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Period 2

8 January 2015

Romeo and Juliet Argumentative Paper

Romeo and Juliet’s deaths were very tragic, and and distressing. Their forbidden love was strong, and it is sad to see them die so young. But was it inevitable? The death of these two youngsters was indeed, avoidable if it weren’t for a few people. A lot of people in this tragedy played a part in the star-crossed lovers deaths, but it is Friar Laurence, Friar John, and, Paris that are to be blamed.

While others believe that Tybalt is the one that should be condemned, this is simply not the case. I have performed a deeper study. I have found that Friar Laurence is the one to point the blame at. A common misconception is that if Tybalt had not killed Mercutio, then Paris would have never have wanted to marry Juliet, which is simply not true. Paris showed his interest in marrying Juliet before Tybalt killed Mercutio, in fact it was just Act 1 Scene 2 we see this.

*PARIS. But now, my lord, what say you to my suit?*

*CAPULET. But saying o'er what I have said before:*

*My child is yet a stranger in the world;*

*She hath not seen the change of fourteen years,*

*Let two more summers wither in their pride,*

*Ere we may think her ripe to be a bride.*

*PARIS. Younger than she are happy mothers made.*

*CAPULET. And too soon marr'd are those so early made.*

*The earth hath swallow'd all my hopes but she,*

*She is the hopeful lady of my earth:*

*But woo her, gentle Paris, get her heart,*

*My will to her consent is but a part; (Rom. 1.2.6-17)*

Friar John also played a part in the deaths. Everything was going according

to plan, Juliet was thought to bed ‘dead’, Romeo was out of the city, and she had gotten out of the wedding with Paris, the only thing left to do was tell Romeo what was going on. Unfortunately, Friar John was stopped by the people of Verona because they were worried he might have contracted a disease, so he gets placed in quarantine. But what does he do after he gets out? Doesn’t go to Romeo, he doesn’t even tell anybody that he didn’t deliver the message until Friar Laurence had asked him if he did. Friar John had one job, and that was deliver the message to Romeo, which he just totally abandoned.

Friar Laurence is probably the main person to blame. Most of the problems originate from something that he had done.First married them together regardless of the feud between the two families. He spent maybe, thirty seconds to think about it. Between the lines of him telling Romeo they should get married, and him agreeing, that’s about how much time has passed. (*Rom. 2.3.78-92)* That is not enough time to make such a rash decision, and he should’ve at least spent one or two days to go through it in his head and think about it. After all, he is a Friar. Shouldn’t he practice his religious calling to make such a decision, and not make a quick decision like he did? Indeed. He decided to marry two people, he didn’t even agree with marrying, all so he could try to play hero.

*“O, she knew well*

*Thy love did read by rote and could not spell.*

*But come, young waverer, come, go with me,*

*In one respect I'll thy assistant be;*

*For this alliance may so happy prove,*

*To turn your households' rancour to pure love.” (Rom. 2.3.87-92)*

Then he didn’t tell anybody about the marriage. What good is marrying people to fix their family problems, if their families don’t even know they’re married? Nobody had any idea, and when Paris came to ask to marry Juliet, he didn’t say anything about her already being married. Instead he came up with a crazy plan to ‘kill’ Juliet, then tell Romeo AFTER the fact. That sounds like some information that would be good to have if you’re the husband. Most of Friar Laurence’s fixes were just quick fixes that wouldn’t work for very long, when he could have just told everyone that they were married and could’ve avoided the whole situation.

As you can see from the points I have given, it is not Balthazar who is the reason for Romeo and Juliet’s deaths, but Friar Lawrence. Despite his mind and heart being in the right place, and all of his intentions were good, he did not think clearly, or long enough to make many good decisions throughout the majority of this play.

Romeo and Juliet is a wonderful play about Endearment and Tragedy, of Love and War, and this is the reason why it has gained, and still gains so much popularity over the many years after Shakespeare's death.