

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

From forth the fatalloins of these two foes A pair of star-cross'd lovers take their life; Whose misadventured piteousoverthrows Do with their deathbury their parents' strife.

The fearful passage of their death-mark'd love,

And the continuance of their parents' rage, Which, but their children's end, nought could remove,

Is now the two hours' traffic of our stage; The which if you with patient ears attend, What here shall miss, our toil shall strive to mend.