

Othello (1604)¹
By William Shakespeare

CHARACTERS

Bianca, Mistress to Cassio
Brabantio, A senator of Venice
Cassio, Othello's lieutenant
Clown, Servant to Othello
Desdemona, Daughter to Brabantio and wife to Othello
Duke of Venice
Emilia, Wife to Iago
First Gentleman
First Musician
First Officer
First Senator, A senator of Venice
Fourth Gentleman
Gentleman
Gratiano, Brother to Brabantio
Herald
Iago, Othello's ancient (?)
Lodovico, Kinsman to Brabantio
Messenger
Montano, Othello's predecessor in the government of Cyprus
Othello, A noble Moor in the service of the Venetian state
Roderigo, A Venetian gentleman
Sailor
Second Gentleman
Second Senator, A senator of Venice
Third Gentleman

Act I, Scene 1

Venice. A street.

[Enter RODERIGO and IAGO]

Roderigo. Tush! never tell me; I take it much unkindly
That thou, Iago, who hast had my purse
As if the strings were thine, shouldst know of this.

Iago. 'Sblood, but you will not hear me: **5**
If ever I did dream of such a matter, Abhor me.

Roderigo. Thou told'st me thou didst hold him in thy hate.

Iago. Despise me, if I do not. Three great ones of the city,
In personal suit to make me his lieutenant,
Off-capp'd to him: and, by the faith of man, **10**
I know my price, I am worth no worse a place:
But he; as loving his own pride and purposes,
Evades them, with a bombast circumstance
Horribly stuff'd with epithets of war;
And, in conclusion, **15**
Nonsuits my mediators; for, 'Certes,' says he,
'I have already chose my officer.'
And what was he?
Forsooth, a great arithmetician,
One Michael Cassio, a Florentine, **20**
A fellow almost damn'd in a fair wife;

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That never set a squadron in the field,
Nor the division of a battle knows
More than a spinster; unless the bookish theoretic,
Wherein the togged consuls can propose 25
As masterly as he: mere prattle, without practise,
Is all his soldiership. But he, sir, had the election:
And I, of whom his eyes had seen the proof
At Rhodes, at Cyprus and on other grounds
Christian and heathen, must be be-lee'd and calm'd 30
By debtor and creditor: this counter-caster,
He, in good time, must his lieutenant be,
And I—God bless the mark!—his Moorship's ancient.

Roderigo. By heaven, I rather would have been his hangman.

Iago. Why, there's no remedy; 'tis the curse of service, 35
Preferment goes by letter and affection,
And not by old gradation, where each second
Stood heir to the first. Now, sir, be judge yourself,
Whether I in any just term am affined
To love the Moor.40

Roderigo. I would not follow him then.

Iago. O, sir, content you;
I follow him to serve my turn upon him:
We cannot all be masters, nor all masters
Cannot be truly follow'd. You shall mark 45
Many a duteous and knee-crooking knave,
That, doting on his own obsequious bondage,
Wears out his time, much like his master's ass,
For nought but provender, and when he's old, cashier'd:
Whip me such honest knaves. Others there are 50
Who, trimm'd in forms and visages of duty,

Keep yet their hearts attending on themselves,
And, throwing but shows of service on their lords,
Do well thrive by them and when they have lined
their coats 55
Do themselves homage: these fellows have some soul;
And such a one do I profess myself. For, sir,
It is as sure as you are Roderigo,
Were I the Moor, I would not be Iago:
In following him, I follow but myself; 60
Heaven is my judge, not I for love and duty,
But seeming so, for my peculiar end:
For when my outward action doth demonstrate
The native act and figure of my heart
In compliment extern, 'tis not long after 65
But I will wear my heart upon my sleeve
For daws to peck at: I am not what I am.

Roderigo. What a full fortune does the thicklips owe
If he can carry't thus!

Iago. Call up her father, 70
Rouse him: make after him, poison his delight,
Proclaim him in the streets; incense her kinsmen,
And, though he in a fertile climate dwell,
Plague him with flies: though that his joy be joy,
Yet throw such changes of vexation on't, 75
As it may lose some colour.

Roderigo. Here is her father's house; I'll call aloud.

Iago. Do, with like timorous accent and dire yell
As when, by night and negligence, the fire
Is spied in populous cities.80

Roderigo. What, ho, Brabantio! Signior Brabantio, ho!

Iago. Awake! what, ho, Brabantio! thieves! thieves! thieves!
Look to your house, your daughter and your bags!
Thieves! thieves!

[BRABANTIO appears above, at a window]

Brabantio. What is the reason of this terrible summons?
What is the matter there?

Roderigo. Signior, is all your family within?

Iago. Are your doors lock'd?

Brabantio. Why, wherefore ask you this?⁹⁰

Iago. 'Zounds, sir, you're robb'd; for shame, put on
your gown;
Your heart is burst, you have lost half your soul;
Even now, now, very now, an old black ram
Is topping your white ewe. Arise, arise; ⁹⁵
Awake the snorting citizens with the bell,
Or else the devil will make a grandsire of you:
Arise, I say.

Brabantio. What, have you lost your wits?

Roderigo. Most reverend signior, do you know my voice?¹⁰⁰

Brabantio. Not I. what are you?

Roderigo. My name is Roderigo.

Brabantio. The worser welcome:
I have charged thee not to haunt about my doors:
In honest plainness thou hast heard me say ¹⁰⁵
My daughter is not for thee; and now, in madness,
Being full of supper and distempering draughts,
Upon malicious bravery, dost thou come
To start my quiet.

Roderigo. Sir, sir, sir,—¹¹⁰

Brabantio. But thou must needs be sure
My spirit and my place have in them power
To make this bitter to thee.

Roderigo. Patience, good sir.

Brabantio. What tell'st thou me of robbing? this is Venice; ¹¹⁵
My house is not a grange.

Roderigo. Most grave Brabantio,
In simple and pure soul I come to you.

Iago. 'Zounds, sir, you are one of those that will not
serve God, if the devil bid you. Because we come to ¹²⁰
do you service and you think we are ruffians, you'll
have your daughter covered with a Barbary horse;
you'll have your nephews neigh to you; you'll have
coursers for cousins and gennets for germans.

Brabantio. What profane wretch art thou?¹²⁵

Iago. I am one, sir, that comes to tell you your daughter and the Moor are now making the beast with two backs.

Brabantio. Thou art a villain.

Iago. You are—a senator.

Brabantio. This thou shalt answer; I know thee, Roderigo. **130**

Roderigo. Sir, I will answer any thing. But, I beseech you, If't be your pleasure and most wise consent, As partly I find it is, that your fair daughter, At this odd-even and dull watch o' the night, Transported, with no worse nor better guard **135** But with a knave of common hire, a gondolier, To the gross clasps of a lascivious Moor— If this be known to you and your allowance, We then have done you bold and saucy wrongs; But if you know not this, my manners tell me **140** We have your wrong rebuke. Do not believe That, from the sense of all civility, I thus would play and trifle with your reverence: Your daughter, if you have not given her leave, I say again, hath made a gross revolt; **145** Tying her duty, beauty, wit and fortunes In an extravagant and wheeling stranger Of here and every where. Straight satisfy yourself: If she be in her chamber or your house, Let loose on me the justice of the state **150** For thus deluding you.

Brabantio. Strike on the tinder, ho!
Give me a taper! call up all my people!
This accident is not unlike my dream:

Belief of it oppresses me already. **155**
Light, I say! light!

[Exit above]

Iago. Farewell; for I must leave you:
It seems not meet, nor wholesome to my place,
To be produced—as, if I stay, I shall— **160**
Against the Moor: for, I do know, the state,
However this may gall him with some cheque,
Cannot with safety cast him, for he's embark'd
With such loud reason to the Cyprus wars,
Which even now stand in act, that, for their souls, **165**
Another of his fathom they have none,
To lead their business: in which regard,
Though I do hate him as I do hell-pains.
Yet, for necessity of present life,
I must show out a flag and sign of love, **170**
Which is indeed but sign. That you shall surely find him,
Lead to the Sagittary the raised search;
And there will I be with him. So, farewell.

[Exit]

[Enter, below, BRABANTIO, and Servants with torches]

Brabantio. It is too true an evil: gone she is;
And what's to come of my despised time
Is nought but bitterness. Now, Roderigo,
Where didst thou see her? O unhappy girl!
With the Moor, say'st thou? Who would be a father! **180**
How didst thou know 'twas she? O she deceives me

Past thought! What said she to you? Get more tapers:
Raise all my kindred. Are they married, think you?

Roderigo. Truly, I think they are.

Brabantio. O heaven! How got she out? O treason of the blood! 185
Fathers, from hence trust not your daughters' minds
By what you see them act. Is there not charms
By which the property of youth and maidhood
May be abused? Have you not read, Roderigo,
Of some such thing?190

Roderigo. Yes, sir, I have indeed.

Brabantio. Call up my brother. O, would you had had her!
Some one way, some another. Do you know
Where we may apprehend her and the Moor?

Roderigo. I think I can discover him, if you please, 195
To get good guard and go along with me.

Brabantio. Pray you, lead on. At every house I'll call;
I may command at most. Get weapons, ho!
And raise some special officers of night.
On, good Roderigo: I'll deserve your pains.200

[Exeunt]

Act I, Scene 2

Another street.

[Enter OTHELLO, IAGO, and Attendants with torches]

Iago. Though in the trade of war I have slain men,
Yet do I hold it very stuff o' the conscience
To do no contrived murder: I lack iniquity 205
Sometimes to do me service: nine or ten times
I had thought to have yerked him here under the ribs.

Othello. 'Tis better as it is.

Iago. Nay, but he prated,
And spoke such scurvy and provoking terms 210
Against your honour
That, with the little godliness I have,
I did full hard forbear him. But, I pray you, sir,
Are you fast married? Be assured of this,
That the magnifico is much beloved, 215
And hath in his effect a voice potential
As double as the duke's: he will divorce you;
Or put upon you what restraint and grievance
The law, with all his might to enforce it on,
Will give him cable.220

Othello. Let him do his spite:
My services which I have done the signiory
Shall out-tongue his complaints. 'Tis yet to know,—
Which, when I know that boasting is an honour,
I shall promulgate—I fetch my life and being 225
From men of royal siege, and my demerits
May speak unbonneted to as proud a fortune
As this that I have reach'd: for know, Iago,
But that I love the gentle Desdemona,
I would not my unhoused free condition 230

Put into circumscription and confine
For the sea's worth. But, look! what lights come yond?

Iago. Those are the raised father and his friends:
You were best go in.

Othello. Not I. I must be found: 235
My parts, my title and my perfect soul
Shall manifest me rightly. Is it they?

Iago. By Janus, I think no.

[Enter CASSIO, and certain Officers with torches]

Othello. The servants of the duke, and my lieutenant. 240
The goodness of the night upon you, friends!
What is the news?

Cassio. The duke does greet you, general,
And he requires your haste-post-haste appearance,
Even on the instant. 245

Othello. What is the matter, think you?

Cassio. Something from Cyprus as I may divine:
It is a business of some heat: the galleys
Have sent a dozen sequent messengers
This very night at one another's heels, 250
And many of the consuls, raised and met,
Are at the duke's already: you have been
hotly call'd for;
When, being not at your lodging to be found,

The senate hath sent about three several guests 255
To search you out.

Othello. 'Tis well I am found by you.
I will but spend a word here in the house,
And go with you.

[Exit]

Cassio. Ancient, what makes he here?

Iago. 'Faith, he to-night hath boarded a land carack:
If it prove lawful prize, he's made for ever.

Cassio. I do not understand.

Iago. He's married. 265

Cassio. To who?

[Re-enter OTHELLO]

Iago. Marry, to—Come, captain, will you go?

Othello. Have with you.

Cassio. Here comes another troop to seek for you. 270

Iago. It is Brabantio. General, be advised;
He comes to bad intent.

[Enter BRABANTIO, RODERIGO, and Officers with torches and weapons] Lay hold upon him: if he do resist, 300
Subdue him at his peril.

Othello. Holla! stand there!

Roderigo. Signior, it is the Moor. 275

Brabantio. Down with him, thief!

[They draw on both sides]

Iago. You, Roderigo! come, sir, I am for you.

Othello. Keep up your bright swords, for the dew will rust them.
Good signior, you shall more command with years 280
Than with your weapons.

Brabantio. O thou foul thief, where hast thou stow'd my daughter?
Damn'd as thou art, thou hast enchanted her;
For I'll refer me to all things of sense,
If she in chains of magic were not bound, 285
Whether a maid so tender, fair and happy,
So opposite to marriage that she shunned
The wealthy curled darlings of our nation,
Would ever have, to incur a general mock,
Run from her guardage to the sooty bosom 290
Of such a thing as thou, to fear, not to delight.
Judge me the world, if 'tis not gross in sense
That thou hast practised on her with foul charms,
Abused her delicate youth with drugs or minerals
That weaken motion: I'll have't disputed on; 295
'Tis probable and palpable to thinking.
I therefore apprehend and do attach thee
For an abuser of the world, a practiser
Of arts inhibited and out of warrant.

Othello. Hold your hands,
Both you of my inclining, and the rest:
Were it my cue to fight, I should have known it
Without a prompter. Where will you that I go 305
To answer this your charge?

Brabantio. To prison, till fit time
Of law and course of direct session
Call thee to answer.

Othello. What if I do obey? 310
How may the duke be therewith satisfied,
Whose messengers are here about my side,
Upon some present business of the state
To bring me to him?

First Officer. 'Tis true, most worthy signior; 315
The duke's in council and your noble self,
I am sure, is sent for.

Brabantio. How! the duke in council!
In this time of the night! Bring him away:
Mine's not an idle cause: the duke himself, 320
Or any of my brothers of the state,
Cannot but feel this wrong as 'twere their own;
For if such actions may have passage free,
Bond-slaves and pagans shall our statesmen be.

[Exeunt]

Act I, Scene 3

A council-chamber.

[The DUKE and Senators sitting at a table; Officers attending]

Duke of Venice. There is no composition in these news
That gives them credit.

First Senator. Indeed, they are disproportion'd;
My letters say a hundred and seven galleys. **330**

Duke of Venice. And mine, a hundred and forty.

Second Senator. And mine, two hundred:
But though they jump not on a just account,—
As in these cases, where the aim reports,
'Tis oft with difference—yet do they all confirm **335**
A Turkish fleet, and bearing up to Cyprus.

Duke of Venice. Nay, it is possible enough to judgment:
I do not so secure me in the error,
But the main article I do approve
In fearful sense. **340**

Sailor. *[Within]* What, ho! what, ho! what, ho!

First Officer. A messenger from the galleys.

[Enter a Sailor]

Duke of Venice. Now, what's the business?

Sailor. The Turkish preparation makes for Rhodes; **345**
So was I bid report here to the state
By Signior Angelo.

Duke of Venice. How say you by this change?

First Senator. This cannot be,
By no assay of reason: 'tis a pageant, **350**
To keep us in false gaze. When we consider
The importancy of Cyprus to the Turk,
And let ourselves again but understand,
That as it more concerns the Turk than Rhodes,
So may he with more facile question bear it, **355**
For that it stands not in such warlike brace,
But altogether lacks the abilities
That Rhodes is dress'd in: if we make thought of this,
We must not think the Turk is so unskilful
To leave that latest which concerns him first, **360**
Neglecting an attempt of ease and gain,
To wake and wage a danger profitless.

Duke of Venice. Nay, in all confidence, he's not for Rhodes.

First Officer. Here is more news.

[Enter a Messenger]

Messenger. The Ottomites, reverend and gracious,
Steering with due course towards the isle of Rhodes,
Have there jointed them with an after fleet.

First Senator. Ay, so I thought. How many, as you guess?

Messenger. Of thirty sail: and now they do restem 370
Their backward course, bearing with frank appearance
Their purposes toward Cyprus. Signior Montano,
Your trusty and most valiant servitor,
With his free duty recommends you thus,
And prays you to believe him.375

Duke of Venice. 'Tis certain, then, for Cyprus.
Marcus Luccicos, is not he in town?

First Senator. He's now in Florence.

Duke of Venice. Write from us to him; post-post-haste dispatch.

First Senator. Here comes Brabantio and the valiant Moor.380

[Enter BRABANTIO, OTHELLO, IAGO, RODERIGO, and Officers]

Duke of Venice. Valiant Othello, we must straight employ you
Against the general enemy Ottoman.

[To BRABANTIO]

I did not see you; welcome, gentle signior; 385
We lack'd your counsel and your help tonight.

Brabantio. So did I yours. Good your grace, pardon me;
Neither my place nor aught I heard of business
Hath raised me from my bed, nor doth the general care
Take hold on me, for my particular grief 390
Is of so flood-gate and o'erbearing nature
That it engulfs and swallows other sorrows
And it is still itself.

Duke of Venice. Why, what's the matter?

Brabantio. My daughter! O, my daughter!395

Duke of Venice. *[with Senator]* Dead?

Brabantio. Ay, to me;
She is abused, stol'n from me, and corrupted
By spells and medicines bought of mountebanks;
For nature so preposterously to err, 400
Being not deficient, blind, or lame of sense,
Sans witchcraft could not.

Duke of Venice. Whoe'er he be that in this foul proceeding
Hath thus beguiled your daughter of herself
And you of her, the bloody book of law 405
You shall yourself read in the bitter letter
After your own sense, yea, though our proper son
Stood in your action.

Brabantio. Humbly I thank your grace.
Here is the man, this Moor, whom now, it seems, 410
Your special mandate for the state-affairs
Hath hither brought.

Duke of Venice. *[with Senator]* We are very sorry for't.

Duke of Venice. *[To OTHELLO]* What, in your own part, can you say

Brabantio. Nothing, but this is so.415

Othello. Most potent, grave, and reverend signiors,
My very noble and approved good masters,

That I have ta'en away this old man's daughter,
It is most true; true, I have married her:
The very head and front of my offending **420**
Hath this extent, no more. Rude am I in my speech,
And little bless'd with the soft phrase of peace:
For since these arms of mine had seven years' pith,
Till now some nine moons wasted, they have used
Their dearest action in the tented field, **425**
And little of this great world can I speak,
More than pertains to feats of broil and battle,
And therefore little shall I grace my cause
In speaking for myself. Yet, by your gracious patience,
I will a round unvarnish'd tale deliver **430**
Of my whole course of love; what drugs, what charms,
What conjuration and what mighty magic,
For such proceeding I am charged withal,
I won his daughter.

Brabantio. A maiden never bold; **435**
Of spirit so still and quiet, that her motion
Blush'd at herself; and she, in spite of nature,
Of years, of country, credit, every thing,
To fall in love with what she fear'd to look on!
It is a judgment maim'd and most imperfect **440**
That will confess perfection so could err
Against all rules of nature, and must be driven
To find out practises of cunning hell,
Why this should be. I therefore vouch again
That with some mixtures powerful o'er the blood, **445**
Or with some dram conjured to this effect,
He wrought upon her.

Duke of Venice. To vouch this, is no proof,
Without more wider and more overt test

Than these thin habits and poor likelihoods **450**
Of modern seeming do prefer against him.

First Senator. But, Othello, speak:
Did you by indirect and forced courses
Subdue and poison this young maid's affections?
Or came it by request and such fair question **455**
As soul to soul affordeth?

Othello. I do beseech you,
Send for the lady to the Sagittary,
And let her speak of me before her father:
If you do find me foul in her report, **460**
The trust, the office I do hold of you,
Not only take away, but let your sentence
Even fall upon my life.

Duke of Venice. Fetch Desdemona hither.

Othello. Ancient, conduct them: you best know the place. **465**
[Exeunt IAGO and Attendants]
And, till she come, as truly as to heaven
I do confess the vices of my blood,
So justly to your grave ears I'll present
How I did thrive in this fair lady's love, **470**
And she in mine.

Duke of Venice. Say it, Othello.

Othello. Her father loved me; oft invited me;
Still question'd me the story of my life,
From year to year, the battles, sieges, fortunes, **475**
That I have passed.
I ran it through, even from my boyish days,

To the very moment that he bade me tell it;
 Wherein I spake of most disastrous chances,
 Of moving accidents by flood and field **480**
 Of hair-breadth scapes i' the imminent deadly breach,
 Of being taken by the insolent foe
 And sold to slavery, of my redemption thence
 And portance in my travels' history:
 Wherein of antres vast and deserts idle, **485**
 Rough quarries, rocks and hills whose heads touch heaven
 It was my hint to speak,—such was the process;
 And of the Cannibals that each other eat,
 The Anthropophagi and men whose heads
 Do grow beneath their shoulders. This to hear **490**
 Would Desdemona seriously incline:
 But still the house-affairs would draw her thence:
 Which ever as she could with haste dispatch,
 She'd come again, and with a greedy ear
 Devour up my discourse: which I observing, **495**
 Took once a pliant hour, and found good means
 To draw from her a prayer of earnest heart
 That I would all my pilgrimage dilate,
 Whereof by parcels she had something heard,
 But not intentively: I did consent, **500**
 And often did beguile her of her tears,
 When I did speak of some distressful stroke
 That my youth suffer'd. My story being done,
 She gave me for my pains a world of sighs:
 She swore, in faith, twas strange, 'twas passing strange, **505**
 'Twas pitiful, 'twas wondrous pitiful:
 She wish'd she had not heard it, yet she wish'd
 That heaven had made her such a man: she thank'd me,
 And bade me, if I had a friend that loved her,
 I should but teach him how to tell my story. **510**
 And that would woo her. Upon this hint I spake:
 She loved me for the dangers I had pass'd,

And I loved her that she did pity them.
 This only is the witchcraft I have used:
 Here comes the lady; let her witness it. **515**

[Enter DESDEMONA, IAGO, and Attendants]

Duke of Venice. I think this tale would win my daughter too.
 Good Brabantio,
 Take up this mangled matter at the best:
 Men do their broken weapons rather use **520**
 Than their bare hands.

Brabantio. I pray you, hear her speak:
 If she confess that she was half the wooer,
 Destruction on my head, if my bad blame
 Light on the man! Come hither, gentle mistress: **525**
 Do you perceive in all this noble company
 Where most you owe obedience?

Desdemona. My noble father,
 I do perceive here a divided duty:
 To you I am bound for life and education; **530**
 My life and education both do learn me
 How to respect you; you are the lord of duty;
 I am hitherto your daughter: but here's my husband,
 And so much duty as my mother show'd
 To you, preferring you before her father, **535**
 So much I challenge that I may profess
 Due to the Moor my lord.

Brabantio. God be wi' you! I have done.
 Please it your grace, on to the state-affairs:
 I had rather to adopt a child than get it. **540**
 Come hither, Moor:

I here do give thee that with all my heart
Which, but thou hast already, with all my heart
I would keep from thee. For your sake, jewel,
I am glad at soul I have no other child: 545
For thy escape would teach me tyranny,
To hang clogs on them. I have done, my lord.

Duke of Venice. Let me speak like yourself, and lay a sentence,
Which, as a guise or step, may help these lovers
Into your favour. 550
When remedies are past, the griefs are ended
By seeing the worst, which late on hopes depended.
To mourn a mischief that is past and gone
Is the next way to draw new mischief on.
What cannot be preserved when fortune takes 555
Patience her injury a mockery makes.
The robb'd that smiles steals something from the thief;
He robs himself that spends a bootless grief.

Brabantio. So let the Turk of Cyprus us beguile;
We lose it not, so long as we can smile. 560
He bears the sentence well that nothing bears
But the free comfort which from thence he hears,
But he bears both the sentence and the sorrow
That, to pay grief, must of poor patience borrow.
These sentences, to sugar, or to gall, 565
Being strong on both sides, are equivocal:
But words are words; I never yet did hear
That the bruised heart was pierced through the ear.
I humbly beseech you, proceed to the affairs of state.

Duke of Venice. The Turk with a most mighty preparation makes for 570
Cyprus. Othello, the fortitude of the place is best
known to you; and though we have there a substitute

of most allowed sufficiency, yet opinion, a
sovereign mistress of effects, throws a more safer
voice on you: you must therefore be content to 575
slubber the gloss of your new fortunes with this
more stubborn and boisterous expedition.

Othello. The tyrant custom, most grave senators,
Hath made the flinty and steel couch of war
My thrice-driven bed of down: I do agnise 580
A natural and prompt alacrity
I find in hardness, and do undertake
These present wars against the Ottomites.
Most humbly therefore bending to your state,
I crave fit disposition for my wife. 585
Due reference of place and exhibition,
With such accommodation and besort
As levels with her breeding.

Duke of Venice. If you please,
Be't at her father's. 590

Brabantio. I'll not have it so.

Othello. Nor I.

Desdemona. Nor I; I would not there reside,
To put my father in impatient thoughts
By being in his eye. Most gracious duke, 595
To my unfolding lend your prosperous ear;
And let me find a charter in your voice,
To assist my simpleness.

Duke of Venice. What would You, Desdemona?

Desdemona. That I did love the Moor to live with him, 600
My downright violence and storm of fortunes
May trumpet to the world: my heart's subdued
Even to the very quality of my lord:
I saw Othello's visage in his mind,
And to his honour and his valiant parts 605
Did I my soul and fortunes consecrate.
So that, dear lords, if I be left behind,
A moth of peace, and he go to the war,
The rites for which I love him are bereft me,
And I a heavy interim shall support 610
By his dear absence. Let me go with him.

Othello. Let her have your voices.
Vouch with me, heaven, I therefore beg it not,
To please the palate of my appetite,
Nor to comply with heat—the young affects 615
In me defunct—and proper satisfaction.
But to be free and bounteous to her mind:
And heaven defend your good souls, that you think
I will your serious and great business scant
For she is with me: no, when light-wing'd toys 620
Of feather'd Cupid seal with wanton dullness
My speculative and officed instruments,
That my disports corrupt and taint my business,
Let housewives make a skillet of my helm,
And all indign and base adversities 625
Make head against my estimation!

Duke of Venice. Be it as you shall privately determine,
Either for her stay or going: the affair cries haste,
And speed must answer it.

First Senator. You must away to-night. 630

Othello. With all my heart.

Duke of Venice. At nine i' the morning here we'll meet again.
Othello, leave some officer behind,
And he shall our commission bring to you;
With such things else of quality and respect 635
As doth import you.

Othello. So please your grace, my ancient;
A man he is of honest and trust:
To his conveyance I assign my wife,
With what else needful your good grace shall think 640
To be sent after me.

Duke of Venice. Let it be so.
Good night to every one.
[To BRABANTIO]
And, noble signior, 645
If virtue no delighted beauty lack,
Your son-in-law is far more fair than black.

First Senator. Adieu, brave Moor, use Desdemona well.

Brabantio. Look to her, Moor, if thou hast eyes to see:
She has deceived her father, and may thee. 650

[Exeunt DUKE OF VENICE, Senators, Officers, &c]

Othello. My life upon her faith! Honest Iago,
My Desdemona must I leave to thee:
I prithee, let thy wife attend on her:
And bring them after in the best advantage. 655
Come, Desdemona: I have but an hour
Of love, of worldly matters and direction,
To spend with thee: we must obey the time.

[Exeunt OTHELLO and DESDEMONA]

Roderigo. Iago,—660

Iago. What say'st thou, noble heart?

Roderigo. What will I do, thinkest thou?

Iago. Why, go to bed, and sleep.

Roderigo. I will incontinently drown myself.

Iago. If thou dost, I shall never love thee after. Why, 665
thou silly gentleman!

Roderigo. It is silliness to live when to live is torment; and
then have we a prescription to die when death is our physician.

Iago. O villainous! I have looked upon the world for four
times seven years; and since I could distinguish 670
betwixt a benefit and an injury, I never found man
that knew how to love himself. Ere I would say, I

would drown myself for the love of a guinea-hen, I
would change my humanity with a baboon.

Roderigo. What should I do? I confess it is my shame to be so 675
fond; but it is not in my virtue to amend it.

Iago. Virtue! a fig! 'tis in ourselves that we are thus
or thus. Our bodies are our gardens, to the which
our wills are gardeners: so that if we will plant
nettles, or sow lettuce, set hyssop and weed up 680
thyme, supply it with one gender of herbs, or
distract it with many, either to have it sterile
with idleness, or manured with industry, why, the
power and corrigible authority of this lies in our
wills. If the balance of our lives had not one 685
scale of reason to poise another of sensuality, the
blood and baseness of our natures would conduct us
to most preposterous conclusions: but we have
reason to cool our raging motions, our carnal
stings, our unbitted lusts, whereof I take this that 690
you call love to be a sect or scion.

Roderigo. It cannot be.

Iago. It is merely a lust of the blood and a permission of
the will. Come, be a man. Drown thyself! drown
cats and blind puppies. I have professed me thy 695
friend and I confess me knit to thy deserving with
cables of perdurable toughness; I could never
better stead thee than now. Put money in thy
purse; follow thou the wars; defeat thy favour with
an usurped beard; I say, put money in thy purse. It 700
cannot be that Desdemona should long continue her
love to the Moor,— put money in thy purse,—nor he

his to her: it was a violent commencement, and thou shalt see an answerable sequestration:—put but money in thy purse. These Moors are changeable in 705 their wills: fill thy purse with money:—the food that to him now is as luscious as locusts, shall be to him shortly as bitter as coloquintida. She must change for youth: when she is sated with his body, she will find the error of her choice: she must 710 have change, she must: therefore put money in thy purse. If thou wilt needs damn thyself, do it a more delicate way than drowning. Make all the money thou canst: if sanctimony and a frail vow betwixt an erring barbarian and a supersubtle Venetian not 715 too hard for my wits and all the tribe of hell, thou shalt enjoy her; therefore make money. A pox of drowning thyself! it is clean out of the way: seek thou rather to be hanged in compassing thy joy than to be drowned and go without her. 720

Roderigo. Wilt thou be fast to my hopes, if I depend on the issue?

Iago. Thou art sure of me:—go, make money:—I have told thee often, and I re-tell thee again and again, I hate the Moor: my cause is hearted; thine hath no 725 less reason. Let us be conjunctive in our revenge against him: if thou canst cuckold him, thou dost thyself a pleasure, me a sport. There are many events in the womb of time which will be delivered. Traverse! go, provide thy money. We will have more 730 of this to-morrow. Adieu.

Roderigo. Where shall we meet i' the morning?

Iago. At my lodging.

Roderigo. I'll be with thee betimes.

Iago. Go to; farewell. Do you hear, Roderigo? 735

Roderigo. What say you?

Iago. No more of drowning, do you hear?

Roderigo. I am changed: I'll go sell all my land.

[Exit]

Iago. Thus do I ever make my fool my purse: 740
For I mine own gain'd knowledge should profane,
If I would time expend with such a snipe.
But for my sport and profit. I hate the Moor:
And it is thought abroad, that 'twixt my sheets
He has done my office: I know not if't be true; 745
But I, for mere suspicion in that kind,
Will do as if for surety. He holds me well;
The better shall my purpose work on him.
Cassio's a proper man: let me see now:
To get his place and to plume up my will 750
In double knavery—How, how? Let's see:—
After some time, to abuse Othello's ear
That he is too familiar with his wife.
He hath a person and a smooth dispose
To be suspected, framed to make women false. 755
The Moor is of a free and open nature,
That thinks men honest that but seem to be so,
And will as tenderly be led by the nose

As asses are.
I have't. It is engender'd. Hell and night 760
Must bring this monstrous birth to the world's light.

[Exit]

Act II, Scene 1

A Sea-port in Cyprus. An open place near the quay.

[Enter MONTANO and two Gentlemen]

Montano. What from the cape can you discern at sea?

First Gentleman. Nothing at all: it is a highwrought flood; 765
I cannot, 'twixt the heaven and the main,
Descry a sail.

Montano. Methinks the wind hath spoke aloud at land;
A fuller blast ne'er shook our battlements:
If it hath ruffian'd so upon the sea, 770
What ribs of oak, when mountains melt on them,
Can hold the mortise? What shall we hear of this?

Second Gentleman. A segregation of the Turkish fleet:
For do but stand upon the foaming shore,
The chidden billow seems to pelt the clouds; 775
The wind-shaked surge, with high and monstrous mane,
seems to cast water on the burning bear,
And quench the guards of the ever-fixed pole:

I never did like molestation view
On the enchafed flood. 780

Montano. If that the Turkish fleet
Be not enshelter'd and embay'd, they are drown'd:
It is impossible they bear it out.

[Enter a third Gentleman]

Third Gentleman. News, lads! our wars are done. 785
The desperate tempest hath so bang'd the Turks,
That their designment halts: a noble ship of Venice
Hath seen a grievous wreck and sufferance
On most part of their fleet.

Montano. How! is this true? 790

Third Gentleman. The ship is here put in,
A Veronesa; Michael Cassio,
Lieutenant to the warlike Moor Othello,
Is come on shore: the Moor himself at sea,
And is in full commission here for Cyprus. 795

Montano. I am glad on't; 'tis a worthy governor.

Third Gentleman. But this same Cassio, though he speak of comfort
Touching the Turkish loss, yet he looks sadly,
And prays the Moor be safe; for they were parted
With foul and violent tempest. 800

Montano. Pray heavens he be;
For I have served him, and the man commands
Like a full soldier. Let's to the seaside, ho!

As well to see the vessel that's come in
As to throw out our eyes for brave Othello, **805**
Even till we make the main and the aerial blue
An indistinct regard.

Third Gentleman. Come, let's do so:
For every minute is expectancy
Of more arrivance. **810**

[Enter CASSIO]

Cassio. Thanks, you the valiant of this warlike isle,
That so approve the Moor! O, let the heavens
Give him defence against the elements,
For I have lost us him on a dangerous sea. **815**

Montano. Is he well shipp'd?

Cassio. His bark is stoutly timber'd, his pilot
Of very expert and approved allowance;
Therefore my hopes, not surfeited to death,
Stand in bold cure. **820**

[A cry within 'A sail, a sail, a sail!']

[Enter a fourth Gentleman]

Cassio. What noise?

Fourth Gentleman. The town is empty; on the brow o' the sea
Stand ranks of people, and they cry 'A sail!' **825**

Cassio. My hopes do shape him for the governor.

[Guns heard]

Second Gentleman. They do discharge their shot of courtesy:
Our friends at least.

Cassio. I pray you, sir, go forth, **830**
And give us truth who 'tis that is arrived.

Second Gentleman. I shall.

[Exit]

Montano. But, good lieutenant, is your general wived?

Cassio. Most fortunately: he hath achieved a maid **835**
That paragons description and wild fame;
One that excels the quirks of blazoning pens,
And in the essential vesture of creation
Does tire the ingener.
[Re-enter second Gentleman] **840**
How now! who has put in?

Second Gentleman. 'Tis one Iago, ancient to the general.

Cassio. Has had most favourable and happy speed:
Tempests themselves, high seas, and howling winds,
The gutter'd rocks and congregated sands— **845**
Traitors ensteep'd to clog the guiltless keel,—
As having sense of beauty, do omit

Their mortal natures, letting go safely by
The divine Desdemona.

Montano. What is she? **850**

Cassio. She that I spake of, our great captain's captain,
Left in the conduct of the bold Iago,
Whose footing here anticipates our thoughts
A se'nnight's speed. Great Jove, Othello guard,
And swell his sail with thine own powerful breath, **855**
That he may bless this bay with his tall ship,
Make love's quick pants in Desdemona's arms,
Give renew'd fire to our extincted spirits
And bring all Cyprus comfort!

[Enter DESDEMONA, EMILIA, IAGO, RODERIGO, and Attendants] **860**

O, behold,
The riches of the ship is come on shore!
Ye men of Cyprus, let her have your knees.
Hail to thee, lady! and the grace of heaven,
Before, behind thee, and on every hand, **865**
Enwheel thee round!

Desdemona. I thank you, valiant Cassio.
What tidings can you tell me of my lord?

Cassio. He is not yet arrived: nor know I aught
But that he's well and will be shortly here. **870**

Desdemona. O, but I fear—How lost you company?

Cassio. The great contention of the sea and skies
Parted our fellowship—But, hark! a sail.

[Within 'A sail, a sail!' Guns heard]

Second Gentleman. They give their greeting to the citadel; **875**
This likewise is a friend.

Cassio. See for the news.

[Exit Gentleman]

Good ancient, you are welcome.

[To EMILIA] **880**

Welcome, mistress.

Let it not gall your patience, good Iago,
That I extend my manners; 'tis my breeding
That gives me this bold show of courtesy.

[Kissing her]

Iago. Sir, would she give you so much of her lips
As of her tongue she oft bestows on me,
You'll have enough.

Desdemona. Alas, she has no speech.

Iago. In faith, too much; **890**

I find it still, when I have list to sleep:

Marry, before your ladyship, I grant,
She puts her tongue a little in her heart,
And chides with thinking.

Emilia. You have little cause to say so. **895**

Iago. Come on, come on; you are pictures out of doors,
Bells in your parlors, wild-cats in your kitchens,

Saints in your injuries, devils being offended,
Players in your housewifery, and housewives' in your beds.

Desdemona. O, fie upon thee, slanderer! 900

Iago. Nay, it is true, or else I am a Turk:
You rise to play and go to bed to work.

Emilia. You shall not write my praise.

Iago. No, let me not.

Desdemona. What wouldst thou write of me, if thou shouldst 905
praise me?

Iago. O gentle lady, do not put me to't;
For I am nothing, if not critical.

Desdemona. Come on assay. There's one gone to the harbour?

Iago. Ay, madam. 910

Desdemona. I am not merry; but I do beguile
The thing I am, by seeming otherwise.
Come, how wouldst thou praise me?

Iago. I am about it; but indeed my invention
Comes from my pate as birdlime does from frize; 915
It plucks out brains and all: but my Muse labours,
And thus she is deliver'd.
If she be fair and wise, fairness and wit,
The one's for use, the other useth it.

Desdemona. Well praised! How if she be black and witty? 920

Iago. If she be black, and thereto have a wit,
She'll find a white that shall her blackness fit.

Desdemona. Worse and worse.

Emilia. How if fair and foolish?

Iago. She never yet was foolish that was fair; 925
For even her folly help'd her to an heir.

Desdemona. These are old fond paradoxes to make fools laugh i'
the alehouse. What miserable praise hast thou for
her that's foul and foolish?

Iago. There's none so foul and foolish thereunto, 930
But does foul pranks which fair and wise ones do.

Desdemona. O heavy ignorance! thou praisest the worst best.
But what praise couldst thou bestow on a deserving
woman indeed, one that, in the authority of her
merit, did justly put on the vouch of very malice itself? 935

Iago. She that was ever fair and never proud,
Had tongue at will and yet was never loud,
Never lack'd gold and yet went never gay,
Fled from her wish and yet said 'Now I may,'
She that being anger'd, her revenge being nigh, 940
Bade her wrong stay and her displeasure fly,
She that in wisdom never was so frail
To change the cod's head for the salmon's tail;
She that could think and ne'er disclose her mind,

See suitors following and not look behind, 945
She was a wight, if ever such wight were,—

Desdemona. To do what?

Iago. To suckle fools and chronicle small beer.

Desdemona. O most lame and impotent conclusion! Do not learn of him, Emilia, though he be thy husband. How say 950
you, Cassio? is he not a most profane and liberal counsellor?

Cassio. He speaks home, madam: You may relish him more in the soldier than in the scholar.

Iago. [*Aside*] He takes her by the palm: ay, well said, 955
whisper: with as little a web as this will I ensnare as great a fly as Cassio. Ay, smile upon her, do; I will gyve thee in thine own courtship. You say true; 'tis so, indeed: if such tricks as these strip you out of your lieutenantry, it had 960
been better you had not kissed your three fingers so oft, which now again you are most apt to play the sir in. Very good; well kissed! an excellent courtesy! 'tis so, indeed. Yet again your fingers to your lips? would they were clyster-pipes for your sake! 965
[*Trumpet within*]
The Moor! I know his trumpet.

Cassio. 'Tis truly so.

Desdemona. Let's meet him and receive him.

Cassio. Lo, where he comes! 970

[*Enter OTHELLO and Attendants*]

Othello. O my fair warrior!

Desdemona. My dear Othello!

Othello. It gives me wonder great as my content
To see you here before me. O my soul's joy! 975
If after every tempest come such calms,
May the winds blow till they have waken'd death!
And let the labouring bark climb hills of seas
Olympus-high and duck again as low
As hell's from heaven! If it were now to die, 980
'Twere now to be most happy; for, I fear,
My soul hath her content so absolute
That not another comfort like to this
Succeeds in unknown fate.

Desdemona. The heavens forbid 985
But that our loves and comforts should increase,
Even as our days do grow!

Othello. Amen to that, sweet powers!
I cannot speak enough of this content;
It stops me here; it is too much of joy: 990
And this, and this, the greatest discords be
[*Kissing her*]
That e'er our hearts shall make!

Iago. [*Aside*] O, you are well tuned now!
But I'll set down the pegs that make this music, **995**
As honest as I am.

Othello. Come, let us to the castle.
News, friends; our wars are done, the Turks
are drown'd.
How does my old acquaintance of this isle? **1000**
Honey, you shall be well desired in Cyprus;
I have found great love amongst them. O my sweet,
I prattle out of fashion, and I dote
In mine own comforts. I prithee, good Iago,
Go to the bay and disembark my coffers: **1005**
Bring thou the master to the citadel;
He is a good one, and his worthiness
Does challenge much respect. Come, Desdemona,
Once more, well met at Cyprus.

[Exeunt OTHELLO, DESDEMONA, and Attendants]

Iago. Do thou meet me presently at the harbour. Come
hither. If thou be'st valiant,— as, they say, base
men being in love have then a nobility in their
natures more than is native to them—list me. The
lieutenant tonight watches on the court of **1015**
guard:—first, I must tell thee this—Desdemona is
directly in love with him.

Roderigo. With him! why, 'tis not possible.

Iago. Lay thy finger thus, and let thy soul be instructed.
Mark me with what violence she first loved the Moor, **1020**
but for bragging and telling her fantastical lies:
and will she love him still for prating? let not

thy discreet heart think it. Her eye must be fed;
and what delight shall she have to look on the
devil? When the blood is made dull with the act of **1025**
sport, there should be, again to inflame it and to
give satiety a fresh appetite, loveliness in favour,
sympathy in years, manners and beauties; all which
the Moor is defective in: now, for want of these
required conveniences, her delicate tenderness will **1030**
find itself abused, begin to heave the gorge,
disrelish and abhor the Moor; very nature will
instruct her in it and compel her to some second
choice. Now, sir, this granted,—as it is a most
pregnant and unforced position—who stands so **1035**
eminent in the degree of this fortune as Cassio
does? a knave very voluble; no further
conscionable than in putting on the mere form of
civil and humane seeming, for the better compassing
of his salt and most hidden loose affection? why, **1040**
none; why, none: a slipper and subtle knave, a
finder of occasions, that has an eye can stamp and
counterfeit advantages, though true advantage never
present itself; a devilish knave. Besides, the
knave is handsome, young, and hath all those **1045**
requisites in him that folly and green minds look
after: a pestilent complete knave; and the woman
hath found him already.

Roderigo. I cannot believe that in her; she's full of
most blessed condition. **1050**

Iago. Blessed fig's-end! the wine she drinks is made of
grapes: if she had been blessed, she would never
have loved the Moor. Blessed pudding! Didst thou

not see her paddle with the palm of his hand? didst
not mark that?**1055**

Roderigo. Yes, that I did; but that was but courtesy.

Iago. Lechery, by this hand; an index and obscure prologue
to the history of lust and foul thoughts. They met
so near with their lips that their breaths embraced
together. Villanous thoughts, Roderigo! when these **1060**
mutualities so marshal the way, hard at hand comes
the master and main exercise, the incorporate
conclusion, Pish! But, sir, be you ruled by me: I
have brought you from Venice. Watch you to-night;
for the command, I'll lay't upon you. Cassio knows **1065**
you not. I'll not be far from you: do you find
some occasion to anger Cassio, either by speaking
too loud, or tainting his discipline; or from what
other course you please, which the time shall more
favourably minister.**1070**

Roderigo. Well.

Iago. Sir, he is rash and very sudden in choler, and haply
may strike at you: provoke him, that he may; for
even out of that will I cause these of Cyprus to
mutiny; whose qualification shall come into no true **1075**
taste again but by the displanting of Cassio. So
shall you have a shorter journey to your desires by
the means I shall then have to prefer them; and the
impediment most profitably removed, without the
which there were no expectation of our prosperity.**1080**

Roderigo. I will do this, if I can bring it to any
opportunity.

Iago. I warrant thee. Meet me by and by at the citadel:
I must fetch his necessaries ashore. Farewell.

Roderigo. Adieu.**1085**

[Exit]

Iago. That Cassio loves her, I do well believe it;
That she loves him, 'tis apt and of great credit:
The Moor, howbeit that I endure him not,
Is of a constant, loving, noble nature, **1090**
And I dare think he'll prove to Desdemona
A most dear husband. Now, I do love her too;
Not out of absolute lust, though peradventure
I stand accountant for as great a sin,
But partly led to diet my revenge, **1095**
For that I do suspect the lusty Moor
Hath leap'd into my seat; the thought whereof
Doth, like a poisonous mineral, gnaw my inwards;
And nothing can or shall content my soul
Till I am even'd with him, wife for wife, **1100**
Or failing so, yet that I put the Moor
At least into a jealousy so strong
That judgment cannot cure. Which thing to do,
If this poor trash of Venice, whom I trash
For his quick hunting, stand the putting on, **1105**
I'll have our Michael Cassio on the hip,
Abuse him to the Moor in the rank garb—
For I fear Cassio with my night-cap too—
Make the Moor thank me, love me and reward me.
For making him egregiously an ass **1110**

And practising upon his peace and quiet
Even to madness. 'Tis here, but yet confused:
Knavery's plain face is never seen tin used.

[Exit]

Act II, Scene 2

A street.

[Enter a Herald with a proclamation; People following]

Herald. It is Othello's pleasure, our noble and valiant general, that, upon certain tidings now arrived, importing the mere perdition of the Turkish fleet, every man put himself into triumph; some to dance, some to make bonfires, each man to what sport and **1120** revels his addiction leads him: for, besides these beneficial news, it is the celebration of his nuptial. So much was his pleasure should be proclaimed. All offices are open, and there is full liberty of feasting from this present hour of five **1125** till the bell have told eleven. Heaven bless the isle of Cyprus and our noble general Othello!

[Exeunt]

Act II, Scene 3

A hall in the castle.

[Enter OTHELLO, DESDEMONA, CASSIO, and Attendants]

Othello. Good Michael, look you to the guard to-night: **1130**
Let's teach ourselves that honourable stop,
Not to outsport discretion.

Cassio. Iago hath direction what to do;
But, notwithstanding, with my personal eye
Will I look to't. **1135**

Othello. Iago is most honest.
Michael, good night: to-morrow with your earliest
Let me have speech with you.

[To DESDEMONA]

Come, my dear love, **1140**
The purchase made, the fruits are to ensue;
That profit's yet to come 'tween me and you.
Good night.

[Exeunt OTHELLO, DESDEMONA, and Attendants]

[Enter IAGO]

Cassio. Welcome, Iago; we must to the watch.

Iago. Not this hour, lieutenant; 'tis not yet ten o' the clock. Our general cast us thus early for the love of his Desdemona; who let us not therefore blame: he hath not yet made wanton the night with her; and **1150** she is sport for Jove.

Cassio. She's a most exquisite lady.

Iago. And, I'll warrant her, fun of game.

Cassio. Indeed, she's a most fresh and delicate creature.

Iago. What an eye she has! methinks it sounds a parley of 1155 provocation.

Cassio. An inviting eye; and yet methinks right modest.

Iago. And when she speaks, is it not an alarum to love?

Cassio. She is indeed perfection.

Iago. Well, happiness to their sheets! Come, lieutenant, I 1160 have a stoup of wine; and here without are a brace of Cyprus gallants that would fain have a measure to the health of black Othello.

Cassio. Not to-night, good Iago: I have very poor and unhappy brains for drinking: I could well wish 1165 courtesy would invent some other custom of entertainment.

Iago. O, they are our friends; but one cup: I'll drink for you.

Cassio. I have drunk but one cup to-night, and that was 1170 craftily qualified too, and, behold, what innovation it makes here: I am unfortunate in the infirmity, and dare not task my weakness with any more.

Iago. What, man! 'tis a night of revels: the gallants desire it.1175

Cassio. Where are they?

Iago. Here at the door; I pray you, call them in.

Cassio. I'll do't; but it dislikes me.

[Exit]

Iago. If I can fasten but one cup upon him, 1180 With that which he hath drunk to-night already, He'll be as full of quarrel and offence As my young mistress' dog. Now, my sick fool Roderigo, Whom love hath turn'd almost the wrong side out, To Desdemona hath to-night caroused 1185 Potations pottle-deep; and he's to watch: Three lads of Cyprus, noble swelling spirits, That hold their honours in a wary distance, The very elements of this warlike isle, Have I to-night fluster'd with flowing cups, 1190 And they watch too. Now, 'mongst this flock of drunkards, Am I to put our Cassio in some action That may offend the isle.—But here they come: If consequence do but approve my dream, My boat sails freely, both with wind and stream.1195

[Re-enter CASSIO; with him MONTANO and Gentlemen; servants follow with wine]

Cassio. 'Fore God, they have given me a rouse already.

Montano. Good faith, a little one; not past a pint, as I am a soldier.

Iago. Some wine, ho! 1200

[Sings]

And let me the canakin clink, clink;
And let me the canakin clink
A soldier's a man;
A life's but a span; 1205
Why, then, let a soldier drink.
Some wine, boys!

Cassio. 'Fore God, an excellent song.

Iago. I learned it in England, where, indeed, they are most potent in potting: your Dane, your German, and 1210 your swag-bellied Hollander—Drink, ho!—are nothing to your English.

Cassio. Is your Englishman so expert in his drinking?

Iago. Why, he drinks you, with facility, your Dane dead drunk; he sweats not to overthrow your Almain; he 1215 gives your Hollander a vomit, ere the next pottle can be filled.

Cassio. To the health of our general!

Montano. I am for it, lieutenant; and I'll do you justice.

Iago. O sweet England! 1220
King Stephen was a worthy peer,
His breeches cost him but a crown;

He held them sixpence all too dear,
With that he call'd the tailor lown.
He was a wight of high renown, 1225
And thou art but of low degree:
'Tis pride that pulls the country down;
Then take thine auld cloak about thee.
Some wine, ho!

Cassio. Why, this is a more exquisite song than the other. 1230

Iago. Will you hear't again?

Cassio. No; for I hold him to be unworthy of his place that does those things. Well, God's above all; and there be souls must be saved, and there be souls must not be saved.

Iago. It's true, good lieutenant. 1235

Cassio. For mine own part,—no offence to the general, nor any man of quality,—I hope to be saved.

Iago. And so do I too, lieutenant.

Cassio. Ay, but, by your leave, not before me; the lieutenant is to be saved before the ancient. Let's 1240 have no more of this; let's to our affairs.—Forgive us our sins!—Gentlemen, let's look to our business. Do not think, gentlemen. I am drunk: this is my ancient; this is my right hand, and this is my left: I am not drunk now; I can stand well enough, and 1245 speak well enough.

All. Excellent well.

Cassio. Why, very well then; you must not think then that I am drunk.

[Exit]

Montano. To the platform, masters; come, let's set the watch. 1250

Iago. You see this fellow that is gone before;
He is a soldier fit to stand by Caesar
And give direction: and do but see his vice;
'Tis to his virtue a just equinox,
The one as long as the other: 'tis pity of him. 1255
I fear the trust Othello puts him in.
On some odd time of his infirmity,
Will shake this island.

Montano. But is he often thus?

Iago. 'Tis evermore the prologue to his sleep: 1260
He'll watch the horologe a double set,
If drink rock not his cradle.

Montano. It were well
The general were put in mind of it.
Perhaps he sees it not; or his good nature 1265
Prizes the virtue that appears in Cassio,
And looks not on his evils: is not this true?

[Enter RODERIGO]

Iago. *[Aside to him]* How now, Roderigo!
I pray you, after the lieutenant; go. 1270

[Exit RODERIGO]

Montano. And 'tis great pity that the noble Moor
Should hazard such a place as his own second
With one of an ingraft infirmity:
It were an honest action to say 1275
So to the Moor.

Iago. Not I, for this fair island:
I do love Cassio well; and would do much
To cure him of this evil—But, hark! what noise?

[Cry within: 'Help! help!']

[Re-enter CASSIO, driving in RODERIGO]

Cassio. You rogue! you rascal!

Montano. What's the matter, lieutenant?

Cassio. A knave teach me my duty!
I'll beat the knave into a twigen bottle. 1285

Roderigo. Beat me!

Cassio. Dost thou prate, rogue?

[Striking RODERIGO]

Montano. Nay, good lieutenant;
[Staying him] 1290
I pray you, sir, hold your hand.

Cassio. Let me go, sir,
Or I'll knock you o'er the mazzard.

Montano. Come, come,
you're drunk. 1295

Cassio. Drunk!

[They fight]

Iago. *[Aside to RODERIGO]* Away, I say; go out, and cry a mutiny.
[Exit RODERIGO]
Nay, good lieutenant,—alas, gentlemen;— 1300
Help, ho!—Lieutenant,—sir,—Montano,—sir;
Help, masters!—Here's a goodly watch indeed!
[Bell rings]
Who's that which rings the bell?—Diablo, ho!
The town will rise: God's will, lieutenant, hold! 1305
You will be shamed for ever.

[Re-enter OTHELLO and Attendants]

Othello. What is the matter here?

Montano. 'Zounds, I bleed still; I am hurt to the death.

[Faints]

Othello. Hold, for your lives!

Iago. Hold, ho! Lieutenant,—sir—Montano,—gentlemen,—
Have you forgot all sense of place and duty?
Hold! the general speaks to you; hold, hold, for shame!

Othello. Why, how now, ho! from whence ariseth this? 1315
Are we turn'd Turks, and to ourselves do that
Which heaven hath forbid the Ottomites?
For Christian shame, put by this barbarous brawl:
He that stirs next to carve for his own rage
Holds his soul light; he dies upon his motion. 1320
Silence that dreadful bell: it frights the isle
From her propriety. What is the matter, masters?
Honest Iago, that look'st dead with grieving,
Speak, who began this? on thy love, I charge thee.

Iago. I do not know: friends all but now, even now, 1325
In quarter, and in terms like bride and groom
Devesting them for bed; and then, but now—
As if some planet had unwitting men—
Swords out, and tilting one at other's breast,
In opposition bloody. I cannot speak 1330
Any beginning to this peevish odds;
And would in action glorious I had lost
Those legs that brought me to a part of it!

Othello. How comes it, Michael, you are thus forgot?

Cassio. I pray you, pardon me; I cannot speak. 1335

Othello. Worthy Montano, you were wont be civil;
The gravity and stillness of your youth
The world hath noted, and your name is great

In mouths of wisest censure: what's the matter,
That you unlace your reputation thus **1340**
And spend your rich opinion for the name
Of a night-brawler? give me answer to it.

Montano. Worthy Othello, I am hurt to danger:
Your officer, Iago, can inform you,—
While I spare speech, which something now **1345**
offends me,—
Of all that I do know: nor know I aught
By me that's said or done amiss this night;
Unless self-charity be sometimes a vice,
And to defend ourselves it be a sin **1350**
When violence assails us.

Othello. Now, by heaven,
My blood begins my safer guides to rule;
And passion, having my best judgment collied,
Assays to lead the way: if I once stir, **1355**
Or do but lift this arm, the best of you
Shall sink in my rebuke. Give me to know
How this foul rout began, who set it on;
And he that is approved in this offence,
Though he had twinn'd with me, both at a birth, **1360**
Shall lose me. What! in a town of war,
Yet wild, the people's hearts brimful of fear,
To manage private and domestic quarrel,
In night, and on the court and guard of safety!
'Tis monstrous. Iago, who began't? **1365**

Montano. If partially affined, or leagued in office,
Thou dost deliver more or less than truth,
Thou art no soldier.

Iago. Touch me not so near:
I had rather have this tongue cut from my mouth **1370**
Than it should do offence to Michael Cassio;
Yet, I persuade myself, to speak the truth
Shall nothing wrong him. Thus it is, general.
Montano and myself being in speech,
There comes a fellow crying out for help: **1375**
And Cassio following him with determined sword,
To execute upon him. Sir, this gentleman
Steps in to Cassio, and entreats his pause:
Myself the crying fellow did pursue,
Lest by his clamour—as it so fell out— **1380**
The town might fall in fright: he, swift of foot,
Outran my purpose; and I return'd the rather
For that I heard the clink and fall of swords,
And Cassio high in oath; which till to-night
I ne'er might say before. When I came back— **1385**
For this was brief—I found them close together,
At blow and thrust; even as again they were
When you yourself did part them.
More of this matter cannot I report:
But men are men; the best sometimes forget: **1390**
Though Cassio did some little wrong to him,
As men in rage strike those that wish them best,
Yet surely Cassio, I believe, received
From him that fled some strange indignity,
Which patience could not pass. **1395**

Othello. I know, Iago,
Thy honesty and love doth mince this matter,
Making it light to Cassio. Cassio, I love thee
But never more be officer of mine.
[*Re-enter DESDEMONA, attended*] **1400**

Look, if my gentle love be not raised up!
I'll make thee an example.

Desdemona. What's the matter?

Othello. All's well now, sweeting; come away to bed.
Sir, for your hurts, myself will be your surgeon: **1405**
Lead him off.

[To MONTANO, who is led off]

Iago, look with care about the town,
And silence those whom this vile brawl distracted.
Come, Desdemona: 'tis the soldiers' life **1410**
To have their balmy slumbers waked with strife.

[Exeunt all but IAGO and CASSIO]

Iago. What, are you hurt, lieutenant?

Cassio. Ay, past all surgery.

Iago. Marry, heaven forbid!**1415**

Cassio. Reputation, reputation, reputation! O, I have lost
my reputation! I have lost the immortal part of
myself, and what remains is bestial. My reputation,
Iago, my reputation!

Iago. As I am an honest man, I thought you had received **1420**
some bodily wound; there is more sense in that than
in reputation. Reputation is an idle and most false
imposition: oft got without merit, and lost without
deserving: you have lost no reputation at all,
unless you repute yourself such a loser. What, man! **1425**

there are ways to recover the general again: you
are but now cast in his mood, a punishment more in
policy than in malice, even so as one would beat his
offenceless dog to affright an imperious lion: sue
to him again, and he's yours.**1430**

Cassio. I will rather sue to be despised than to deceive so
good a commander with so slight, so drunken, and so
indiscreet an officer. Drunk? and speak parrot?
and squabble? swagger? swear? and discourse
fustian with one's own shadow? O thou invisible **1435**
spirit of wine, if thou hast no name to be known by,
let us call thee devil!

Iago. What was he that you followed with your sword? What
had he done to you?

Cassio. I know not.**1440**

Iago. Is't possible?

Cassio. I remember a mass of things, but nothing distinctly;
a quarrel, but nothing wherefore. O God, that men
should put an enemy in their mouths to steal away
their brains! that we should, with joy, pleasance **1445**
revel and applause, transform ourselves into beasts!

Iago. Why, but you are now well enough: how came you thus
recovered?

Cassio. It hath pleased the devil drunkenness to give place to the devil wrath; one unperfectness shows me **1450** another, to make me frankly despise myself.

Iago. Come, you are too severe a moraler: as the time, the place, and the condition of this country stands, I could heartily wish this had not befallen; but, since it is as it is, mend it for your own good.**1455**

Cassio. I will ask him for my place again; he shall tell me I am a drunkard! Had I as many mouths as Hydra, such an answer would stop them all. To be now a sensible man, by and by a fool, and presently a beast! O strange! Every inordinate cup is **1460** unblessed and the ingredient is a devil.

Iago. Come, come, good wine is a good familiar creature, if it be well used: exclaim no more against it. And, good lieutenant, I think you think I love you.

Cassio. I have well approved it, sir. I drunk!**1465**

Iago. You or any man living may be drunk! at a time, man. I'll tell you what you shall do. Our general's wife is now the general: may say so in this respect, for that he hath devoted and given up himself to the contemplation, mark, and denotement of her parts and **1470** graces: confess yourself freely to her; importune her help to put you in your place again: she is of so free, so kind, so apt, so blessed a disposition, she holds it a vice in her goodness not to do more than she is requested: this broken joint between **1475** you and her husband entreat her to splinter; and, my

fortunes against any lay worth naming, this crack of your love shall grow stronger than it was before.

Cassio. You advise me well.

Iago. I protest, in the sincerity of love and honest kindness.**1480**

Cassio. I think it freely; and betimes in the morning I will beseech the virtuous Desdemona to undertake for me: I am desperate of my fortunes if they cheque me here.

Iago. You are in the right. Good night, lieutenant; I must to the watch.**1485**

[Exit]

Iago. And what's he then that says I play the villain? When this advice is free I give and honest, Probal to thinking and indeed the course **1490** To win the Moor again? For 'tis most easy The inclining Desdemona to subdue In any honest suit: she's framed as fruitful As the free elements. And then for her To win the Moor—were't to renounce his baptism, **1495** All seals and symbols of redeemed sin, His soul is so enfetted to her love, That she may make, unmake, do what she list, Even as her appetite shall play the god With his weak function. How am I then a villain **1500** To counsel Cassio to this parallel course, Directly to his good? Divinity of hell! When devils will the blackest sins put on, They do suggest at first with heavenly shows, As I do now: for whiles this honest fool **1505**

Plies Desdemona to repair his fortunes
And she for him pleads strongly to the Moor,
I'll pour this pestilence into his ear,
That she repeals him for her body's lust;
And by how much she strives to do him good, **1510**
She shall undo her credit with the Moor.
So will I turn her virtue into pitch,
And out of her own goodness make the net
That shall enmesh them all.
[Re-enter RODERIGO] **1515**
How now, Roderigo!

Roderigo. I do follow here in the chase, not like a hound that
hunts, but one that fills up the cry. My money is
almost spent; I have been to-night exceedingly well
cudgelled; and I think the issue will be, I shall **1520**
have so much experience for my pains, and so, with
no money at all and a little more wit, return again to Venice.

Iago. How poor are they that have not patience!
What wound did ever heal but by degrees?
Thou know'st we work by wit, and not by witchcraft; **1525**
And wit depends on dilatory time.
Does't not go well? Cassio hath beaten thee.
And thou, by that small hurt, hast cashier'd Cassio:
Though other things grow fair against the sun,
Yet fruits that blossom first will first be ripe: **1530**
Content thyself awhile. By the mass, 'tis morning;
Pleasure and action make the hours seem short.
Retire thee; go where thou art billeted:
Away, I say; thou shalt know more hereafter:
Nay, get thee gone. **1535**
[Exit RODERIGO]
Two things are to be done:

My wife must move for Cassio to her mistress;
I'll set her on;
Myself the while to draw the Moor apart, **1540**
And bring him jump when he may Cassio find
Soliciting his wife: ay, that's the way
Dull not device by coldness and delay.

[Exit]

Act III, Scene 1

Before the castle.

[Enter CASSIO and some Musicians]

Cassio. Masters, play here; I will content your pains;
Something that's brief; and bid 'Good morrow, general.'

[Music]

[Enter Clown]

Clown. Why masters, have your instruments been in Naples, **1550**
that they speak i' the nose thus?

First Musician. How, sir, how!

Clown. Are these, I pray you, wind-instruments?

First Musician. Ay, marry, are they, sir.

Clown. O, thereby hangs a tail.1555

First Musician. Whereby hangs a tale, sir?

Clown. Marry, sir, by many a wind-instrument that I know. But, masters, here's money for you: and the general so likes your music, that he desires you, for love's sake, to make no more noise with it.1560

First Musician. Well, sir, we will not.

Clown. If you have any music that may not be heard, to't again: but, as they say to hear music the general does not greatly care.

First Musician. We have none such, sir.1565

Clown. Then put up your pipes in your bag, for I'll away: go; vanish into air; away!

[Exeunt Musicians]

Cassio. Dost thou hear, my honest friend?

Clown. No, I hear not your honest friend; I hear you.1570

Cassio. Prithee, keep up thy quillets. There's a poor piece of gold for thee: if the gentlewoman that attends the general's wife be stirring, tell her there's

one Cassio entreats her a little favour of speech: wilt thou do this?1575

Clown. She is stirring, sir: if she will stir hither, I shall seem to notify unto her.

Cassio. Do, good my friend.

[Exit Clown]

[Enter IAGO] 1580

In happy time, Iago.

Iago. You have not been a-bed, then?

Cassio. Why, no; the day had broke Before we parted. I have made bold, Iago, To send in to your wife: my suit to her 1585 Is, that she will to virtuous Desdemona Procure me some access.

Iago. I'll send her to you presently; And I'll devise a mean to draw the Moor Out of the way, that your converse and business 1590 May be more free.

Cassio. I humbly thank you for't.

[Exit IAGO]

I never knew

A Florentine more kind and honest.1595

[Enter EMILIA]

Emilia. Good morrow, good Lieutenant: I am sorry For your displeasure; but all will sure be well.

The general and his wife are talking of it;
And she speaks for you stoutly: the Moor replies, **1600**
That he you hurt is of great fame in Cyprus,
And great affinity, and that in wholesome wisdom
He might not but refuse you; but he protests he loves you
And needs no other suitor but his likings
To take the safest occasion by the front **1605**
To bring you in again.

Cassio. Yet, I beseech you,
If you think fit, or that it may be done,
Give me advantage of some brief discourse
With Desdemona alone. **1610**

Emilia. Pray you, come in;
I will bestow you where you shall have time
To speak your bosom freely.

Cassio. I am much bound to you.

[Exeunt]

Act III, Scene 2

A room in the castle.

[Enter OTHELLO, IAGO, and Gentlemen]

Othello. These letters give, Iago, to the pilot;
And by him do my duties to the senate:

That done, I will be walking on the works;
Repair there to me. **1620**

Iago. Well, my good lord, I'll do't.

Othello. This fortification, gentlemen, shall we see't?

Gentleman. We'll wait upon your lordship.

[Exeunt]

Act III, Scene 3

The garden of the castle.

[Enter DESDEMONA, CASSIO, and EMILIA]

Desdemona. Be thou assured, good Cassio, I will do
All my abilities in thy behalf.

Emilia. Good madam, do: I warrant it grieves my husband,
As if the case were his.

Desdemona. O, that's an honest fellow. Do not doubt, Cassio, **1630**
But I will have my lord and you again
As friendly as you were.

Cassio. Bounteous madam,
Whatever shall become of Michael Cassio,
He's never any thing but your true servant.1635

Desdemona. I know't; I thank you. You do love my lord:
You have known him long; and be you well assured
He shall in strangeness stand no further off
Than in a polite distance.

Cassio. Ay, but, lady, 1640
That policy may either last so long,
Or feed upon such nice and waterish diet,
Or breed itself so out of circumstance,
That, I being absent and my place supplied,
My general will forget my love and service.1645

Desdemona. Do not doubt that; before Emilia here
I give thee warrant of thy place: assure thee,
If I do vow a friendship, I'll perform it
To the last article: my lord shall never rest;
I'll watch him tame and talk him out of patience; 1650
His bed shall seem a school, his board a shrift;
I'll intermingle every thing he does
With Cassio's suit: therefore be merry, Cassio;
For thy solicitor shall rather die
Than give thy cause away.1655

Emilia. Madam, here comes my lord.

Cassio. Madam, I'll take my leave.

Desdemona. Why, stay, and hear me speak.

Cassio. Madam, not now: I am very ill at ease,
Unfit for mine own purposes.1660

Desdemona. Well, do your discretion.

[Exit CASSIO]

[Enter OTHELLO and IAGO]

Iago. Ha! I like not that.

Othello. What dost thou say?1665

Iago. Nothing, my lord: or if—I know not what.

Othello. Was not that Cassio parted from my wife?

Iago. Cassio, my lord! No, sure, I cannot think it,
That he would steal away so guilty-like,
Seeing you coming.1670

Othello. I do believe 'twas he.

Desdemona. How now, my lord!
I have been talking with a suitor here,
A man that languishes in your displeasure.

Othello. Who is't you mean?1675

Desdemona. Why, your lieutenant, Cassio. Good my lord,
If I have any grace or power to move you,
His present reconciliation take;
For if he be not one that truly loves you,

That errs in ignorance and not in cunning, **1680**
I have no judgment in an honest face:
I prithee, call him back.

Othello. Went he hence now?

Desdemona. Ay, sooth; so humbled
That he hath left part of his grief with me, **1685**
To suffer with him. Good love, call him back.

Othello. Not now, sweet Desdemona; some other time.

Desdemona. But shall't be shortly?

Othello. The sooner, sweet, for you.

Desdemona. Shall't be to-night at supper?**1690**

Othello. No, not to-night.

Desdemona. To-morrow dinner, then?

Othello. I shall not dine at home;
I meet the captains at the citadel.

Desdemona. Why, then, to-morrow night; or Tuesday morn; **1695**
On Tuesday noon, or night; on Wednesday morn:
I prithee, name the time, but let it not
Exceed three days: in faith, he's penitent;
And yet his trespass, in our common reason—
Save that, they say, the wars must make examples **1700**
Out of their best—is not almost a fault
To incur a private cheque. When shall he come?

Tell me, Othello: I wonder in my soul,
What you would ask me, that I should deny,
Or stand so mammering on. What! Michael Cassio, **1705**
That came a-wooing with you, and so many a time,
When I have spoke of you dispraisingly,
Hath ta'en your part; to have so much to do
To bring him in! Trust me, I could do much,—

Othello. Prithee, no more: let him come when he will; **1710**
I will deny thee nothing.

Desdemona. Why, this is not a boon;
'Tis as I should entreat you wear your gloves,
Or feed on nourishing dishes, or keep you warm,
Or sue to you to do a peculiar profit **1715**
To your own person: nay, when I have a suit
Wherein I mean to touch your love indeed,
It shall be full of poise and difficult weight
And fearful to be granted.

Othello. I will deny thee nothing: **1720**
Whereon, I do beseech thee, grant me this,
To leave me but a little to myself.

Desdemona. Shall I deny you? no: farewell, my lord.

Othello. Farewell, my Desdemona: I'll come to thee straight.

Desdemona. Emilia, come. Be as your fancies teach you; **1725**
Whate'er you be, I am obedient.

[Exeunt DESDEMONA and EMILIA]

Othello. Excellent wretch! Perdition catch my soul,
But I do love thee! and when I love thee not,
Chaos is come again. **1730**

Iago. My noble lord—

Othello. What dost thou say, Iago?

Iago. Did Michael Cassio, when you woo'd my lady,
Know of your love?

Othello. He did, from first to last: why dost thou ask? **1735**

Iago. But for a satisfaction of my thought;
No further harm.

Othello. Why of thy thought, Iago?

Iago. I did not think he had been acquainted with her.

Othello. O, yes; and went between us very oft. **1740**

Iago. Indeed!

Othello. Indeed! ay, indeed: discern'st thou aught in that?
Is he not honest?

Iago. Honest, my lord!

Othello. Honest! ay, honest. **1745**

Iago. My lord, for aught I know.

Othello. What dost thou think?

Iago. Think, my lord!

Othello. Think, my lord!

By heaven, he echoes me, **1750**

As if there were some monster in his thought
Too hideous to be shown. Thou dost mean something:
I heard thee say even now, thou likedst not that,
When Cassio left my wife: what didst not like?
And when I told thee he was of my counsel **1755**
In my whole course of wooing, thou criedst 'Indeed!'
And didst contract and purse thy brow together,
As if thou then hadst shut up in thy brain
Some horrible conceit: if thou dost love me,
Show me thy thought. **1760**

Iago. My lord, you know I love you.

Othello. I think thou dost;

And, for I know thou'rt full of love and honesty,
And weigh'st thy words before thou givest them breath,
Therefore these stops of thine fright me the more: **1765**
For such things in a false disloyal knave
Are tricks of custom, but in a man that's just
They are close delations, working from the heart
That passion cannot rule.

Iago. For Michael Cassio, **1770**

I dare be sworn I think that he is honest.

Othello. I think so too.

Iago. Men should be what they seem;
Or those that be not, would they might seem none!

Othello. Certain, men should be what they seem.1775

Iago. Why, then, I think Cassio's an honest man.

Othello. Nay, yet there's more in this:
I prithee, speak to me as to thy thinkings,
As thou dost ruminate, and give thy worst of thoughts
The worst of words.1780

Iago. Good my lord, pardon me:
Though I am bound to every act of duty,
I am not bound to that all slaves are free to.
Utter my thoughts? Why, say they are vile and false;
As where's that palace whereinto foul things 1785
Sometimes intrude not? who has a breast so pure,
But some uncleanly apprehensions
Keep leets and law-days and in session sit
With meditations lawful?

Othello. Thou dost conspire against thy friend, Iago, 1790
If thou but think'st him wrong'd and makest his ear
A stranger to thy thoughts.

Iago. I do beseech you—
Though I perchance am vicious in my guess,
As, I confess, it is my nature's plague 1795
To spy into abuses, and oft my jealousy
Shapes faults that are not—that your wisdom yet,

From one that so imperfectly conceits,
Would take no notice, nor build yourself a trouble
Out of his scattering and unsure observance. 1800
It were not for your quiet nor your good,
Nor for my manhood, honesty, or wisdom,
To let you know my thoughts.

Othello. What dost thou mean?

Iago. Good name in man and woman, dear my lord, 1805
Is the immediate jewel of their souls:
Who steals my purse steals trash; 'tis something, nothing;
'Twas mine, 'tis his, and has been slave to thousands:
But he that filches from me my good name
Robs me of that which not enriches him 1810
And makes me poor indeed.

Othello. By heaven, I'll know thy thoughts.

Iago. You cannot, if my heart were in your hand;
Nor shall not, whilst 'tis in my custody.

Othello. Ha!1815

Iago. O, beware, my lord, of jealousy;
It is the green-eyed monster which doth mock
The meat it feeds on; that cuckold lives in bliss
Who, certain of his fate, loves not his wronger;
But, O, what damned minutes tells he o'er 1820
Who dotes, yet doubts, suspects, yet strongly loves!

Othello. O misery!

Iago. Poor and content is rich and rich enough,
But riches fineless is as poor as winter
To him that ever fears he shall be poor. **1825**
Good heaven, the souls of all my tribe defend
From jealousy!

Othello. Why, why is this?
Think'st thou I'd make a lie of jealousy,
To follow still the changes of the moon **1830**
With fresh suspicions? No; to be once in doubt
Is once to be resolved: exchange me for a goat,
When I shall turn the business of my soul
To such exsufflicate and blown surmises,
Matching thy inference. 'Tis not to make me jealous **1835**
To say my wife is fair, feeds well, loves company,
Is free of speech, sings, plays and dances well;
Where virtue is, these are more virtuous:
Nor from mine own weak merits will I draw
The smallest fear or doubt of her revolt; **1840**
For she had eyes, and chose me. No, Iago;
I'll see before I doubt; when I doubt, prove;
And on the proof, there is no more but this,—
Away at once with love or jealousy!

Iago. I am glad of it; for now I shall have reason **1845**
To show the love and duty that I bear you
With franker spirit: therefore, as I am bound,
Receive it from me. I speak not yet of proof.
Look to your wife; observe her well with Cassio;
Wear your eye thus, not jealous nor secure: **1850**
I would not have your free and noble nature,
Out of self-bounty, be abused; look to't:
I know our country disposition well;
In Venice they do let heaven see the pranks

They dare not show their husbands; their best conscience **1855**
Is not to leave't undone, but keep't unknown.

Othello. Dost thou say so?

Iago. She did deceive her father, marrying you;
And when she seem'd to shake and fear your looks,
She loved them most. **1860**

Othello. And so she did.

Iago. Why, go to then;
She that, so young, could give out such a seeming,
To seal her father's eyes up close as oak-
He thought 'twas witchcraft—but I am much to blame; **1865**
I humbly do beseech you of your pardon
For too much loving you.

Othello. I am bound to thee for ever.

Iago. I see this hath a little dash'd your spirits.

Othello. Not a jot, not a jot. **1870**

Iago. I' faith, I fear it has.
I hope you will consider what is spoke
Comes from my love. But I do see you're moved:
I am to pray you not to strain my speech
To grosser issues nor to larger reach **1875**
Than to suspicion.

Othello. I will not.

Iago. Should you do so, my lord,
My speech should fall into such vile success
As my thoughts aim not at. Cassio's my worthy friend— **1880**
My lord, I see you're moved.

Othello. No, not much moved:
I do not think but Desdemona's honest.

Iago. Long live she so! and long live you to think so!

Othello. And yet, how nature erring from itself,—**1885**

Iago. Ay, there's the point: as—to be bold with you—
Not to affect many proposed matches
Of her own clime, complexion, and degree,
Whereto we see in all things nature tends—
Foh! one may smell in such a will most rank, **1890**
Foul disproportion thoughts unnatural.
But pardon me; I do not in position
Distinctly speak of her; though I may fear
Her will, recoiling to her better judgment,
May fall to match you with her country forms **1895**
And happily repent.

Othello. Farewell, farewell:
If more thou dost perceive, let me know more;
Set on thy wife to observe: leave me, Iago:

Iago. [*Going*] My lord, I take my leave. **1900**

Othello. Why did I marry? This honest creature doubtless
Sees and knows more, much more, than he unfolds.

Iago. [*Returning*] My lord, I would I might entreat
your honour
To scan this thing no further; leave it to time: **1905**
Though it be fit that Cassio have his place,
For sure, he fills it up with great ability,
Yet, if you please to hold him off awhile,
You shall by that perceive him and his means:
Note, if your lady strain his entertainment **1910**
With any strong or vehement importunity;
Much will be seen in that. In the mean time,
Let me be thought too busy in my fears—
As worthy cause I have to fear I am—
And hold her free, I do beseech your honour. **1915**

Othello. Fear not my government.

Iago. I once more take my leave.

[*Exit*]

Othello. This fellow's of exceeding honesty,
And knows all qualities, with a learned spirit, **1920**
Of human dealings. If I do prove her haggard,
Though that her jesses were my dear heartstrings,
I'd whistle her off and let her down the wind,
To pray at fortune. Haply, for I am black
And have not those soft parts of conversation **1925**
That chamberers have, or for I am declined
Into the vale of years,—yet that's not much—
She's gone. I am abused; and my relief
Must be to loathe her. O curse of marriage,
That we can call these delicate creatures ours, **1930**
And not their appetites! I had rather be a toad,
And live upon the vapour of a dungeon,

Than keep a corner in the thing I love
For others' uses. Yet, 'tis the plague of great ones;
Prerogativ'd are they less than the base; **1935**
'Tis destiny unshunnable, like death:
Even then this forked plague is fated to us
When we do quicken. Desdemona comes:
[Re-enter DESDEMONA and EMILIA]
If she be false, O, then heaven mocks itself! **1940**
I'll not believe't.

Desdemona. How now, my dear Othello!
Your dinner, and the generous islanders
By you invited, do attend your presence.

Othello. I am to blame. **1945**

Desdemona. Why do you speak so faintly?
Are you not well?

Othello. I have a pain upon my forehead here.

Desdemona. 'Faith, that's with watching; 'twill away again:
Let me but bind it hard, within this hour **1950**
It will be well.

Othello. Your napkin is too little:
[He puts the handkerchief from him; and it drops]
Let it alone. Come, I'll go in with you.

Desdemona. I am very sorry that you are not well. **1955**

[Exeunt OTHELLO and DESDEMONA]

Emilia. I am glad I have found this napkin:
This was her first remembrance from the Moor:
My wayward husband hath a hundred times
Woo'd me to steal it; but she so loves the token, **1960**
For he conjured her she should ever keep it,
That she reserves it evermore about her
To kiss and talk to. I'll have the work ta'en out,
And give't Iago: what he will do with it
Heaven knows, not I; **1965**
I nothing but to please his fantasy.

[Re-enter Iago]

Iago. How now! what do you here alone?

Emilia. Do not you chide; I have a thing for you.

Iago. A thing for me? it is a common thing—**1970**

Emilia. Ha!

Iago. To have a foolish wife.

Emilia. O, is that all? What will you give me now
For the same handkerchief?

Iago. What handkerchief? **1975**

Emilia. What handkerchief?
Why, that the Moor first gave to Desdemona;
That which so often you did bid me steal.

Iago. Hast stol'n it from her?

Emilia. No, 'faith; she let it drop by negligence. **1980**
And, to the advantage, I, being here, took't up.
Look, here it is.

Iago. A good wench; give it me.

Emilia. What will you do with 't, that you have been
so earnest **1985**
To have me filch it?

Iago. [*Snatching it*] Why, what's that to you?

Emilia. If it be not for some purpose of import,
Give't me again: poor lady, she'll run mad
When she shall lack it. **1990**

Iago. Be not acknown on 't; I have use for it.
Go, leave me.

[*Exit EMILIA*]

I will in Cassio's lodging lose this napkin,
And let him find it. Trifles light as air **1995**
Are to the jealous confirmations strong
As proofs of holy writ: this may do something.
The Moor already changes with my poison:
Dangerous conceits are, in their natures, poisons.
Which at the first are scarce found to distaste, **2000**
But with a little act upon the blood.
Burn like the mines of Sulphur. I did say so:
Look, where he comes!

[*Re-enter OTHELLO*]

Not poppy, nor mandragora, **2005**
Nor all the drowsy syrups of the world,

Shall ever medicine thee to that sweet sleep
Which thou owedst yesterday.

Othello. Ha! ha! false to me?

Iago. Why, how now, general! no more of that. **2010**

Othello. Avaunt! be gone! thou hast set me on the rack:
I swear 'tis better to be much abused
Than but to know't a little.

Iago. How now, my lord!

Othello. What sense had I of her stol'n hours of lust? **2015**
I saw't not, thought it not, it harm'd not me:
I slept the next night well, was free and merry;
I found not Cassio's kisses on her lips:
He that is robb'd, not wanting what is stol'n,
Let him not know't, and he's not robb'd at all. **2020**

Iago. I am sorry to hear this.

Othello. I had been happy, if the general camp,
Pioners and all, had tasted her sweet body,
So I had nothing known. O, now, for ever
Farewell the tranquil mind! farewell content! **2025**
Farewell the plumed troop, and the big wars,
That make ambition virtue! O, farewell!
Farewell the neighing steed, and the shrill trump,
The spirit-stirring drum, the ear-piercing fife,
The royal banner, and all quality, **2030**
Pride, pomp and circumstance of glorious war!
And, O you mortal engines, whose rude throats

The immortal Jove's dead clamours counterfeit,
Farewell! Othello's occupation's gone!

Iago. Is't possible, my lord? **2035**

Othello. Villain, be sure thou prove my love a whore,
Be sure of it; give me the ocular proof:
Or by the worth of man's eternal soul,
Thou hadst been better have been born a dog
Than answer my waked wrath! **2040**

Iago. Is't come to this?

Othello. Make me to see't; or, at the least, so prove it,
That the probation bear no hinge nor loop
To hang a doubt on; or woe upon thy life!

Iago. My noble lord,— **2045**

Othello. If thou dost slander her and torture me,
Never pray more; abandon all remorse;
On horror's head horrors accumulate;
Do deeds to make heaven weep, all earth amazed;
For nothing canst thou to damnation add **2050**
Greater than that.

Iago. O grace! O heaven forgive me!
Are you a man? have you a soul or sense?
God be wi' you; take mine office. O wretched fool.
That livest to make thine honesty a vice! **2055**
O monstrous world! Take note, take note, O world,
To be direct and honest is not safe.

I thank you for this profit; and from hence
I'll love no friend, sith love breeds such offence.

Othello. Nay, stay: thou shouldst be honest. **2060**

Iago. I should be wise, for honesty's a fool
And loses that it works for.

Othello. By the world,
I think my wife be honest and think she is not;
I think that thou art just and think thou art not. **2065**
I'll have some proof. Her name, that was as fresh
As Dian's visage, is now begrimed and black
As mine own face. If there be cords, or knives,
Poison, or fire, or suffocating streams,
I'll not endure it. Would I were satisfied! **2070**

Iago. I see, sir, you are eaten up with passion:
I do repent me that I put it to you.
You would be satisfied?

Othello. Would! nay, I will.

Iago. And may: but, how? how satisfied, my lord? **2075**
Would you, the supervisor, grossly gape on—
Behold her topp'd?

Othello. Death and damnation! O!

Iago. It were a tedious difficulty, I think,
To bring them to that prospect: damn them then, **2080**
If ever mortal eyes do see them bolster
More than their own! What then? how then?

What shall I say? Where's satisfaction?
It is impossible you should see this,
Were they as prime as goats, as hot as monkeys, **2085**
As salt as wolves in pride, and fools as gross
As ignorance made drunk. But yet, I say,
If imputation and strong circumstances,
Which lead directly to the door of truth,
Will give you satisfaction, you may have't. **2090**

Othello. Give me a living reason she's disloyal.

Iago. I do not like the office:
But, sith I am enter'd in this cause so far,
Prick'd to't by foolish honesty and love,
I will go on. I lay with Cassio lately; **2095**
And, being troubled with a raging tooth,
I could not sleep.
There are a kind of men so loose of soul,
That in their sleeps will mutter their affairs:
One of this kind is Cassio: **2100**
In sleep I heard him say 'Sweet Desdemona,
Let us be wary, let us hide our loves;'
And then, sir, would he gripe and wring my hand,
Cry 'O sweet creature!' and then kiss me hard,
As if he pluck'd up kisses by the roots **2105**
That grew upon my lips: then laid his leg
Over my thigh, and sigh'd, and kiss'd; and then
Cried 'Cursed fate that gave thee to the Moor!'

Othello. O monstrous! monstrous!

Iago. Nay, this was but his dream. **2110**

Othello. But this denoted a foregone conclusion:
'Tis a shrewd doubt, though it be but a dream.

Iago. And this may help to thicken other proofs
That do demonstrate thinly.

Othello. I'll tear her all to pieces. **2115**

Iago. Nay, but be wise: yet we see nothing done;
She may be honest yet. Tell me but this,
Have you not sometimes seen a handkerchief
Spotted with strawberries in your wife's hand?

Othello. I gave her such a one; 'twas my first gift. **2120**

Iago. I know not that; but such a handkerchief—
I am sure it was your wife's—did I to-day
See Cassio wipe his beard with.

Othello. If it be that—

Iago. If it be that, or any that was hers, **2125**
It speaks against her with the other proofs.

Othello. O, that the slave had forty thousand lives!
One is too poor, too weak for my revenge.
Now do I see 'tis true. Look here, Iago;
All my fond love thus do I blow to heaven. **2130**
'Tis gone.
Arise, black vengeance, from thy hollow cell!
Yield up, O love, thy crown and hearted throne

To tyrannous hate! Swell, bosom, with thy fraught,
For 'tis of aspics' tongues! **2135**

Iago. Yet be content.

Othello. O, blood, blood, blood!

Iago. Patience, I say; your mind perhaps may change.

Othello. Never, Iago: Like to the Pontic sea,
Whose icy current and compulsive course **2140**
Ne'er feels retiring ebb, but keeps due on
To the Propontic and the Hellespont,
Even so my bloody thoughts, with violent pace,
Shall ne'er look back, ne'er ebb to humble love,
Till that a capable and wide revenge **2145**
Swallow them up. Now, by yond marble heaven,
[Kneels]
In the due reverence of a sacred vow
I here engage my words.

Iago. Do not rise yet. **2150**

[Kneels]
Witness, you ever-burning lights above,
You elements that clip us round about,
Witness that here Iago doth give up
The execution of his wit, hands, heart, **2155**
To wrong'd Othello's service! Let him command,
And to obey shall be in me remorse,
What bloody business ever.

[They rise]

Othello. I greet thy love, **2160**

Not with vain thanks, but with acceptance bounteous,
And will upon the instant put thee to't:
Within these three days let me hear thee say
That Cassio's not alive.

Iago. My friend is dead; 'tis done at your request: **2165**
But let her live.

Othello. Damn her, lewd minx! O, damn her!
Come, go with me apart; I will withdraw,
To furnish me with some swift means of death
For the fair devil. Now art thou my lieutenant. **2170**

Iago. I am your own for ever.

[Exeunt]

Act III, Scene 4

Before the castle.

[Enter DESDEMONA, EMILIA, and Clown]

Desdemona. Do you know, sirrah, where Lieutenant Cassio lies?

Clown. I dare not say he lies any where. **2175**

Desdemona. Why, man?

Clown. He's a soldier, and for one to say a soldier lies, is stabbing.

Desdemona. Go to: where lodges he?

Clown. To tell you where he lodges, is to tell you where I lie. 2180

Desdemona. Can any thing be made of this?

Clown. I know not where he lodges, and for me to devise a lodging and say he lies here or he lies there, were to lie in mine own throat.

Desdemona. Can you inquire him out, and be edified by report? 2185

Clown. I will catechise the world for him; that is, make questions, and by them answer.

Desdemona. Seek him, bid him come hither: tell him I have moved my lord on his behalf, and hope all will be well.

Clown. To do this is within the compass of man's wit: and 2190 therefore I will attempt the doing it.

[Exit]

Desdemona. Where should I lose that handkerchief, Emilia?

Emilia. I know not, madam.

Desdemona. Believe me, I had rather have lost my purse 2195
Full of crusadoes: and, but my noble Moor
Is true of mind and made of no such baseness
As jealous creatures are, it were enough
To put him to ill thinking.

Emilia. Is he not jealous? 2200

Desdemona. Who, he? I think the sun where he was born
Drew all such humours from him.

Emilia. Look, where he comes.

Desdemona. I will not leave him now till Cassio
Be call'd to him. 2205

[Enter OTHELLO]

How is't with you, my lord

Othello. Well, my good lady.

[Aside]

O, hardness to dissemble!— 2210

How do you, Desdemona?

Desdemona. Well, my good lord.

Othello. Give me your hand: this hand is moist, my lady.

Desdemona. It yet hath felt no age nor known no sorrow.

Othello. This argues fruitfulness and liberal heart: 2215

Hot, hot, and moist: this hand of yours requires

A sequester from liberty, fasting and prayer,

Much castigation, exercise devout;

For here's a young and sweating devil here,
That commonly rebels. 'Tis a good hand, 2220
A frank one.

Desdemona. You may, indeed, say so;
For 'twas that hand that gave away my heart.

Othello. A liberal hand: the hearts of old gave hands;
But our new heraldry is hands, not hearts. 2225

Desdemona. I cannot speak of this. Come now, your promise.

Othello. What promise, chuck?

Desdemona. I have sent to bid Cassio come speak with you.

Othello. I have a salt and sorry rheum offends me;
Lend me thy handkerchief. 2230

Desdemona. Here, my lord.

Othello. That which I gave you.

Desdemona. I have it not about me.

Othello. Not?

Desdemona. No, indeed, my lord. 2235

Othello. That is a fault.
That handkerchief
Did an Egyptian to my mother give;
She was a charmer, and could almost read

The thoughts of people: she told her, while 2240
she kept it,
'Twould make her amiable and subdue my father
Entirely to her love, but if she lost it
Or made gift of it, my father's eye
Should hold her loathed and his spirits should hunt 2245
After new fancies: she, dying, gave it me;
And bid me, when my fate would have me wive,
To give it her. I did so: and take heed on't;
Make it a darling like your precious eye;
To lose't or give't away were such perdition 2250
As nothing else could match.

Desdemona. Is't possible?

Othello. 'Tis true: there's magic in the web of it:
A sibyl, that had number'd in the world
The sun to course two hundred compasses, 2255
In her prophetic fury sew'd the work;
The worms were hallow'd that did breed the silk;
And it was dyed in mummy which the skilful
Conserved of maidens' hearts.

Desdemona. Indeed! is't true? 2260

Othello. Most veritable; therefore look to't well.

Desdemona. Then would to God that I had never seen't!

Othello. Ha! wherefore?

Desdemona. Why do you speak so startingly and rash?

Othello. Is't lost? is't gone? speak, is it out 2265
o' the way?

Desdemona. Heaven bless us!

Othello. Say you?

Desdemona. It is not lost; but what an if it were?

Othello. How! 2270

Desdemona. I say, it is not lost.

Othello. Fetch't, let me see't.

Desdemona. Why, so I can, sir, but I will not now.
This is a trick to put me from my suit:
Pray you, let Cassio be received again. 2275

Othello. Fetch me the handkerchief: my mind misgives.

Desdemona. Come, come;
You'll never meet a more sufficient man.

Othello. The handkerchief!

Desdemona. I pray, talk me of Cassio. 2280

Othello. The handkerchief!

Desdemona. A man that all his time
Hath founded his good fortunes on your love,
Shared dangers with you,—

Othello. The handkerchief! 2285

Desdemona. In sooth, you are to blame.

Othello. Away!

[Exit]

Emilia. Is not this man jealous?

Desdemona. I ne'er saw this before. 2290
Sure, there's some wonder in this handkerchief:
I am most unhappy in the loss of it.

Emilia. 'Tis not a year or two shows us a man:
They are all but stomachs, and we all but food;
To eat us hungerly, and when they are full, 2295
They belch us. Look you, Cassio and my husband!

[Enter CASSIO and IAGO]

Iago. There is no other way; 'tis she must do't:
And, lo, the happiness! go, and importune her.

Desdemona. How now, good Cassio! what's the news with you? 2300

Cassio. Madam, my former suit: I do beseech you
That by your virtuous means I may again
Exist, and be a member of his love

Whom I with all the office of my heart
Entirely honour: I would not be delay'd. 2305
If my offence be of such mortal kind
That nor my service past, nor present sorrows,
Nor purposed merit in futurity,
Can ransom me into his love again,
But to know so must be my benefit; 2310
So shall I clothe me in a forced content,
And shut myself up in some other course,
To fortune's alms.

Desdemona. Alas, thrice-gentle Cassio!
My advocacy is not now in tune; 2315
My lord is not my lord; nor should I know him,
Were he in favour as in humour alter'd.
So help me every spirit sanctified,
As I have spoken for you all my best
And stood within the blank of his displeasure 2320
For my free speech! you must awhile be patient:
What I can do I will; and more I will
Than for myself I dare: let that suffice you.

Iago. Is my lord angry?

Emilia. He went hence but now, 2325
And certainly in strange unquietness.

Iago. Can he be angry? I have seen the cannon,
When it hath blown his ranks into the air,
And, like the devil, from his very arm
Puff'd his own brother:—and can he be angry? 2330
Something of moment then: I will go meet him:
There's matter in't indeed, if he be angry.

Desdemona. I prithee, do so.

[Exit IAGO]

Something, sure, of state, 2335
Either from Venice, or some unhatch'd practise
Made demonstrable here in Cyprus to him,
Hath puddled his clear spirit: and in such cases
Men's natures wrangle with inferior things,
Though great ones are their object. 'Tis even so; 2340
For let our finger ache, and it indues
Our other healthful members even to that sense
Of pain: nay, we must think men are not gods,
Nor of them look for such observances
As fit the bridal. Beshrew me much, Emilia, 2345
I was, unhandsome warrior as I am,
Arraigning his unkindness with my soul;
But now I find I had suborn'd the witness,
And he's indicted falsely.

Emilia. Pray heaven it be state-matters, as you think, 2350
And no conception nor no jealous toy
Concerning you.

Desdemona. Alas the day! I never gave him cause.

Emilia. But jealous souls will not be answer'd so;
They are not ever jealous for the cause, 2355
But jealous for they are jealous: 'tis a monster
Begot upon itself, born on itself.

Desdemona. Heaven keep that monster from Othello's mind!

Emilia. Lady, amen.

Desdemona. I will go seek him. Cassio, walk hereabout: 2360
If I do find him fit, I'll move your suit
And seek to effect it to my uttermost.

Cassio. I humbly thank your ladyship.

[Exeunt DESDEMONA and EMILIA]

[Enter BIANCA]

Bianca. Save you, friend Cassio!

Cassio. What make you from home?
How is it with you, my most fair Bianca?
I' faith, sweet love, I was coming to your house.

Bianca. And I was going to your lodging, Cassio. 2370
What, keep a week away? seven days and nights?
Eight score eight hours? and lovers' absent hours,
More tedious than the dial eight score times?
O weary reckoning!

Cassio. Pardon me, Bianca: 2375
I have this while with leaden thoughts been press'd:
But I shall, in a more continue time,
Strike off this score of absence. Sweet Bianca,
[Giving her DESDEMONA's handkerchief]
Take me this work out. 2380

Bianca. O Cassio, whence came this?
This is some token from a newer friend:

To the felt absence now I feel a cause:
Is't come to this? Well, well.

Cassio. Go to, woman! 2385
Throw your vile guesses in the devil's teeth,
From whence you have them. You are jealous now
That this is from some mistress, some remembrance:
No, in good troth, Bianca.

Bianca. Why, whose is it? 2390

Cassio. I know not, sweet: I found it in my chamber.
I like the work well: ere it be demanded—
As like enough it will—I'd have it copied:
Take it, and do't; and leave me for this time.

Bianca. Leave you! wherefore? 2395

Cassio. I do attend here on the general;
And think it no addition, nor my wish,
To have him see me woman'd.

Bianca. Why, I pray you?

Cassio. Not that I love you not. 2400

Bianca. But that you do not love me.
I pray you, bring me on the way a little,
And say if I shall see you soon at night.

Cassio. 'Tis but a little way that I can bring you;
For I attend here: but I'll see you soon. 2405

Bianca. 'Tis very good; I must be circumstanced.

[Exeunt]