

Theme Quotes & Analysis

Friar Lawrence

THEME	ACT	QUOTES	ANALYSIS
Good vs evil	Act 2	<u><i>baleful weeds</i></u>	He uses a soliloquy , describing his plants as "baleful weeds" , evoking the theme of death which is ever-present and foreshadowing 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><i>two opposed kings [... reside] in man as well as herbs</i></u>	States that there is good and evil in men as well as in plants. He speaks of evil as if it were a natural quality and comparing men to plants, he dispels the notion that humans are any more superior than nature. After all, many of the men in the play have a bit of a superiority complex (they think they are superior).
	Act 2	<u><i>the earth, that's nature's mother, is her tomb./ what is her burying. grave that is her womb</i></u>	His use of rhyming couplets , rhyming tomb with womb juxtapose life and death and his iambic pentameter 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><i>the sweetest honey is loathsome in its own deliciousness</i></u>	"Honey" , has connotations of greed and sweetness, which contrasted against how friar Lawrence is talking of a bad future he foresees, is sinister.
	Act 2	<u><i>I gave her, so tortured by my art, a sleeping potion</i></u>	Friar Lawrence uses his plants or his "art" 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 mediator . For it is quintessentially catholic to desire peace and harmony.
	Act 2	<u><i>wisely and slow.</i></u> <u><i>They stumble that run fast</i></u>	He is a mediator of Romeo's expectations , encouraging him to be less hasty. Indeed, friars were, and still are, often tasked with providing people with advice not solely (only) on matters of faith. Romeo confides in Friar Lawrence not his own father, showing that Lawrence acts as a paternal figure for Romeo. This characterises him as wise and un-biased .
	Act 2	<u><i>These violent delights</i></u> <u><i>have violent ends</i></u>	He speaks with a narrator like tone , using repetition to show his apprehension. But he is attempting to mediate the conflict .
	Act 3	<u><i>The world is broad and</i></u> <u><i>wide</i></u>	He is trying to manage Romeo's frustration. Friar Lawrence is paternal (fatherly) in his mediation. He attempts to reconcile conflict 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.

