

♪ III.3 *Enter Friar [Laurence].*

FRIAR

- 1 Romeo, come forth; come forth, thou fearful man.
 2 Affliction is enamored of thy parts,
 And thou art wedded to calamity.
Enter Romeo.

ROMEO

- 4 Father, what news? What is the prince's doom?
 What sorrow craves acquaintance at my hand
 That I yet know not?

FRIAR Too familiar

Is my dear son with such sour company.
 I bring thee tidings of the prince's doom.

ROMEO

- 9 What less than doomsday is the prince's doom?

FRIAR

- 10 A gentler judgment vanished from his lips –
 Not body's death, but body's banishment.

ROMEO

Ha, banishment? Be merciful, say "death";
 For exile hath more terror in his look,
 Much more than death. Do not say "banishment."

FRIAR

Hence from Verona art thou banishèd.
 Be patient, for the world is broad and wide.

ROMEO

There is no world without Verona walls,
 But purgatory, torture, hell itself.
 Hence banishèd is banished from the world,

III.3 Friar Laurence's cell s.d. (Separate entrances in Q1; Q2 reads "Enter Friar and Romeo.") 1 *fearful* full of fear 2 *parts* qualities 4 *prince's doom* punishment decreed by the prince 9 *doomsday* i.e., death 10 *vanished* disappeared into air

And world's exile is death. Then "banishèd" 20
 Is death mistermed. Calling death "banishèd,"
 Thou cut'st my head off with a golden ax
 And smilest upon the stroke that murders me.

FRIAR

O deadly sin! O rude unthankfulness!
 Thy fault our law calls death; but the kind prince,
 Taking thy part, hath rushed aside the law, 26
 And turned that black word "death" to banishment.
 This is dear mercy, and thou seest it not.

ROMEO

'Tis torture, and not mercy. Heaven is here,
 Where Juliet lives; and every cat and dog 30
 And little mouse, every unworthy thing,
 Live here in heaven and may look on her;

But Romeo may not. More validity, 33
 More honorable state, more courtship lives 34

In carrion flies than Romeo. They may seize
 On the white wonder of dear Juliet's hand
 And steal immortal blessing from her lips,

Who, even in pure and vestal modesty, 38
 Still blush, as thinking their own kisses sin; 39
 But Romeo may not, he is banishèd. 40

Flies may do this but I from this must fly;
 They are free men, but I am banishèd.
 And sayest thou yet that exile is not death?

Hadst thou no poison mixed, no sharp-ground knife,
 No sudden mean of death, though ne'er so mean, 45
 But "banishèd" to kill me – "banishèd"?

O friar, the damnèd use that word in hell;
 Howling attends it! How hast thou the heart,
 Being a divine, a ghostly confessor,

26 *rushed* pushed 33 *validity* value 34 *courtship* privilege of wooing 38 *vestal* virgin 39 *kisses* (when her lips touch each other) 40–42 (in Q2 these lines are preceded by "This may flies do when I from this must fly" – evidently a canceled line printed in error – and by l. 43, evidently misplaced) 45 *mean* . . . *mean* means . . . lowly

- 50 A sin absolver, and my friend professed,
To mangle me with that word "banishèd"?
- FRIAR
- 52 Thou fond mad man, hear me a little speak.
- ROMEO
- O, thou wilt speak again of banishment.
- FRIAR
- I'll give thee armor to keep off that word;
Adversity's sweet milk, philosophy,
To comfort thee, though thou art banishèd.
- ROMEO
- Yet "banishèd"? Hang up philosophy!
Unless philosophy can make a Juliet,
Displant a town, reverse a prince's doom,
60 It helps not, it prevails not. Talk no more.
- FRIAR
- O, then I see that madmen have no ears.
- ROMEO
- How should they, when that wise men have no eyes?
- FRIAR
- 63 Let me dispute with thee of thy estate.
- ROMEO
- Thou canst not speak of that thou dost not feel.
Wert thou as young as I, Juliet thy love,
An hour but married, Tybalt murderèd,
Doting like me, and like me banishèd,
Then might'st thou speak, then might'st thou tear thy
hair,
And fall upon the ground, as I do now,
70 Taking the measure of an unmade grave.
Knock [within].
- FRIAR
- Arise; one knocks. Good Romeo, hide thyself.

52 *fond* foolish 63 *dispute* reason; *estate* situation 70 *Taking the measure* providing the measurements; *s.d.* (Q2 reads "Enter Nurse and knock," giving her another entrance after l. 78)

- ROMEO
- Not I, unless the breath of heartsick groans
Mistlike enfold me from the search of eyes. 73
[Knock.]
- FRIAR
- Hark, how they knock! Who's there? Romeo, arise;
Thou wilt be taken. – Stay awhile! – Stand up; 75
[Knock.]
- Run to my study. – By and by! – God's will, 76
What simpleness is this. – I come, I come! 77
Knock.
- Who knocks so hard? Whence come you? What's your
will?
Enter Nurse.
- NURSE
- Let me come in, and you shall know my errand.
I come from Lady Juliet. 80
- FRIAR
- Welcome then.
- NURSE
- O holy friar, O, tell me, holy friar,
Where is my lady's lord, where's Romeo?
- FRIAR
- There on the ground, with his own tears made drunk.
- NURSE
- O, he is even in my mistress' case,
Just in her case! O woeful sympathy!
Piteous predicament! Even so lies she,
Blubb'ring and weeping, weeping and blubb'ring.
Stand up, stand up! Stand, an you be a man.
For Juliet's sake, for her sake, "rise," and stand!
Why should you fall into so deep an O? 90
- ROMEO *[Rises.]* Nurse –

73 *s.d.* (Q2 reads "They knock.") 75 *s.d.* (Q2 reads "Slud knock.") 76 *By and by* in a moment 77 *simpleness* stupid conduct 90 *an O* a fit of groaning (throughout this speech, the nurse's language is full of unintentional sexual puns on "case," "stand," "rise," "O")