

**ROMEO Monologue**  
**Scene 17 (*Church*)**

Banishment? Be merciful, say "death"!  
For exile hath more terror in his look,  
Much more than death! Do not say "banishment"!

There is no world without Verona walls,  
But purgatory, torture, hell itself!  
Hence "banishèd" is "banish'd from the world,"  
And world's exile is death! Then "banishèd"  
Is death mis-termed. Calling death "banishèd,"  
Thou cutt'st my head off with a golden axe  
And smile'st upon the stroke that murders me.

'Tis torture, and not mercy! Heav'n is here  
Where Juliet lives, and every cat and dog  
And little mouse, every unworthy thing,  
Live here in heaven and may look on her,  
But Romeo may not; he is banishèd.  
And say'st thou yet that exile is not death?  
O how hast thou the heart, my friend professed,  
To mangle me with that word "banishèd"?