

The conflict here is between sex and religion

■ - Language

■ - Structure

Very bold
starter

² Romeo talks the lead with the first quatrain...

ROMEO

A [To JULIET] If I profane with my unworshiest hand
B This holy shrine, the gentle fine is this:
A My lips, two blushing pilgrims, ready stand
B To smooth that rough touch with a tender kiss.

JULIET

³ Juliet talks the second

C Good pilgrim, you do wrong your hand too much,
D Which mannerly devotion shows in this;
C For saints have hands that pilgrims' hands do touch,
D And palm to palm is holy palmers' kiss.

ROMEO

⁴ The third is shared between them

E Have not saints lips, and holy palmers too?

JULIET

F Ay, pilgrim, lips that they must use in prayer.

ROMEO

E O, then, dear saint, let lips do what hands do;
F They pray, grant thou, lest faith turn to despair.

JULIET

⁵ And the final couplet is split evenly

G Saints do not move, though grant for players' sake.

ROMEO

G Then move not, while my prayer is sent up take.
Thus from my lips, by yours, my sin is purged.

JULIET

Then have my lips the sin that they have took.

ROMEO

Sin from thy lips? O trespass sweetly urged!
Give me my sin again.

JULIET

You kiss by the book.

Nurse

Madam, your mother craves a word with you.

ROMEO

What is her mother?

Nurse

Marry, bachelor,
Her mother is the lady of the house,
And a good lady, and a wise and virtuous
I nursed her daughter, that you talk'd withal;
I tell you, he that can lay hold of her
Shall have the chinks.

Sonnets are associated with love and romance

Vocabulary
of the body

¹ There is a gradual
inter-mingling of speech
as the sonnet progresses

The sonnet naturally fits into the dialogue,
this highlights how compatible they are, as
they speak in shared verse

Vocabulary of religion is being used to
represent love.

(and juxtaposing)
This combination is electrifying, as they
are seeking physical desire while
simultaneously discussing their religious
concerns.

This also attests to the seriousness of their relation-
ship, their love transcends physical attraction.

Key words are linked by rhyme, here Shakespeare
is referencing the hardships that will befall the couple.
The 'prayer' of their sacred kiss will result in the 'despair'
of them both dying.

They've reached an understanding, a kiss is a
prayer, so they can kiss without problem.

Romeo calls the kiss a 'sin'. This is probably an
acknowledgement of how inappropriate it is to kiss
someone on first sight.

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