

## Aspects of destiny and fate in Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare

### جوانب القدر والمصير في روميو وجوليت لوليام شكسبير

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### المستخلص

تتضمن الموضوعات المختارة الحظ ، الذي سيتم ربطه بالإلهة فورتونا من خلال رمزين، القدر والمصير، بما يتماشى مع حقيقة أن هذه مأساة. سيتم ربط هذين المفهومين الأخيرين بأساطير اليونان، وسيتم شرحهما وفحصهما من قبل العديد من علماء اللغة والفلاسفة والعلماء عبر العصور. بعد تقديم الاستنتاجات والتعريفات حول أوجه التشابه والاختلاف بين القدر والمصير، سيتم تفسيرها زمنياً من خلال مسرحية شكسبير للبحث عن أوجه تشابه ضمنية وصريحة للمشاكل. سيتم تقسيم هذه إلى دلالات جيدة وسلبية للكلمات، كإشارات إلى القدر والمصير التي يبدو أنها لها نفس المعنى .

### Abstract

The chosen themes include fortune, which would be connected with Goddess Fortuna through two symbols, destiny and fate, in keeping with the fact that this is a tragedy. These final two notions will be linked to mythology of Greek, and they would be explained and examined by many philologists, philosophers, and scientists across ages. Following the presentation of conclusions and definitions on the similarities and differences between destiny and fate, they would be interpreted chronologically through play of Shakespeare to look for implicit and explicit parallels to problems. These would be further subdivided to good and negatives connotations of words, as allusions to destiny and fate that appear to have a same meaning. **Key words :** Demonstrate / destiny / grasp / tension / discord

### Introduction

The goal of this study is to use Shakespeare's tragedy *Romeo and Juliet* to demonstrate the notions of fortune, fate, and destiny. The key similarities and contrasts between them will also be discussed. In terms of these principles, I'll focus on specific difficulties that arise. Also, to better grasp what Shakespeare's perspective was regarding these themes, the play will be divided chronologically and then according to good or bad expressions of the concepts. To analyze this play, I will concentrate on the perspectives of different critics on these topics. The tragic character of the play will be crucial to the understanding of the three elements under consideration. Indeed, *Romeo and Juliet* might be viewed as had a philosophical basis, according to *Kottman (2012: 5)*, whose fundamental model of the "tragic" entails conflict between societal obligations rather than sexual desire. This concept will be utilized to demonstrate that the play's tension is created by the characters' families' hatred, and all that this entails in terms of their fate being determined by fate. The freedom of characters, and whether they were truly had freedom to select their own fate or were merely dolls of circumstances behind their control, is closely connected to this concept.

### Romeo and Juliet

William Shakespeare's play *Romeo and Juliet* was written in 1597. According to *R. Weis (2012: 2)*, the narrative is based on Arthur Brooke's poem *The Tragical History of Romeus and Juliet*, written in 1562. In the 15th century, Verona, Italy is the setting. The Capulets and the Montagues are two competing families in Verona. *Romeo and Juliet* are members of these families, and despite their families' hate for one other, they fall in love. Friar Laurence secretly marries them, and after a series of disasters, both commit themselves, bringing their tragic love tale to a close. Both characters are depicted as victims of destiny, unlike earlier tragedies about great men dropped from grace, *Romeo and Juliet* are members of two prominent, well-off Verona households who are not members of the nobility (*Holbrook: 2015:8*). They are portrayed as sad heroes, in my opinion. The major characters (heroes) in *Romeo and Juliet* attempt to overcome hardship throughout the play, and as a result, they might be classified as "heroes of tragedies" pushed into their fate, since they were doomed into falling. Juliet was depicted like a sad heroine, according to *Weis (2012: 3)*. The word "thirteen" and Juliet's actual age are never mentioned in the play. Juliet, on the other hand, is 13 years old, and in Act 5, she says thirteen lines, one for each year of her existence. *J.K Franson (1996: 244-249)* investigated facts concerning the number thirteen was unlucky in age of Juliet, concluding that this number heightens the of Juliet's dramatically journey from innocence into suicide. The age of fifteen were considered as minors in Elizabethan England, and the marriage age was set at fourteen years old. Shakespeare was also writing this play, according to Franson, to warn boys and girls about the pitfalls of love and marriage. In addition, he makes certain connections between age of Juliet and her all name: her full name had 13 letters, she was the play's 13th named character, Romeo referred to her for 14 times through the play by name, and the Capulet's Ball list contains 13 proper names.

### The problem

Imagine getting caught trying to see him or marry him because your parents disagree. A similar problem appeared in famous tragedy of William Shakespeare famous tragedy, *Romeo and Juliet*. In the play, fortunes from two different families, Romeo met Juliet at a party and fell in love with each other at first sight. Capulet and the Montagu family. This caused problems for *Romeo and Juliet*. They did not want to marry or fall in love or meet each other because of the disagreement between them, But the broken lovers continued this dangerous act. I got married within a few days of getting to know each other, but it didn't take long before the problem was different. If there was no conflict between the two families, *Romeo and Juliet* would marry without any problems, because their parents would not refuse the marriage. "Family discord is the reason why the relationship between *Romeo and Juliet* is 'forbidden love. Because of this disagreement, but not from the other side of the family. When Juliet first met Romeo at a Capulet party, it was love at first sight. Later, when the nurse tells him that Romeo is the son of a family, Juliet confesses, "*My only love comes from my only hate!*" Scene of Shakespeare's First Law v. 64. Juliet is upset by this discovery and continues to say that love is a beast, making it fall precipitous in every case, learning that her parents *Romeo and Juliet* have decided to marry secretly, but this causes problems. The monk and the nanny excepted, but because they were afraid of getting into trouble, they were not allowed to tell anyone.

### The importance of study

What Role Does Fate and Destiny Play in *Romeo and Juliet*?. *Romeo and Juliet*, as we all know, is a sad love story. Romeo and Juliet died as a result of a variety of disasters, but they were primarily victims of their society and their own desires. As a result, fate and destiny are unquestionably the most influential factors in the couple's terrible tragedy. Fate and destiny are sometimes confused since they have similar meanings. Your whole circumstances or state in life is referred to as fate. Destiny is an occurrence that will occur in the future. Although fate and destiny play a role, it's also possible that some characters' deeds were self-inflicted. The society of Elizabethan England was vastly different from that of now. What we now consider appropriate would have been frowned upon. The play is received differently by the two audiences. The death of *Romeo and Juliet* would not be questioned by an Elizabethan audience since they lived in a violent world and regarded death as a part of existence. Although Romeo and Juliet's deaths may not have had an impact on them, the fact that they died by suicide did.

### In play Romeo and Juliet, there are elements of destiny and fate

The many components of destiny and fate will be analyzed by following chronological order of the play in order to clarify the allusions provided according to the plot.

### The first part of the play

The Chorus refers to the sad conclusion in the Prologue, and both characters are portrayed as being created from "the fatal events" of their two adversaries, Montague and Capulet, implying which their families' hatred leads to the mistake in their narrative tragedy. Moreover, it indicates the fate theirs was predetermined from the moment they were born. This is why the "*star-crossed lovers*" commit suicide (*Prol. I. 5-6*). So, right from the start, the concept of fate and the unseen influence of evil stars on the characters' life is emphasized. It provides crucial data about the events to spectator and establishes the notion which the lovers were unable to alter the path of events. As a result, the Chorus introduced us to the major characters like unhappy as they were the unlucky heirs of "fatal events," condemned from the start into suffer an awful death that would end their parents' rivalry. so, they would become adversaries as well .

#### **Positively interpreted elements of destiny and fate**

The fact that destiny and fate were referenced beside good events, like Romeo and Juliet's first kiss, is what I mean when I say "positive meaning." When Romeo says, "*This is a mild sin*," he is describing it. Unbeknownst to Romeo, this lighthearted depiction indicates that when the act is committed, their lives would be condemned. Romeo declares that his existence belongs to his enemy, Juliet Capulet, and that his purpose for existing is in the hands of Juliet, his antagonist, as another sign of fate. His negative emotions before attending the ball is now reflected in his lover, and who also represented his terrible fate. We can not, however, argue that it was a terrible or horrible experience for Romeo, as this deadly sensation is transformed to his first true love. Moreover, Juliet desired to learn who that man is, she uttered an ominous prophecy even she says, "*My tomb is like my wedding bed*" (*I, v, 134*). The audience was aware of this foreshadowing since the Chorus revealed the fatal heroes, who were doomed to die, at the start of the play. And Juliet begins to despair, believing that this guy may be married, and that if he is, she will be unable to marry him, and that she would die as a result of her refusal to marry him. The audience, on the other hand, saw that she would die after marrying him, and her words may become true, but not as he was really married, like she had anticipated. Friar Laurence's cell has an element of fate. When Romeo goes looking for Friar Laurence, he discovers him brewing a potion that may or may not be the same as the one Juliet would take. Romeo travels there in order to prepare for his marriage to Juliet. Romeo not only seeks for aid, but also from his biggest foe, the Friar, telling him that they were both in love, and because they couldn't love one other, they were wounded by arrow of Cupid. As a result, they required solution for each other. When Tybalt was slain by Romeo in Act 3, scene I, (133), wife of Capulet called for the death of the human who murdered Tybalt, as the Prince has vowed death of the two families to initiate another conflict in Act 1, scene I, (79-95). The Prince, on the other hand, did not kill Romeo, but exiled him from Verona. It was like to get second chance not to murder Romeo, except it was more bad for Romeo because he won't be able to see Juliet. As a result, we observe a shift in fortune of Romeo. However, his erratic fortune would alter once more in his future. Romeo was prepared to take the medicine which would allow him to get rid of his life and will reunite with Juliet once again. He claimed that poison would not kill him, but rather will give him life by providing the only answer to his issues and saving him by bringing him into eternal life. As a result, he desires for the potion's impact to be immediate, so that he might be free of the heavy weight imposed by fate.

#### **Destiny and fate elements having a bad connotation**

Both Benvolio and Romeo discuss deadly love in their first discussion, and Romeo was unhappy within his existence as he was sick with love for Rosaline, cousin of Juliet and a member of the Capulet's family. "*Alas, that love, so delicate, in his view*," Benvolio says of Cupid, who has a soft and meek demeanour and is regarded as the illogical god of love (*I, i, 167*). Cupid is blind because he has the ability to pick people from all walks of life into fall with love. It was an allusion about falling *Romeo and Juliet* in love at first sight, because they each other do. As a result, Cupid and Lady Fortune are comparable in that they both have the ability to impact everyone owing to their blindness. According to *Cesare Ripa (1987:441)*, Fortune is shown as "blind" in relation to the authors to demonstrate that she did not favor one individual over other (*Iconologia. I., 1987: 441*). Cupid is blinded, according to *Weis (2012: 136)*, since love is always illogical. Cupid unites the two lovers despite his blindness. When Romeo travels to the Ball of Capulet, he wasn't in the mood for party, but Cupid takes care of him. Romeo's evolving personality is clearly evident. He is head over heels in love with Rosaline one minute and Juliet the next. As a result, he was the ideal goal for Fortune and whims of Cupid. Moreover, when chatting with Paris, Capulet prophesies which females who will marry too early would end up with a broken and destroyed life. "*And those who are so early wedded are too soon marred*" (*I, ii, 13*), suggesting that it was what happened for his bride. As a result, Paris would have to stay a little longer to marry with Juliet, as she was only thirteen years old. Wife of Capulet, on the other hand, believes Juliet is old enough to bear a child. She also attempts to

persuade Juliet to marry with Paris. As a result, Juliet would love in accordance with Juliet parents' wishes and approval. Juliet is unable to make a decision in this situation. Juliet's life has been shaped by fate from the start, as her Nurse, rather than her parents, has cared for her. Parents of Juliet were in the Mantua when she was weaning, according to *Weis (2012:150-151)*. As a result of her fate or destiny, Juliet was not with her parents at that crucial time in her life. Following his marriage to Juliet, Romeo is exiled to Mantua. As a result, Weiss emphasizes Juliet's alone on her most significant days. (*Weis, 2012; 150-151*). Another sequence of misfortunes begins in Act two, scene four, when Tybalt sends the letter to house of Romeo, he invited him to a fight since Romeo attended the ball of Capulet, demanding Tybalt for defending his reputation and honor. As a result of that letter, which was also a sign of destiny and fate, the fatality will begin. When Mercutio and Benvolio learn of Romeo's plan to respond to Tybalt's duel with another, they prophesy, "*Alas, dear Romeo, he is already dead, stabbed / with a dagger a white wench's black eye*" (*II, iv, 13-14*). Tybalt was said to be a good fighter who had never lost a battle, prompting Benvolio and Mercutio to believe that Romeo would perish at hands of Tybalt. Laurence adds that after the marriage, there should be no guilt on their awareness as they would be linked in marriage to the rest of life theirs. However, Romeo claims the repercussions from this conduct are insignificant in comparison to their overall enjoyment. Friar Laurence warns them once more, telling them that they must love each other in moderation, since the only love that lasts is moderate love. And such love, which occurs without restraint and at a breakneck pace, will also expire quickly. He compares intense love to fire and gunpowder, claiming that when they combine, they get devoured. This act's balcony scene also depicts the divide between families of Romeo and Juliet. The Elizabethan balcony of theatre was an architectural feature. As *G.W. Williams (1964: 144)* points out, she was always stood up on the balcony, while Romeo was below, in garden of Juliet ; this is a divide of socioeconomic classes or even families. They will attempt to shatter this deadly divide, despite the fact that it has been present since the beginning. The fact that the death occurred on wedding day of *Romeo and Juliet*, which is really inflicted by Romeo, was sign of fate, moreover, the resultant anguish was merely the start of the far bad pain that would follow. Romeo is also hinting that he is Lady Fortune's victim. The city of Verona has been assailed by death, and as a result, certain characters in the play, like as Mercutio, begin to perish. Death of Mercutio was before Romeo could inform him that Romeo had married cousin of Tybalt, as a result, he could not accept the challenge of Tybalt, in addition to Romeo was unable to respond since Tybalt was there. Romeo was banished for murdering cousin of Juliet, but Juliet was also sentenced to an unhappy life. She believes Romeo is to blame for her change of fortune, and she refers to him as "*O snake heart hidden with a blooming face!*" as her worst adversary. (*III, ii, 73*) and "*Beautiful tyrant, fiend angelical*" (*III, ii, 75*), and she expands on that theme when she asked him, "*When didst thou bower the spirit of a fiend / In mortal paradise of such sweet flesh?*" (*III, ii, 81-82*). Juliet was indicating that she loved Romeo's exterior attractiveness and ignored his internal beauty. Fate of Juliet was to love a cruel guy, and she recalled her warning of mother about Paris. Mother of Juliet advised her to marry with Paris as, like a book, she shall look at real men's beauty of rather than just the front page (*I, iii, 80-95*). It was there that Juliet discusses Romeo's exterior attractiveness, concluding that because he is a lovely man, he cannot be a nice person. Juliet regrets ignoring her mother's counsel about Paris in both passages, and she regrets ignoring her mother. Juliet, on the other hand, immediately recognizes that Romeo was her spouse, and that she need to defend him instead of her cousin. She also claimed that Romeo was not existed to endure bad fortunes or deaths, despite the fact that fate has inscribed fatality into his destiny. Furthermore, Romeo's death is viewed as worse than Juliet's death since banishment ruins and kills individuals, including those who were not banished but to watch the suffering through banishment of Romeo, such as hers. In addition to, once Juliet learns of Tybalt's death as a result of Romeo's actions, the latter approaches cell of Friar Laurence on Monday evening, and Friar informed Romeo that he was "*wedded to misfortune*" (*III, iii, 3*). It is inscribed in Romeo's fate that catastrophe would be his marriage companion. They were newlyweds who are unable to savour their love. Romeo thinks like Juliet since he doesn't know what life would be like without her. As a result, Verona's walls are devoid of life. His going from Verona was an going from his world, and he was condemned into agony, purgatory, and torment. As a result, being banished was like to being buried alive. It had previously established that names of *Romeo and Juliet*, Juliet signifying the stars and Romeo representing catastrophe, are mutually fatal. There are yet more examples of this mutual dichotomy, one of which is their sadness. I also emphasize this point (*2012: 263*). Weiss added that they grieved in the same moment owing to their destiny and fate, since they shared the same sort of fate, and they were completely mutual in all area of their situations and lives, as happiness and doom, as the Nurse informs the Friar (*263*). Furthermore, when Romeo asked the Nurse, "*What says / My hidden woman to our cancelled love?*" (*III, iii, 97*), as they

married in secret; there was an emphasis on the first syllable, which is a foreshadowing of his "cancelled love" (Weis, 2012: 264). The Prince cancels his love since he is banished. As Romeo sobs in agony at his tragic banishment, he considered suicide as the only solution to stop the death of Montague. Romeo wished to extinguish the influence Montague in all his life. Capulet wanted to marry Paris to Juliet with a few days, even without her agreement, which brings up Friar Laurence's warning that anything that moves too quickly is bound to fall apart. As a result, the marriage that Capulet committed to Paris would be doomed to fail, and the wedding would not take place as they planned it. The source of this failure, however, is Juliet, who refused to marry with Paris since she was already married Romeo. Furthermore, *Romeo and Juliet* share a deadly sense as they say their goodbyes because Romeo is about to go for his exile. While Romeo is departing, Juliet looks at him as if he is dead. She makes another prediction. It's a life comparison, since they're only alive when they're together, and when they're apart, they die, because, as Weis (2012: 275) points out, Romeo had the same feelings about Juliet. "Dry grief drains our blood," Romeo says to Juliet as he bids her farewell.

### Synonyms for elements of destiny / fate

Furthermore, Romeo appears to anticipate something awful happening immediately before the ball of Capulet: I, iv, 106-113.) because he is afraid of the repercussions of that night, which was decreed by stars to finish in a "early death." Which he didn't realize was that one of those repercussions would be his premature death, as a result for his celestial destiny. Moreover, when Tybalt tried to eject Romeo out from the ball of them, his uncle prohibited it, the Tybalt claimed that it incursion would turn to greatest grief later since Romeo is trespassing on hallowed ground. Tybalt was able to see Romeo and Juliet's courtly love exchange. Romeo praised eyes of Juliet like "two of the loveliest lights in all the heaven" as he approaches the balcony of Juliet's chamber in Act II, scene ii, early Monday morning, leading up to dawn (II, ii, 15). Really, far away of accentuating starry beauty of Juliet, the notion here was that Romeo's future was determined by the stars, because Juliet was compared to a Pleiad, destiny of Romeo was dictated by Juliet. So, along with the stars, Juliet controls his fate, she also represents the cause of his tragic end. Romeo's fortunes altered when he met her, and he is doomed to die early as a result of his love. Mercutio also chatted Benvolio about challenge of Tybalt to Romeo in scene iv, Act II, and as Romeo arrived, Mercutio compared ladies of Romeo to historical lovers of tragedy. According to R. Weis (2012: 212), Dido was Queen of Carthage, fell in love with Aeneas, and eventually committed suicide. Cleopatra, Antony's and Caesar's sweetheart, also committed suicide. The Trojan War was hastened after Helen of Troy was captured by Paris. Furthermore, lover of Hero perished in the hell spot while attempting to see Juliet, as did loves of Ovid Pyramus and Thisbe. As a result, all of these famous women doom themselves and their partners. As a result, Mercutio predicts that a lady will put Romeo's fate to an end. There was another allusion of destiny and fate, death of Mercutio was foretold. Mercutio wanted to include Benvolio in their conversation since he is only talking to Romeo about his sweetheart and not to Benvolio. "*Come between us, dear Benvolio, my wits faints,*" *Mercutio exclaims (II, iv, 66-67)*. It is an ironic sign to Mercutio's terrible fate, which will be brought about by our hero Romeo (III, I 89), when he came between Tybalt and Mercutio, murdering Mercutio. When Juliet expected to hear the trumpets of Judgment Day, implying that she is imagining her death once more. Her fate is used interchangeably with destiny of her. When she discovered it was Tybalt who had died, she believed her fate had altered and "general doom" was approaching, thus Tybalt and Romeo's fates herald the end of time. "All great feelings are a type of atheists, who believe no future," S.T. Coleridge famously observed (*in Hawkes, T. 1969: 138*). This is an excellent description of love of *Romeo and Juliet* since it appeared that, as atheists, profound affections did not believe in a future together. When Romeo is informed of his banishment by Friar Laurence, he refers to it as "*pain, not compassion,*" because "*paradise was Where / here Juliet resides*" (III, iii, 29-30) (This concept might be linked to admonition of Friar Laurence before the wedding (III, iii, 132), which he advised them to love slowly and carefully, for only moderate loves survive forever.) Friar's previous terror of the passion of young lovers, as powder and fire, would be extinguished at the time of fulfillment, according to Weis (2012: 266). That concept, in my opinion, alludes to the point at which they would finally be able to be with each other and the marriage would be consummated. This moment would occur only in the final moments of their life, when they committed suicide in order to spend eternity with each other. And a result, they are the architects of their own doom, as they both commit themselves. As a result, their lives are ruined by their own choices, not by the actions of the stars, and no one forced them to die with their committing suicide. Romeo bemoaned on his misfortune. He claimed that even dogs, cats, or any worthless creature, can be easy and free connect with his lover Juliet, and that he could not do it so "*and every cat and dog / And small mouse, every unworthy thing, / Live here in paradise and may look on her*" (III, iii, 29-33, 41-42). Flies have better luck

than he does, as a person. He despises and criticizes his fate, and he wished to be as an animal. Maybe the inference was that because animals are not controlled by the stars, they have simply kiss hand of Juliet, but he can't as he is human being. Friar Laurence identified and selected the location for banishment of Romeo (III, iii, 148) This is the earliest mention of Mantua as the location of Romeo's banishment, according to Weis. The Prince forbade him from entering Verona, but he did not declare a location. It's possible that the Friar's choice was influenced by its closeness to Verona. Juliet's parents were also said to have stayed at this location on the day she was weaned (I, iii, 25-29). As her birthday was coming up in few days which Romeo would be in Mantua, she will transform into a lady or teenager. As a result, Juliet's most significant individuals are in Mantua, far away from her, at every unique and crucial time of her life. Mantua's selection also foreshadows Romeo's fate, because it was the last destination for life of Juliet, therefore Romeo would be exiled to Mantua. Their fates were destined together at all times. Furthermore, the message of Friar was unable to reach Romeo in Mantua. And, during his stay in Mantua, he will decide to commit suicide since Balthazar informed him that his lover Juliet had died, and Romeo would purchase the potion fate in Mantua. So, Mantua was considered as a land of torment and death for lovers. Juliet's tragic existence is controlled not just by the stars, but also by her parents' dictatorial strictness. Juliet, on the other hand, did not want to marry of Paris and so did not always obey demands of her parents. She was being solely governed by stars. The Capulet tells her, she was dead for him since she betrayed him by refusing to marry Paris, and he believes that having a disobedient daughter is worse than having a dead daughter. As a result, Juliet appears to have given her life for him. Capulet, on the other hand, is unaware that Juliet has disgraced her parents even more by marrying a Montague. The Capulet claimed that a daughter was a gift from the great God, but his daughter was cursed since she was out of his control. This play addresses universal issue: the struggle between parent and children ( it does not mean that just the destiny and misfortune love are controlled by super forces of nature), in which teenagers are expected to follow their parents' orders, but they invariably do the opposite. Juliet is ruled not just by supernatural powers/stars, but also by her parents' dictatorial instructions, as previously stated. Their parents are furious with her because she refuses to accept their advice. Capulet, on the other hand, simply wants to marry her with Paris since Paris is about to acquire a fortune, which would improve his social standing. Capulet accepts this marriage solely because it benefits him, not his daughter. As a result, Capulet intentionally seeks to exert influence over Juliet's fate.

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