

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!