

PRINCE

Rebellious subjects, enemies to peace,
Profaners of this neighbour-stained steel,--
Will they not hear? What, ho! you men, you beasts,
That quench the fire of your pernicious rage
With purple fountains issuing from your veins,
On pain of torture, from those bloody hands
Throw your mistemper'd weapons to the ground,
And hear the sentence of your moved prince.
Three civil brawls, bred of an airy word,
By thee, old Capulet, and Montague,
Have thrice disturb'd the quiet of our streets,
And made Verona's ancient citizens
Cast by their grave beseeching ornaments,
To wield old partisans, in hands as old,
Canker'd with peace, to part your canker'd hate:
If ever you disturb our streets again,
Your lives shall pay the forfeit of the peace.
For this time, all the rest depart away:
You Capulet; shall go along with me:
And, Montague, come you this afternoon,
To know our further pleasure in this case,
To old Free-town, our common judgment-place.
Once more, on pain of death, all men depart.

PRINCE

You rebels and enemies of the peace, who curse
your own weapons by turning them on your
neighbors.

[To himself] Can they not hear me?

[To the fighters] Silence! You men, you beasts, who
can only put out the fire of your anger by spilling
fountains of blood. I will torture you unless you drop
your weapons from your bloody hands and listen to
me, your enraged Prince. Because of nothing more
than a casual word from you, Capulet and
Montague, three battles have raged in our city's
streets. These battles have forced even Verona's
elderly citizens to take off their dignified clothes and
jewelry and instead pick up old and rusty spears in
order to put an end to your fighting. If any of you
Capulets or Montagues disturb the peace in the
future, you will pay for it with your lives. Now
everyone go home. Capulet, you come with me in
order to hear what else I want from you. Montague,
you come this afternoon to old Free-town, where I
deliver my judgments. Everyone else, leave this
place right now, or I will have you killed.

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