

Romeo and Juliet

Act II, sc. 4 (line 15 – Prose - intercut)

BENVOLIO

[Why, what is Tybalt?]

Benvolio's line should be used with this monologue.

MERCUTIO

More than prince of cats, I can tell you. O, he is the courageous captain of compliments.

He fights as you sing prick-song, keeps time, distance, and proportion; rests me his
minim rest, one, two, and the third in your bosom: the very butcher of a silk button, a
duellist, a duellist; a gentleman of the very first house, of the first and second cause:
ah, the immortal passado! the punto reverso! The hai!

BENVOLIO

The what?

MERCUTIO

The pox of such antic, lispings, affecting fantasticoes; these new tuners of accents! 'By
Jesu, a very good blade! a very tall man! a very good whore!' Why, is not this a
lamentable thing, grandsire, that we should be thus afflicted with these strange flies, these
fashion-mongers, these perdonna-mi's, who stand so much on the new form, that they
cannot at ease on the old bench? O, their bones, their bones!