




**THE VIVID LOVE  
IMAGERY IN WILLIAM  
SHAKESPEARE'S *TWELFTH  
NIGHT AND ROMEO AND  
JULIET***

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## Abstract

The aim of this paper is to shed light on the theme of “The Vivid Love Imagery in William Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night and Romeo and Juliet*”. The paper will analyse how Shakespeare has used language for figurative effects in both plays. It will also comment on the use of vivid imagery of love in both plays which has an important role in refreshing the readers' understanding and enabling them to see the things and their connections. the paper will also shed light on the use of poetic imagery with its power of suggestion that enriches the substance of the play.



- In *Twelfth Night*, the romantic comedy is rich in poetry and puns, a romance with none of the required elements missing. It is a play about drowning: in love, sorrow, and appetite. Love is described as a hunter, disease, or something willed by fate. In the same way, Shakespeare in *Romeo and Juliet* explores the genuine passionate love of the "two star-crossed lovers" whose love conquers all obstacles. Imagery of religion, battlefield, dark and light as well as natural phenomena, all contribute in exploring themes of love and fate.



**O, when mine eyes did see Olivia first,  
Methought she purged the air of pestilence!  
That instant was I turned into a hart;  
And my desires, like fell and cruel hounds,  
Ever since pursue me. (1. i. 22-6)**



**Have you not set mine honour at the stake  
And baited it with all the unmuzzled thoughts  
That tyrannous heart can think? To one of your receiving**





**Romeo**

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

**Juliet**

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

**Romeo**

Have not saints lips, and holy palmers too?

**Juliet**

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

**Romeo**

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

**Juliet**

Saints do not move, though grant for prayers' sake.

**Romeo**

Then move not, while my prayer's effect I take.  
Thus from my lips, by yours, my sin is purged.

(1.v.91-106)



Now old desire doth in his death-bed lie,  
And young affection gapes to be his heir;  
That fair for which love groan'd for and would  
die,  
With tender Juliet match'd, is now not fair.

