

Prologue to Romeo and Juliet

(Wm. Shakespeare)

Two households, both alike in dignity
In fair Verona, where we lay our scene,
From ancient grudge break to new mutiny
Where civil blood makes civil hands unclean.

From forth the fatal loins of these two foes
A pair of star-crossed lovers took their life
Whose mis-adventured, piteous overthrows
Doth with their death bury their parents' strife.

The fearful passage of their death-marked love
And the continuance of their parent's rage
Which, but their children's end, naught could remove,
Is now the two hours' traffic of our stage.

The which, if you with patient ears attend,
What here shall miss, our toils shall strive to mend.