SHAKESPEARIENCE!

Swords, Scenes & Soliloquies

ROMEO & JULIET

Act 3, scene 3: *Banished*

Friar Laurence and Romeo

ROMEO
Father, what news?

FRIAR LAURENCE
I bring thee tidings of the prince's doom.
A gentler judgment vanish'd from his lips, not body's death, but body's banishment.
Hence from Verona art thou banished:
Be patient, for the world is broad and wide.

ROMEO
Ha, banishment! be merciful, say 'death;' for exile hath more terror in his look,
Much more than death: do not say 'banishment.'

FRIAR LAURENCE
Hence from Verona art thou banished: be patient, for the world is broad and wide.

ROMEO
'Tis torture, and not mercy: heaven is here, where Juliet lives; and every cat and dog
And little mouse, every unworthy thing, live here in heaven and may look on her;
But Romeo may not**, he is banished**:
O friar, the damned use that word in hell; Howlings attend it:
how hast thou the heart, being a divine, a ghostly confessor,
A sin-absolver, and my friend profess'd,
To mangle me with that word 'banished'?

FRIAR LAURENCE
I'll give thee armour to keep off that word: adversity's sweet milk, philosophy,
To comfort thee, though thou art banished.

ROMEO
Yet 'banished'? Hang up philosophy! talk no more.

FRIAR LAURENCE
O, then I see that madmen have no ears.

ROMEO
How should they, when that wise men have no eyes?

FRIAR LAURENCE
Let me dispute with thee of thy estate.

ROMEO
Thou canst not speak of that thou dost not feel:
Wert thou as young as I, Juliet thy love,
An hour but married, Tybalt murdered,
Doting like me and like me banished,
Then mightst thou speak, then mightst thou fall upon the ground, as I do now,
Taking the measure of an unmade grave.

[Knocking]

FRIAR LAURENCE
Arise; one knocks; good Romeo, hide thyself.

ROMEO
Not I…

[Knocking]

FRIAR LAURENCE
Hark, how they knock! Who's there? Romeo, arise;
Thou wilt be taken. Stay awhile! Stand up;
Run to my study. By and by! God's will,
What simpleness is this! I come, I come!