Act 2, Scene 2 & 3

* Friar Laurence meditates on the duality of good and evil that exists in all things.
* Romeo describes his new low for Juliet to Friar Laurence.
* He is intent on marrying Juliet and asks the Friar’s consent to marry them that very day.
* Remaining sceptical at Romeo’s sudden change of love, Friar Laurence nonetheless agrees to marry them.
* Romeo’s response to scepticism is that Juliet returns his love whereas Rosaline did not, which does not prove that Romeo has matured!
* Friar Laurence hopes the marriage will end the feud between their families and reverse the evil hatred.
* Clearly Friar Laurence is a kind-hearted friend to both Romeo & Juliet. He also seems wise and selfless.
* However, Friar Laurence is an unknowing servant of fate: all of his plans go awry that lead to the final tragedy.
* Tybalt sends a letter challenging Romeo to a duel.
* Mercutio claims Romeo is already dead – struck by Cupid’s arrow.
* The events of the play prove Romeo’s steadfast love for Juliet but Romeo’s immature love for Rosaline, his love of love, is never quite erased.
* Mercutio describes Tybalt as a master swordsman, perfectly proper and composed in style but vain.
* Romeo, Mercutio, Benvolio and friends are involved in intricate, witty and wildly sexual jousting when the Nurse arrives to speak with Romeo.
* Romeo shows himself to be as proficient and bawdy punner as Mercutio, which Mercutio believes is evidence of the true Romeo now suddenly freed from the ludicrous melancholy of love.
* Mercutio accuses the Nurse of being a harlot.
* Romeo must remain both private lover and the public Montague and friend, and he must find somehow a way to navigate the two worlds.