

Romeo & Juliet

Introduction

What does it mean to kill someone? To stab them in the chest? Or indirectly enable the situation where they kill themselves? Good [Morning/Afternoon] Everyone I am Lachlan and today I will be explaining who is undeniably the most responsible for the tragic double suicide at the end of the famous Shakespearean Play, *Romeo and Juliet*. Friar Lawrence is without the shadow of a doubt most responsible for the fated passing of the two star-crossed lovers. This is because of many crucial mistakes that the Franciscan monk makes throughout the story. Firstly, his hasty rush to marry Romeo Montague and Juliet Capulet in order to aspire to a childish fantasy of peace between the houses, Secondly his poor role as Romeo's secondary father figure in order to lead him in a better direction, Lastly, his overly convoluted and poorly planned out scheme in order for the lovers to run away.

Body 1

The Franciscan Monks fantasy for peace between the two feuding families directly causes the Friar to hastily marry the young star-crossed lovers far earlier than should have occurred. Romeo had only recently seen Juliet, and the Friar even comments on how fast he butterflyed from one infatuation to another with, "So soon forsaken? Young men's love then lies Not truly in their hearts, but in their eyes." (Act 2, Scene 3) This shows that while the Friar appears to the watchers as a modest, calm and patient man, to contrast Romeo and his harlotia of impatience, however if you look further at the Friar's actions the next day he is marrying the two lovers who met less than 12 hours later. "Come, come with me, and we will make short work, For by your leaves, you shall not stay alone." (Act 2, Scene 6) The Friar's apparent rush to marry the two lovers helps to highlight his impatience in contrast with the supposedly patient and pragmatic image he paints himself to be when teaching Romeo. Friar Lawrence's conviction that the marriage would end the feud between the rival houses directly causes the tragic deaths of Romeo and Juliet.

Body 2

Despite not being related to Romeo in the slightest, the Franciscan Monk was still correlated to the closest thing to a father figure that we are shown in the play. Friar Lawrence's reprimanding of Romeo's actions is him attempting to correct his course and adjust his impulsive nature to avoid the dangers that poorly thinking things through can bring, as seen in "Wisely and slow; they stumble that run fast." (Act 2, Scene 3) this is proving that Friar Lawrence cares for Romeo, and is attempting to teach him about the dangers of the world, however the actions that the Friar takes inevitably leads Romeo to his doom. The Friar attempting to rectify the situation after Tybalt and Mercutio's deaths by sending Romeo to Mantua, without establishing a reliable method of communication, directly causes Romeo to be misinformed about the supposed death of his lover Juliet. Furthermore, the Friar's role in the faked death of Juliet is also caused by both his and Romeo's impulsive nature and more poor planning on the part of the Friar.

Body 3

The Friar's poor planning skills directly causes Romeo to be uninformed of his beloved's faked death. The Franciscan monk's decision to send the slow Friar John to Mantua allowed Romeo to be informed by Balthasar before Friar John ever reached Romeo. "Dost Thou not bring me letters from the Friar?"

"Her body sleeps in Capels' monument" (Act 5, Scene 1) This quote shows that Romeo was expecting letters from the Friar, however the impulsive nature of Romeo causes him to rush into action without waiting for a response from the Friar and even Balthasar reminds Romeo of such. "I do beseech you sir, have patience" (Act 5, Scene 1) This also shows that Romeo is known to be an impatient mind, and the Friar should have made an effort to ensure that Romeo cannot enter the crypts without first seeing him, for if the monk had waited outside the Crypts when he first learned of the Friar being turned away from the city, perhaps the entire situation would have been avoided, and perhaps blood would still streak the streets of Verona.

Conclusion

Throughout the play the Friar is seen as a paragon, making the right decision for the right reasons. Yet he is a man of contradictions, of imperfection and impatience, his actions throughout the tragedy Romeo and Juliet directly brings him his wish, peace forevermore in the streets of Verona, but what did it cost? The lives of two innocent teenagers that he cared for and adored, Sir Romeo Montague and Lady Juliet Capulet.