

Act 1 Scene 1 (edited)

PRINCE ESCALUS:

Rebellious subjects, enemies to peace,
Profaners of this neighbour-stained steel-
Will they not hear? – What, ho! You men, you beasts,
Throw your mistempered weapons to the ground,
And hear the sentence of your movéd prince.
Three civil brawls, bred of an airy word,
By thee, Old Capulet, and Montague,
Have thrice disturbed the quiet of our streets.
If ever you disturb our streets again,
Your lives shall pay the forfeit of the peace.
Once more, on pain of death, all men depart.

► Notes

‘Profaners of this neighbour-stained steel’: you spoil your swords by staining them with your neighbours blood

‘mistempered’: created for the wrong reasons

‘movéd’: angry

‘pay the forfeit of the peace’: be the price for spoiling the peace