



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

Chung Chin-Yi

Research scholar National University of Singapore
 Enigma719@hotmail.com

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, their Heideggerian 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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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.

Reference:

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