

Romeo and Juliet abbreviated

Act 3, Scene 3

Counsel

Situation: When Romeo learns from Friar Lawrence that he has been banished from Verona by the prince, he says “death” is better than “banishment.” He draws a dagger, threatening to take his own life. At that point Friar Lawrence calls him a “fond mad man.”

Friar Lawrence to Romeo

Hold thy desperate hand, you seeming man,
Tearing here as an unseemly woman.
Thou hast amazed me railing thou on thy
Birth, the heaven and earth, since all three thou
Wouldst lose. Are you here to say good-bye
To the strength of life, daring to allow
Digression from the valor of a man,
Killing the cherished love of your woman?
Thy wit, that ornament to shape and love,
Is set afire by thy own ignorance,
Threatened death having turned to exile. Of
All, man, Juliet doth your life enhance.
Pouting over love won will take its toll.
Take heed, take heed, for such die miserable.

FRIAR LAWRENCE: Go, get thee to thy love, as was decreed. Ascend her chamber. Hence and comfort her. Go before, Nurse. Commend me to thy lady. Romeo is coming.

NURSE: My lord, I'll tell my lady you will come.

The Nurse gives Romeo a ring. She exits.

ROMEO: How well my comfort is revived by this!

FRIAR LAWRENCE: Go hence, good night. Be gone by the break of day. Sojourn in Mantua. Give me thy hand.