

Act 2 scene 6 (modern edition)

MERCUTIO

I am hurt.

A plague o' both houses! I am sped.

Is he gone and hath nothing?

BENVOLIO

What, art thou hurt?

MERCUTIO

Ay, ay, a scratch, a scratch. Marry 'tis enough.

Where is my page? Go, villain, fetch a surgeon.

[Exit PAGE]

ROMEO

Courage, man, the hurt cannot be much.

MERCUTIO

No 'tis not so deep as a well, nor so wide as a church door, but 'tis enough, 'twill serve. Ask for me to morrow, and you shall find me a grave man. I am peppered, I warrant, for this world. A plague o' both your houses! Zounds, a dog, a rat, a mouse, a cat, to scratch a man to death! A braggart, a rogue, a villain, that fights by the book of arithmetic! Why the devil came you between us? I was hurt under your arm.

ROMEO

I thought all for the best.

MERCUTIO

Help me into some house, Benvolio,
Or I shall faint. A plague o' both your houses!
They have made worms' meat of me.
I have it, and soundly, too. Your houses!

Exit [with BENVOLIO]

ROMEO

This gentleman, the Prince's near ally,
My very friend, hath got this mortal hurt
1545
In my behalf; my reputation stained
With Tybalt's slander -- Tybalt, that an hour
Hath been my cousin! O sweet Juliet,
Thy beauty hath made me effeminate
And in my temper softened valor's steel.

Enter BENVOLIO

BENVOLIO

O Romeo, Romeo, brave Mercutio is dead.
That gallant spirit hath aspired the clouds,
Which too untimely here did scorn the earth.

ROMEO

This day's black fate on more days doth depend;
This but begins the woe others must end.
[Enter TYBALT]

BENVOLIO

Here comes the furious Tybalt back again.

ROMEO

Alive in triumph, and Mercutio slain!
Away to heaven, respective lenity,
And fire-eyed fury be my conduct now.
Now, Tybalt, take the "villain" back again
That late thou gavest me, for Mercutio's soul
Is but a little way above our heads,
Staying for thine to keep him company.
Either thou or I, or both, must go with him.

TYBALT

Thou, wretched boy, that didst consort him here,
Shalt with him hence.

ROMEO

This shall determine that.

They Fight. TYBALT falls.