

# Theme Quotes & Analysis

## Friar Lawrence

| THEME        | ACT   | QUOTES   | ANALYSIS   |
|--------------|-------|--|--|
| Good vs evil | Act 2 | <u><b>baleful weeds</b></u>  | He uses a <b>soliloquy</b> , describing his plants as <b>"baleful weeds"</b> , <b>evoking</b> the theme of death which is <b>ever-present</b> and <b>foreshadowing</b> the poison we see Romeo drink at the play's denouement (climax). Also shows he is aware of the capacity nature has for good but also for evil.  |
|              | Act 2 | <u><b>two opposed kings [... reside] in man as well as herbs</b></u>                                       | States that there is good and evil in men as well as in plants. He speaks of evil as if it were a <b>natural quality</b> and comparing men to plants, he <b>dispels</b> the notion that humans are any more superior than nature. After all, many of the men in the play have a bit of a <b>superiority complex</b> (they think they are superior).                    |
|              | Act 2 | <u><b>the earth, that's nature's mother, is her tomb./ what is her burying. grave that is her womb</b></u> | His use of <b>rhyming couplets</b> , rhyming tomb with womb <b>juxtapose</b> life and death and his <b>iambic pentameter</b> makes the line seem almost like a proverb (a rhyming phrase that tells a moral or a lesson); it makes it memorable. These techniques make friar Lawrence appear to have some sort of higher knowledge of the workings of life and nature. |
|              | Act 2 | <u><b>the sweetest honey is loathsome in its own deliciousness</b></u>                                     | <b>"Honey"</b> , has <b>connotations</b> of greed and sweetness, which contrasted against how friar Lawrence is talking of a bad future he foresees, is sinister.  |
|              | Act 2 | <u><b>I gave her, so tortured by my art, a sleeping potion</b></u>   | Friar Lawrence uses his plants or his <b>"art"</b> for Juliet and thus becomes the thing he warns of at the play's start.  |

| THEME                | ACT   | QUOTES   | ANALYSIS   |
|----------------------|-------|--|--|
| A religious mediator | Act 2 | <u><i>Holy Saint Francis</i></u>   | He reminds us, with this line, of his faith, which furthers his role as a <b>mediator</b> . For it is <b>quintessentially catholic</b> to desire peace and harmony.  |
|                      | Act 2 | <u><i>wisely and slow.</i></u><br><u><i>They stumble that run fast</i></u> | He is a <b>mediator of Romeo's expectations</b> , encouraging him to be less hasty. Indeed, friars were, and still are, often tasked with providing people with advice not <b>solely</b> (only) on matters of faith. Romeo <b>confides</b> in Friar Lawrence not his own father, showing that Lawrence acts as a paternal figure for Romeo. This characterises him as <b>wise</b> and <b>un-biased</b> . |
|                      | Act 2 | <u><i>These violent delights</i></u><br><u><i>have violent ends</i></u>    | He speaks with a <b>narrator like tone</b> , using repetition to show his apprehension. But he is attempting to <b>mediate the conflict</b> .  |
|                      | Act 3 | <u><i>The world is broad and</i></u><br><u><i>wide</i></u>                 | He is trying to manage Romeo's frustration. Friar Lawrence is <b>paternal</b> (fatherly) in his mediation. He attempts to <b>reconcile conflict</b> but does not succeed in this. Perhaps this is Shakespeare communicating the overwhelming power of fate, in that mediation and logic cannot surmount it, despite the friar's best efforts.  |

| THEME                             | ACT | QUOTES  | ANALYSIS   |
|-----------------------------------|-----|---|--|
| The folly of<br>Friar<br>Lawrence |     | <p><u><i>stand[s] to be impeached and purged</i></u></p> <p><u><i>entreated her to come forth, /And<br/>bear this work of heaven with<br/>patience</i></u></p> <p><u><i>let [his] old life be sacrificed [...] unto<br/>the rigor of the severest law</i></u></p> | <p>The word <u>"purged"</u> has <b>religious connotations</b>, reminding us that he is a religious man and thus all his actions are driven by a catholic desire to do good and yet his folly is that he ultimately fails.</p> <p>He claims to have tried to persuade Juliet to be less hasty. He uses <b>religious imagery</b> to justify that he only meant good, but it somehow falls flat in the face of this tragedy. As <b>aforementioned</b>, Elizabethans were <b>devoutly</b> religious and thus friar Lawrence would have been granted with a lot of <b>inherent</b> trust from the audience because of this. And yet his ability to still do wrong shows him to be <b>inherently human</b>. He exemplifies that even men guided by religion can still commit wrong, no matter his intentions.</p> <p>Like a true religious man, he is willing to repent for his sin. Ultimately the Friar had the best intentions and is willing to repent to prove this, but despite his good intentions, his folly was that he could not overcome the <b>insurmountable</b> power of fate.</p> |