ROMEO

[To a Servingman.]

What lady is that, which doth enrich the hand

Of yonder knight?

Servant

I know not, sir.

ROMEO

O, she doth teach the torches to burn bright!

It seems she hangs upon the cheek of night

Like a rich jewel in an Ethiop's ear;

Beauty too rich for use, for earth too dear!

So shows a snowy dove trooping with

crows, As yonder lady o'er her fellows shows.

The measure done, I'll watch her place of stand,

And, touching hers, make blessed my rude hand.

Did my heart love till now? For swear it, sight!

For I ne'er saw true beauty till this night.

The extract is taken from the tragedy of Shakespeare “Romeo and Juliet”. It refers to when Romeo first sees Juliet.

The Capulets are giving a feast, and Romeo attends it disguised by a mask. He is in love with Rosaline(a typical proper name of classical literature), but things are about to change. When Romeo sees Juliet he is immediately impressed by lady. Significantly, lady means magnify. He asks to a Servingman what is the lady, To ask this, Shakespeare uses the interrogative pronoun “what “ not “which” to underline the quality of the lady. The lady , Juliet, is able to enrich men, therefore she is up to men reach **deliverance.**

**In second place , the servant is not able to answer the question , that is why poor people do not notice the same characteristic (beauty, physical appearance ) that cultured people see.   
Juliet is immediately considered like the light: Romeo gives voice to his considerations . Alliteration of sounds “t” and “b” in “** teach the torches to burn bright” refers to human qualities . Romeo first notices Juliet’s body, after her hand , her cheek and her ear. Beauty is not only associated to body, thus she appears light which shines the night.

Romeo, trough similes and metaphors , underlines Juliet’s qualities and he want to describe her like an angel “Beauty too rich for use, for earth too dear”. She is like a snowy dove , that represents pristine purity, innocence and peace of heart and spirit. Moreover dove is useful for spiritual elevation of man. At the end, this is religious metaphor .

Romeo knows the real love , while what he feels for Rosaline is wrong. “For I ne'er saw true beauty till this night.” represents Romeo’s falling in love of Juliet.

ROMEO

(A un servo, indicando Giulietta)

Chi è quella damina laggiù, che con il tocco di sua mano fa ricca quella del suo cavaliere?

SERVO

Mi dispiace, signore, non lo so.

(Si allontana il servo)

ROMEO

Oh, ch’ella insegna perfino alle torce come splendere di più viva luce!

Par che sul buio volto della notte ella brilli come una gemma rara pendente dall’orecchio d’una Etiope.

Bellezza troppo ricca per usarne, troppo cara e preziosa per la terra!

Ella spicca fra queste sue compagne come spicca una nivea colomba in mezzo ad uno stormo di cornacchie.

Finito questo ballo, osserverò dove s’andrà a posare e, toccando la sua, farò beata questa mia rozza mano... Ha mai amato il mio cuore finora?...

Se dice sì, occhi miei, sbugiardatelo, perch’io non ho mai visto vera beltà prima di questa notte.