

BENVOLIO

3 The date is out of such prolixity.

95 *bigger* i.e., through pregnancy 98 *endart mine eye* shoot my eye glance (as an arrow; cf. III.2.47) 101–2 *cursed in the pantry* i.e., the other servants swear because the nurse is not helping

1.4 1 *this speech* (Romeo has prepared a set speech, such as customarily introduced visiting maskers) 3 *The date . . . prolixity* such superfluous speeches are now out of fashion

We'll have no Cupid hoodwinked with a scarf,
Bearing a Tartar's painted bow of lath,
Scaring the ladies like a crowkeeper;
[Nor no without-book prologue, faintly spoke
After the prompter, for our entrance;]
But, let them measure us by what they will,
We'll measure them a measure and be gone. 10

ROMEO

Give me a torch. I am not for this ambling.
Being but heavy, I will bear the light. 12

MERCUTIO

Nay, gentle Romeo, we must have you dance.

ROMEO

Not I, believe me. You have dancing shoes
With nimble soles; I have a soul of lead
So stakes me to the ground I cannot move.

MERCUTIO

You are a lover. Borrow Cupid's wings
And soar with them above a common bound. 18

ROMEO

I am too sore enpierced with his shaft
To soar with his light feathers; and so bound 20
I cannot bound a pitch above dull woe. 21
Under love's heavy burden do I sink.

MERCUTIO

And, to sink in it, should you burden love –
Too great oppression for a tender thing.

ROMEO

Is love a tender thing? It is too rough,
Too rude, too boist'rous, and it pricks like thorn.

4–5 *We'll . . . lath* (the prologue for the maskers will not be a boy dressed as Cupid) 4 *hoodwinked* blindfolded 5 *Tartar's . . . lath* (the Tartar's bow, used from horseback, was much shorter and more curved than the English long-bow and hence more like Cupid's); *lath* flimsy piece of wood 6 *crowkeeper* scarecrow 7–8 *Nor . . . entrance* (added from Q1) 7 *without-book* memorized 10 *measure . . . measure* dance one dance 12 *heavy* sad, hence "weighted down" 18 *bound* (1) limit, (2) a leap, required in some dances 21 *pitch* height (falconry)