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The Importance of Friar Laurence

In the tragedy “Romeo and Juliet” composed by William Shakespeare, Romeo meets Juliet by chance. Despite the rivalry between their two families, they fall hopelessly in love. As a result, Romeo wishes for Friar Laurence to marry them the following day. The Friar, shocked by the sudden news, falls as a victim to the requests and pleads both lovers ask of him. When Romeo, having been banished for murdering Juliet’s cousin: Tybalt, flees to Mantua, he approaches a neighboring city. Juliet, being forced into a second marriage, demands a solution with her life in the balance. Friar Laurence gives one single solution: a vial of poison that would fool her parents, allowing Juliet to be placed in the Capulet vault where Romeo will come and sweep her away to Mantua. Thus, the two would live their lives happily without their parents’ ruling. Although the proposed idea seems settled, the strategy breaks apart, causing the two lovers to meet their lethal demise.
 The Friar is responsible for the deaths of Romeo and Juliet because he did not hold back their wedding. In the play, the Friar demonstrates his frustration of Romeo’s quick turn of love, commenting that “young men’s love then lies not truly in their hearts, but in their eyes”. After Romeo begs the Friar to not “chidst me (himself) oft for loving Rosaline”, basically telling the Friar that no attention will be given unless the talk is about the marriage between himself and Juliet. Friar Laurence, technically giving up on looking at the brighter side of things, tells him that he would marry them with the hope that this would “turn the households’ rancor to pure gold”, or saying that he wishes that the two's marriage would cease the bloodshed between the Montagues and the Capulets. Although there is definitely a good intention to this, another route that could’ve been taken to avoid the fate of these two lovers would be to recognize the “love” Romeo had been endorsed by was merely pure lust. Furthermore, the “love” that the two “lovers” were in was childish, for the two of them are both at a young age.
 The Friar is also held accountable for the perishment of the two lovers because of other various reasons. An example plainly shown in the readings that escalates the plot line is when Juliet accepts the given vial mentioned by Friar Laurence. When Juliet was threatened by her parents who were forcing another marriage upon their daughter, this time to the County Paris, she goes to seek the Friar for dear help who assures her by saying, “I do spy a kind of hope”. With that, he handed her the vial, in which the content contained within was a dangerous toxin that would cause all the organs in her body to shut down, her breath to cease as her cheeks would begin to appear pale, and her lips portraying the dark color of death. However, it would all be an illusion, a facade to manipulate whoever saw her into thinking that she had perished. This caused Balthasar: one of the witnesses to Juliet’s “funeral”, to run to the city of Mantua, allowing him to inform his master of the tragedy that had destroyed his beloved. As the news of Juliet’s death became known to Romeo, he fled to seek an apothecary allowing him to commit suicide with a vial of fatal poison.
 The Friar was responsible for giving into Romeo’s pleas for marriage in secrecy. Although he states that all his intentions were to “turn the household’s rancor into pure gold”, he marries the son of Montague and the daughter of Capulet in complete privacy. Without the knowledge of Juliet’s parents: the Capulets, they force upon their daughter a marriage to the noble house of Prince Escalus, which causes Juliet to go and take her vial of poison from the Friar. With that, Juliet would give the impression of death, mentioned previously. Balthasar would then escape to Mantua, inform his master, which would lead to the death of Romeo, causing Juliet to follow in her lover's footsteps.
 Friar Laurence is responsible for the deaths of Romeo and Juliet in three ways: the first being that he did not prevent the marriage of the two, he handed Juliet the vial of poison, and wedding the two in secrecy. Although he stated beforehand that he did not mean any harm to befall the two, the friar did mention that “these violent delights have violent ends”. To explain, the sudden joys of life will have sudden endings, just “like fire and powder”, which can explode in a quick and abrupt manner.