

Act 3, scene 2 – Looking for references

Gallop apace, you fiery-footed steeds,
 Towards Phoebus' lodging: such a wagoner
 As Phaethon would whip you to the west,
 And bring in cloudy night immediately.
 Spread thy close curtain, love-performing night,
 That runaway's eyes may wink and Romeo
 Leap to these arms, untalk'd of and unseen.
 Lovers can see to do their amorous rites
 By their own beauties; or, if love be blind,
 It best agrees with night. Come, civil night,
 Thou sober-suited matron, all in black,
 And learn me how to lose a winning match,
 Play'd for a pair of stainless maidenhood:
 Hood my unmann'd blood, bating in my cheeks,
 With thy black mantle; till strange love grown bold,
 Think true love acted simple modesty.
 Come, night; come, Romeo; come, thou day in night;
 For thou wilt lie upon the wings of night
 Whiter than new snow on a swan's back.
 Come, gentle night, come, loving, black-brow'd night,
 Give me my Romeo; and, when he shall die,
 Take him and cut him out in little stars,
 And he will make the face of heaven so fine
 That all the world will live in love with night
 And pay no worship to the garish sun.
 O, I have bought the mansion of a love,
 But not possess'd it, and, though I am sold,
 Not yet enjoy'd: so tedious is this day
 As the night before some festival
 To an impatient child that hath new robes
 And may not wear them. O, here comes my nurse,
 And she brings news; and every tongue that speaks
 But Romeo's name speaks heavenly eloquence.

1. Find references to:
 - The god of the sun
 - The god of love
 - Personification
 - Biblical reference to the human body
2. Why do you think Shakespeare included these references?