

Romeo's Confession

ROMEO

Good morrow, Father.

FRIAR LAWRENCE

Benedicite.

What early tongue so sweet saluteth me?

Young son, it argues a distempered head

So soon to bid good morrow to thy bed.

35 Care keeps his watch in every old man's eye,

And where care lodges, sleep will never lie.

But where unbruised youth with unstuffed brain

Doth couch his limbs, there golden sleep doth

reign.

Therefore thy earliness doth me assure

40 Thou art uproused by some distemperature.

Or if not so, then here I hit it right:

Our Romeo hath not been in bed tonight.

ROMEO

That last is true. The sweeter rest was mine.

FRIAR LAWRENCE

God pardon sin! Wast thou with Rosaline?

ROMEO

Good morning, father.

FRIAR LAWRENCE

God bless you. Who greets me so early in the

morning? Young man, something's wrong if you're

getting out of bed this early. Every old man has

worries, and worried men never get any sleep, but

young men shouldn't have a care in the world.

They should get to bed early and get plenty of

sleep. Therefore, the fact that you're awake this

early tells me you've been upset with some

anxiety. If that's not the case, then this must be the

answer: You, Romeo, have not been to bed

tonight.

ROMEO

Your last guess is right. I enjoyed a sweeter rest

than sleep.

FRIAR LAWRENCE

May God forgive you if you've sinned!—Were you

with Rosaline?

What does the
friar notice
about Romeo?

ROMEO

45 With Rosaline, my ghostly Father? No.

I have forgot that name and that name's woe.

FRIAR LAWRENCE

That's my good son. But where hast thou been,

then?

ROMEO

I'll tell thee ere thou ask it me again.

I have been feasting with mine enemy,

50 Where on a sudden one hath wounded me,

That's by me wounded. Both our remedies

Within thy help and holy physic lies.

I bear no hatred, blessed man, for, lo,

My intercession likewise steads my foe.

ROMEO

With Rosaline, father? No. I have forgotten that girl

and all the sadness she brought me.

FRIAR LAWRENCE

That's good, my boy. But where have you been?

ROMEO

I'll tell you before you have to ask me again. I have

been feasting with my enemy. Suddenly someone

wounded me with love and was wounded with

love by me. You have the sacred power to cure

both of us. I carry no hatred, holy man, because

my request will benefit my enemy.

Why is Rosaline
associated with
woe?

How does Romeo
describe his love
for Juliet?
What is
interesting about
his language
here?

Glossary

Distemperature: disturbance.

Physic: healing.

How can Friar
Lawrence help?