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# The failure to realize ideal love in the material world in Romeo and Juliet

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#### **Abstract:**

Romeo and Juliet think the grandness of their passion is enough for them to defy their parents will but the fault in their stars is that the environment around them grows so hostile to their passion as a series of events involving the conflict between the two families escalated by the slaying of Mercutio and Tybalt will lead them to take their own lives to escape the violence. It is thus futile for this pair of teenage lovers to defy providence and their parents' will as it ends in their own destruction. Romeo and Juliet is then a play about idealized metaphysical love that fails to realize itself in the material world because it is fallen and hostile to their desire.

Keywords: Romeo; Juliet; Love; Family feud; Tragedy

Many have lauded Romeo and Juliet as a celebration of transcendental idealized notions of heterosexual romantic love. While this is true, the play remains a tragedy about the failure to realize this sort of grand metaphysical love in a fallen material world hostile to its realization. Romeo and Juliet is also less a tale of grand abiding and deep passion as it is a tale of teenage infatuation for the protagonists are barely into adulthood. However it remains a tale of idealized romantic love, that its protagonists fall in love at first sight does not dilute the intensity and authenticity of the passion that is described.

"O Romeo, Romeo! wherefore art thou Romeo?" (2.2.33)

While the above quote may be taken as a pining for Romeo, it is also a wondering of why

Romeo has to be a Montague, a warring faction against Juliet's family the Capulets. Elsewhere Juliet notes that her only love sprung from her only hate, meaning that she has fallen in love with a deadly enemy to her family and as such the love is doomed not to come into fruition as it faces fierce parental opposition and as such ends in both suicides of Romeo and Juliet in a world hostile to the realization of their metaphysical and transcendental ideal love.

"What's in a name? That which we call a rose, By any other word would smell as sweet." (2.2.43-44)

Juliet here is lamenting the importance we attach to names, and of course it is Romeo's name as a Montague which prevents her from realizing their illicit love between them as the Montagues and her family the Capulets are at war.Of course this is hardly the case in the play. Your name is precisely the boundary that defines you and it is because their families are at war that makes their love ill-fated and their love 'star-crossed' as Romeo and Juliet try to defy providence and the will of their parents only to be brought to an ill fated and doomed love as their existential environment, Heideggerean thrown-ness is hostile to the realization of their love as both families react badly to find out that the couple is in love in place of the respective matches their parents had made for them.

But soft, what light through yonder window breaks?

It is the east, and Juliet is the sun. Arise, fair sun, and kill the envious moon, Who is already sick and pale with grief



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That thou, her maid, art far more fair than she....

The brightness of her cheek would shame those stars

As daylight doth a lamp; her eye in heaven Would through the airy region stream so bright That birds would sing and think it were not night. (2.1.44–64).

Romeo describes Juliet as a source of light, transforming the darkness of the night into radiant light. Romeo likewise makes a comparison of Juliet's solar radiance to the personified moon, calling it "sick and pale with grief" at the fact that Juliet, who embodies the sun, is far more radiant and beautiful. Romeo next compares Juliet to the stars, claiming that she eclipses the stars as daylight overpowers a lamp—her eyes alone shine so bright that they will convince the birds to sing at night as if it were day. Romeo uses many metaphors for Juliet as a source of light throughout the play indicating that she is a source of light and hope for him which has irradiated the darkness and parlor of his own life. At the Capulets ball Romeo exclaims

O, she doth teach the torches to turn bright!

It seems that she hangs upon the cheek of night

Like a rich Jewel in an Ethiop's ear. (1.5.41-43)

Indeed for Romeo Juliet is a source of radiance that pierces through the darkness of the night and parlor in his life to prove a source of radiance in darkness like a rich Jewel in an Ethiop's ear, here Romeo is clearly idealizing Juliet and comparing her to fine jewelry that will irradiate his existence in darkness as an Ethiop's ear, an environment of darkness which her beauty as the sun stars and moon irradiates and illumines. To Juliet likewise, Romeo is "day in night" as for Romeo, Juliet is the sun rising from the east, both of them thus conceive of the other as sources of light and radiance for their lives which has brought beauty and hope to their life as sources or radiance, life and hope.

Again in the balcony scene, Romeo idealizes Juliet:

O. speak again, bright angel! For thou art,

As glorious to this night, being o'er my head,

As a winged messenger of heaven.

Unto the white-upturned wondering eyes

Of mortals that fall back to gaze on him

When he bestrides the lazy-pacing clouds

And sails in the bosom of the air (2. 2. 26-31)

Again Juliet is a harbinger of light to the darkness of the night as an angel sent from heaven, an image of white against the dark, and as an angel she sails in the bosom of the air, Romeo immortalizes and idealizes Juliet by describing her as an angel and messenger of heaven, though we will see ironically that their romance will have tragic consequences and bring each other death,

Thus it is seen that to each other, Romeo and Juliet were sources of light and hope in their lives where all had seemed parlor and gloom, yet it is their willful defiance of fate and their parent's desires for them that makes their love star crossed and doomed to failure.

O Romeo, Romeo, Romeo, wherefore art thou Romeo? Deny thy father and refuse thy name, Or if thou wilt not, be but sworn my love, And I'll no longer be a Capulet.

(2.1.74-78).

The main tension in the play is examined when Juliet asks Romeo to deny his name as he is a Montague, a warring faction against her family the Capulet's. The fault in their stars seems that their families being at war seems to doom their metaphysical and intense passion to being short lived as Romeo slays Tybalt in revenge for killing his bosom friend Mercutio and as such initiates a series of actions which will end in his being a fugitive as well as doomed to witness Juliet's feigned death to escape the chaos and thus take his life in grief to mourn Juliet's, only for Juliet to awake and find Romeo dead and thus take her life as well. Romeo and Juliet think the grandness of their passion is enough



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