# 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? Friar Lawrence is undeniably the most responsible for the foreshadowed, tragic

double suicide at the end of the famous Shakespearean tradgedy, *Romeo and Juliet*. This is because of

many crucial mistakes that the Franciscan monk made throughout the story. Firstly, his rash rush to

marry Romeo Montague and Juliet Capulet in order to reach a childish fantasy of peace between the

feuding families, 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 Fransican Monks fantasy for peace between the two feauding 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 butterflied from one infactuation 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 reader as a modest, calm and

patient man, to contrast Romeo and his harmatia 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 hightlight his impatience in contrast

with the supposedly patient and pragmatic image he paints himself to be when teaching Romeo. Frair

lawrences 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 stuble that run

fast.” (Act 2, Scene 3) this is proving that Frair Lawrences cares for Romeo, and is attempting to teach

him about the dangers of the world, however the actions that the Friar takes ineveitably leads Romeo to

his doom. The Friar attempting to rectify the situation after Tybalt and Mercutio’s deaths my 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. Furthermroe, 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 Fransiscan monks 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 beeseech 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, mayhaps 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 tradgedy

Romeo and Juliet driectly brings him his wish, peace forevermore in the streets of Verona, but what

did it cost? The lives of two innocent teenages that he cared for and adored, Sir Romeo Montague and

Lady Juliet Capulet.