

Romio und Julieta

A Sample Scene

The following sample scene reflects work-in-progress towards our edition and may well be revised before publication.

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Enter ROMIO and PENVOLIO.

CAPOLET Gentlemen, you are warmly welcome to my house.

PARIS We are deeply indebted to you for the honour you show us.

There is dancing.

ROMIO [*to Julieta*] Fairest, since neither my tongue nor my heart can describe the honour I have had in dancing with you, I entreat you to allow a bashful pilgrim to kiss your hand.

JULIETA Good pilgrim, you do not profane yourself, for such images as I am have hands to feel and lips to kiss.

ROMIO Then boldness excuses me,

Kisses her.

and now I am rid of all my sins.

JULIETA How? Have I then received your sins?

ROMIO Fairest lady, if you won't keep them, give them back to me again.

Kisses her again.

NURSE [*to Julieta*] Ho! What is going on? Your mother can see it.

JULIETA Farewell, my lord!

ROMIO Farewell, you ornament of ladies! – O Romio, how soon have your senses and thoughts been changed! – Psst!

NURSE What is my lord's pleasure?

ROMIO Tell me, what lady is that who danced with me?

NURSE My lord, he who gets her will not lack money and goods. She is Lord Capolet's only daughter.

ROMIO O heavens, what do I hear? Capolet's daughter? What is happening to me? Must I and shall I now be a prisoner of love to her whose father is my most bitter and deadly enemy? In truth, she shines out amongst other ladies like a beautiful star.

O Rosalina, you are but the pale moon to this resplendent sun!

TIPOLD What do I hear? Is it not that cursed dog Romio, my enemy? And does he dare to come here? That's not to be endured. – Ho, boy, my rapier!

CAPOLET Cousin Tipold, what's the matter with you? Why are you raving like this?

TIPOLD Ha, should I suffer our enemy to come here to mock our banquet?

CAPOLET Who is it?

TIPOLD It is my enemy, Romio. – Ho, boy, my rapier! You whore's son, what takes you so long?

CAPOLET If it is Romio, he is dear to us and welcome, and we are deeply indebted to him for the honour he shows us. So be content, and cause no disturbance.

TIPOLD But I won't have it.

CAPOLET What, you won't have it? But I will have it. Who is the master of the house, I or you?

NURSE [*to Tipold*] Yes, are you master of the house or is Lord Capolet master of the house?

TIPOLD Go, you old witch, or I shall box you on the ear.

NURSE Yes, yes, you always want to beat only the women, but you have no heart to touch a man.

CAPOLET I say, cousin Tipold, don't start any trouble in this company, or there's the door open for you.

TIPOLD O heavens, what must I hear? A friend must go away and an enemy stay here. Well then, I go – but, Romio, I swear vengeance on you.

Exeunt Tipold and Page.

CAPOLET Gentlemen, please, let not Tipold's raving trouble you, but stay a while.

ROMIO We thank you for the honour we have enjoyed. Time demands that we depart.

CAPOLET Gentlemen, please stay.

PENVOLIO Come, Romio, let us go, our pastime is over.

PARIS Do stay, if possible.

ROMIO We thank you for all the honours and so take our leave.

Exeunt Romio and Penvolio.

CAPOLET In truth, Romio is polite, discreet and young; I am sorry I must be his enemy.

PARIS I have often wished that the house of Capolet could become reconciled with that of Mundige and have heard that even the authorities are endeavouring to settle this lifelong dispute.

CAPOLET So it is, Count, but his princely Grace has not yet had it proclaimed. Therefore the enmity still stands. Count, as the meal is over and everyone is taking leave, please go with me to my room; I have various things to discuss with you.

PARIS I follow, Lord Capolet. – But, fair Julieta, be pleased to go with us.

JULIETA I am bound to follow your Grace immediately.

Ex[eunt Capolet, Capolet's Wife, and] Paris.

– Nurse, go, see and ask who he is who danced with me.

[Enter PENVOLIO.]

NURSE I do believe that Julieta is already in love; but I will follow her orders all the same.

PENVOLIO I have got lost in this house. Tell me, where does one go out?

NURSE Pardon me, sir, for asking: who was that in the red gown?

PENVOLIO His name is Romio.

NURSE Is it young Romio? I thank you, sir, for telling me.

PENVOLIO Do you have anything more to ask?

NURSE No, sir.

PENVOLIO Nor do I, actually.

Exit.

NURSE Neither do I.

JULIETA Nurse, tell me quickly who he was, and what's his name.

NURSE Fair Julieta, it was young Romio.

JULIETA What, young Romio?

NURSE Yes, young Romio.

JULIETA O, a honey-sweet name! But a poisoned sting is hidden within it. O Romio, you have wounded my heart.

Exeunt.

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