

Romeo and Juliet

5.2

Enter Friar John at one door

FRIAR JOHN

Holy Franciscan friar, brother, ho!

Enter Friar Laurence at another door

FRIAR LAURENCE

This same should be the voice of Friar John.

Welcome from Mantua! What says Romeo?

Or if his mind be writ, give me his letter.

FRIAR JOHN

Going to find a barefoot brother out±±

5

One of our order±±to associate me

Here in this city visiting the sick,

And finding him, the searchers of the town,

Suspecting that we both were in a house

Where the infectious pestilence did reign,

10

Sealed up the doors, and would not let us forth,

So that my speed to Mantua there was stayed.

FRIAR LAURENCE

Who bare my letter then to Romeo?

FRIAR JOHN

I could not send it±±here it is again±±

Nor get a messenger to bring it thee,

15

So fearful were they of infection.

FRIAR LAURENCE

Unhappy fortune! By my brotherhood,

The letter was not nice, but full of charge,

Of dear import, and the neglecting it

May do much danger. Friar John, go hence.

20

Get me an iron crow, and bring it straight

Unto my cell.

FRIAR JOHN Brother, I'll go and bring it thee.

Exit

FRIAR LAURENCE

Now must I to the monument alone.

Within this three hours will fair Juliet wake.

She will beshrew me much that Romeo

25

Hath had no notice of these accidents.

But I will write again to Mantua,
And keep her at my cell till Romeo come.
Poor living corpse, closed in a dead man's tomb!

Exit