

ACT *Two*

SCENE I *A lane by the wall of Capulet's orchard.*

Later in the evening of the party, Romeo returns alone to the Capulet home, hoping for another glimpse of Juliet. He climbs the wall and hides outside, in the orchard. Meanwhile, Benvolio and Mercutio come looking for him, but he remains hidden behind the wall. Mercutio makes fun of Romeo and his lovesick condition. Keep in mind that Mercutio and Benvolio think Romeo is still in love with Rosaline, since they know nothing about his meeting with Juliet.

[Enter Romeo alone.]

Romeo. Can I go forward when my heart is here?

Turn back, dull earth, and find thy center out.

[Climbs the wall and leaps down within it.]

[Enter Benvolio with Mercutio.]

Benvolio. Romeo! my cousin Romeo! Romeo!

Mercutio. He is wise,

5 And, on my life, hath stol'n him home to bed.

Benvolio. He ran this way, and leapt this orchard wall.

Call, good Mercutio.

Mercutio. Nay, I'll conjure too.

Romeo! humors! madman! passion! lover!

10 Appear thou in the likeness of a sigh;

Speak but one rhyme, and I am satisfied!

Cry but "Ay me!" pronounce but "love" and "dove";

Speak to my gossip Venus one fair word,

One nickname for her purblind son and heir,

15 Young Adam Cupid, he that shot so trim

When King Cophetua loved the beggar maid!

He heareth not, he stirreth not, he moveth not;

The ape is dead, and I must conjure him.

I conjure thee by Rosaline's bright eyes,

20 By her high forehead and her scarlet lip,

By her fine foot, straight leg, and quivering thigh,

1-2 **Can . . . out:** How can I leave when Juliet is still here? My body (**dull earth**) has to find its heart (**center**).

8 **conjure:** use magic to call him.

10-23 **Appear . . . us:** Mercutio makes a series of loud jokes about Romeo's lovesickness. He tries to make Romeo appear by teasing him and suggestively naming parts of Rosaline's body.
demesnes: areas.

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And the demesnes that there adjacent lie,
That in thy likeness thou appear to us!

Benvolio. An if he hear thee, thou wilt anger him.

25 **Mercutio.** This cannot anger him. 'Twould anger him
To raise a spirit in his mistress' circle
Of some strange nature, letting it there stand
Till she had laid it and conjured it down.
That were some spite; my invocation
30 Is fair and honest and in his mistress' name
I conjure only but to raise up him.

Benvolio. Come, he hath hid himself among these trees
To be consorted with the humorous night.
Blind is his love, and best befits the dark.

35 **Mercutio.** If love be blind, love cannot hit the mark.
Now will he sit under a medlar tree
And wish his mistress were that kind of fruit
As maids call medlars when they laugh alone.
Oh, Romeo, that she were, O, that she were
40 An open et cetera, thou a pop'rin pear!
Romeo, good night. I'll to my truckle bed;
This field-bed is too cold for me to sleep.
Come, shall we go?

Benvolio. Go then, for 'tis in vain
45 To seek him here that means not to be found.

[*Exeunt.*]

25-31 'Twould . . . raise up him: It would anger him if I called a stranger to join his lover (**mistress**), but I'm only calling Romeo to join her.

33 To be . . . night: to join with the night, which is as gloomy as Romeo is.

36 medlar: a fruit that looks like a small, brown apple.

41-45 Romeo . . . found: Mercutio jokes that he will go to his child's bed (**truckle bed**) since he is so "innocent."