

**SHAKESPEARIENCE!**

***Swords, Scenes & Soliloquies***

**R O M E O & J U L I E T**

Act I, scene 3: *The Idea of Marriage*

Lady Capulet, Nurse, Juliet

**LADY CAPULET**

Nurse, where's my daughter? call her forth to me!

**NURSE**

Now, at twelve year old, I bade her come. What, lamb! what, ladybird!  
God forbid! Where's this girl? What, Juliet!

*(Enter JULIET)*

**JULIET**

How now! who calls?

**NURSE**

Your MOTHER.

**JULIET**

Madam, I am here. What is your will?

**LADY CAPULET**

This is the matter:--Nurse, give leave awhile, We must talk in secret:--

NURSE, come back again! Thou know'st my daughter's of a pretty age.  
Faith, I can tell her age unto an hour. She's fourteen.

**NURSE**

She is - not fourteen.

**LADY CAPULET**

Enough of this; I pray thee, hold thy peace.

**NURSE**

Peace, I have done. *[to Juliet]* An I might live to see thee married once, I have my wish.

**LADY CAPULET**

Marry, that 'marry' is the very theme I came to talk of. Tell me, daughter Juliet, how stands your disposition to be married?

**JULIET**

It is an honour - that I dream not of.

**NURSE**

An honour!

**LADY CAPULET**

Well, think of marriage now; younger than you, here in Verona, ladies of esteem, are made already mothers: by my count, I was your mother much upon these years that you are now a maid. Thus then in brief: The valiant Paris seeks you for his love.

**NURSE**

A man, young lady! lady, such a man as all the world.

**LADY CAPULET**

Verona's summer hath not such a flower.

**NURSE**

Nay, he's a FLOWER; in faith, a very flower!!

*[exit]*

**LADY CAPULET**

What say you? can you love the gentleman? This night you shall behold him at our feast; Read o'er the volume of young Paris' face, and find delight writ there with beauty's pen.

Speak briefly, can you like of Paris' love?

**JULIET**

I'll look to like, if looking liking move: But no more deep will I endart mine eye Than your consent gives strength to make it fly.

*(Re-enter Nurse)*

**NURSE**

Madam! the guests are come, I must hence to wait; I beseech you, follow straight.

**LADY CAPULET**

We follow thee. Juliet!?!? The county stays!

*[exit]*

**NURSE**

Go, girl, seek happy nights to happy day!