

Romeo and Juliet abbreviated

Act 1, Scene 1

Insight

Situation: Romeo has recently been out of sorts, Rosaline, his girlfriend of late, having just broken up with him. Romeo's mother is worried about him, having asked Benvolio, his cousin, "saw you him today?"

LADY MONTAGUE: O, where is Romeo? Saw you him today? Right glad I am he was not at this fray.

Benvolio to Lady Montague

Madam, I have seen Romeo today.
I saw your son as I did wend my way
Underneath the grove of sycamore to
The city's west when a troubled mind led
Me to walk amidst the fresh morning's dew
An hour before the sun peered through. There fled
He, 'ware of me, into the wood, and I
Measuring his strange affections by my
Own, being too many by my weary
Self, gladly shunned who gladly fled from me.
Here he comes. I'll know his grievance or be
Much denied. What is the sadness I see
In your heart's oppression? Ay, you're out of
Her favor, cousin, where you are in love!

Montague and Lady Montague exit.

ROMEO: Ay me, sad hours seem long.

BENVOLIO: Alas that love, so gentle in his view, should be so tyrannous and rough in proof!

ROMEO: O me! What fray was here? Yet tell me not, for I have heard it all. Here's much to do with hate, but more with love. This love feel I, that feel no love in this. Dost thou not laugh?

BENVOLIO: No, coz, I rather weep.

ROMEO: Good heart, at what?

BENVOLIO: At thy good heart's oppression.

ROMEO: Love is a smoke made with the fume of sighs; being purged, a fire sparkling in lovers' eyes; being vexed, a sea nourished with loving tears.