

Othello

By William Shakespeare

Edited by Barbara A. Mowat and Paul Werstine
with Michael Poston and Rebecca Niles

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Characters in the Play

OTHELLO, a Moorish general in the Venetian army

DESDEMONA, a Venetian lady

BRABANTIO, a Venetian senator, father to Desdemona

IAGO, Othello's standard-bearer, or "ancient"

EMILIA, Iago's wife and Desdemona's attendant

CASSIO, Othello's second-in-command, or lieutenant

RODERIGO, a Venetian gentleman

Duke of Venice

Venetian gentlemen, kinsmen to Brabantio:

LODOVICO

GRATIANO

Venetian senators

MONTANO, an official in Cyprus

BIANCA, a woman in Cyprus in love with Cassio

Clown, a comic servant to Othello and Desdemona

Gentlemen of Cyprus

Sailors

Servants, Attendants, Officers, Messengers, Herald, Musicians,
Torchbearers.

ACT 1

Scene 1

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'll not hear me!

If ever I did dream of such a matter, 5
Abhor me.

RODERIGO

Thou toldst 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, 10
Off-capped to him; and, by the faith of man,
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 stuffed with epithets of war, 15
And in conclusion,

Nonsuits my mediators. For "Certes," says he,
"I have already chose my officer."
And what was he?

Forsooth, a great arithmetician, 20

One Michael Cassio, a Florentine,
A fellow almost damned in a fair wife,
That never set a squadron in the field,
Nor the division of a battle knows

More than a spinster—unless the bookish theoretic, 25
Wherein the togèd consuls can propose

As masterly as he. Mere prattle without practice
Is all his soldiership. But he, sir, had th' election;

And I, of whom his eyes had seen the proof 30
At Rhodes, at Cyprus, and on other grounds

Christened and heathen, must be beled and
calmed

By debtor and creditor. This countercafter,
He, in good time, must his lieutenant be,
And I, God bless the mark, his Moorship's ancient. 35

RODERIGO

By heaven, I rather would have been his hangman.

IAGO

Why, there's no remedy. 'Tis the curse of service.
Preferment goes by letter and affection,
And not by old gradation, where each second 40
Stood heir to th' first. Now, sir, be judge yourself

Whether I in any just term am affined
To love the Moor.

RODERIGO

I would not follow him, then.

IAGO O, sir, content you. 45
 I follow him to serve my turn upon him.
 We cannot all be masters, nor all masters
 Cannot be truly followed. You shall mark
 Many a duteous and knee-crooking knave
 That, doting on his own obsequious bondage,
 Wears out his time, much like his master's ass, 50
 For naught but provender, and when he's old,
 cashiered.
 Whip me such honest knaves! Others there are
 Who, trimmed in forms and visages of duty,
 Keep yet their hearts attending on themselves, 55
 And, throwing but shows of service on their lords,
 Do well thrive by them; and when they have lined
 their coats,
 Do themselves homage. These fellows have some
 soul, 60
 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.
 Heaven is my judge, not I for love and duty, 65
 But seeming so for my peculiar end.
 For when my outward action doth demonstrate
 The native act and figure of my heart
 In complement extern, 'tis not long after
 But I will wear my heart upon my sleeve 70
 For daws to peck at. I am not what I am.

RODERIGO
 What a full fortune does the thick-lips owe
 If he can carry 't thus!

IAGO Call up her father. 75
 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 chances of vexation on 't
 As it may lose some color. 80

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.

RODERIGO
 What ho, Brabantio! Signior Brabantio, ho! 85

IAGO
 Awake! What ho, Brabantio! Thieves, thieves!
 Look to your house, your daughter, and your bags!
 Thieves, thieves!

Enter Brabantio, above.

BRABANTIO
 What is the reason of this terrible summons?
 What is the matter there? 90

RODERIGO
 Signior, is all your family within?

IAGO
 Are your doors locked?

BRABANTIO Why, wherefore ask you this?

IAGO
 Zounds, sir, you're robbed. For shame, put on your
 gown! 95
 Your heart is burst. You have lost half your soul.
 Even now, now, very now, an old black ram
 Is tupping your white ewe. Arise, arise!
 Awake the snorting citizens with the bell,
 Or else the devil will make a grandsire of you. 100
 Arise, I say!

BRABANTIO What, have you lost your wits?

RODERIGO
 Most reverend signior, do you know my voice?

BRABANTIO Not I. What are you?

RODERIGO
 My name is Roderigo. 105

BRABANTIO The worser welcome.
 I have charged thee not to haunt about my doors.
 In honest plainness thou hast heard me say
 My daughter is not for thee. And now in madness,
 Being full of supper and distemp'ring draughts, 110
 Upon malicious bravery dost thou come
 To start my quiet.

RODERIGO Sir, sir, sir—

BRABANTIO But thou must needs be sure
 My spirit and my place have in them power 115
 To make this bitter to thee.

RODERIGO
 Patience, good sir.

BRABANTIO What tell'st thou me of robbing?
 This is Venice. My house is not a grange.

RODERIGO Most grave Brabantio, 120
 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
 do you service and you think we are ruffians, you'll
 have your daughter covered with a Barbary horse, 125
 you'll have your nephews neigh to you, you'll have
 coursers for cousins and jennets for germans.

BRABANTIO What profane wretch art thou?

IAGO I am one, sir, that comes to tell you your daughter
 and the Moor are now making the beast with
 two backs. 130

BRABANTIO Thou art a villain.

IAGO You are a senator.

BRABANTIO
 This thou shalt answer. I know thee, Roderigo.

RODERIGO
 Sir, I will answer anything. But I beseech you, 135
 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' th' night,

Transported with no worse nor better guard
 But with a knave of common hire, a gondolier, 140
 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
 We have your wrong rebuke. Do not believe 145
 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,
 Tying her duty, beauty, wit, and fortunes 150
 In an extravagant and wheeling stranger
 Of here and everywhere. Straight satisfy yourself.
 If she be in her chamber or your house,
 Let loose on me the justice of the state
 For thus deluding you. 155

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.
 Light, I say, light! *He exits.* 160

IAGO, *to Roderigo* Farewell, for I must leave you.
 It seems not meet nor wholesome to my place
 To be produced, as if I stay I shall,
 Against the Moor. For I do know the state,
 However this may gall him with some check, 165
 Cannot with safety cast him, for he's embarked
 With such loud reason to the Cyprus wars,
 Which even now stands in act, that, for their souls,
 Another of his fathom they have none
 To lead their business. In which regard, 170
 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—
 Which is indeed but sign. That you shall surely find
 him, 175
 Lead to the Sagittary the raised search,
 And there will I be with him. So, farewell. *He exits.*

*Enter Brabantio in his nightgown, with Servants and
 Torches.*

BRABANTIO
 It is too true an evil. Gone she is,
 And what's to come of my despisèd time
 Is naught but bitterness.—Now, Roderigo, 180
 Where didst thou see her?—O, unhappy girl!—
 With the Moor, sayst thou?—Who would be a
 father?—
 How didst thou know 'twas she?—O, she deceives
 me 185
 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. 190
BRABANTIO
O heaven! How got she out? O treason of the blood!
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, 195
Of some such thing?
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? 200
RODERIGO
I think I can discover him, if you please
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.— 205
On, good Roderigo. I will deserve your pains.
They exit.

Scene 2

Enter Othello, Iago, Attendants, with Torches.

IAGO
Though in the trade of war I have slain men,
Yet do I hold it very stuff o' th' conscience
To do no contrived murder. I lack iniquity
Sometimes to do me service. Nine or ten times
I had thought t' have yerked him here under the 5
ribs.
OTHELLO
'Tis better as it is.
IAGO Nay, but he prated
And spoke such scurvy and provoking terms
Against your Honor, 10
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,
And hath in his effect a voice potential 15
As double as the Duke's. He will divorce you
Or put upon you what restraint or grievance
The law (with all his might to enforce it on)
Will give him cable.
OTHELLO Let him do his spite. 20
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 honor,
I shall promulgate) I fetch my life and being
From men of royal siege, and my demerits 25
May speak unbonneted to as proud a fortune
As this that I have reached. For know, Iago,
But that I love the gentle Desdemona,

I would not my unhousèd free condition
 Put into circumscription and confine 30
 For the sea's worth. But look, what lights come
 yond?

IAGO
 Those are the raisèd father and his friends.
 You were best go in.

OTHELLO Not I. I must be found. 35
 My parts, my title, and my perfect soul
 Shall manifest me rightly. Is it they?

IAGO By Janus, I think no.

Enter Cassio, with Officers, and Torches.

OTHELLO
 The servants of the Duke and my lieutenant!
 The goodness of the night upon you, friends. 40
 What is the news?

CASSIO The Duke does greet you, general,
 And he requires your haste-post-haste appearance,
 Even on the instant.

OTHELLO What is the matter, think you? 45
 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,
 And many of the Consuls, raised and met, 50
 Are at the Duke's already. You have been hotly
 called for.
 When, being not at your lodging to be found,
 The Senate hath sent about three several quests
 To search you out. 55

OTHELLO 'Tis well I am found by you.
 I will but spend a word here in the house
 And go with you. *He exits.*

CASSIO Ancient, what makes he here?

IAGO
 Faith, he tonight hath boarded a land carrack. 60
 If it prove lawful prize, he's made forever.

CASSIO
 I do not understand.

IAGO He's married.

CASSIO To who?

IAGO
 Marry, to— 65

Reenter Othello.

Come, captain, will you go?
 OTHELLO Have with you.
 CASSIO
 Here comes another troop to seek for you.

Enter Brabantio, Roderigo, with Officers, and Torches.

IAGO
 It is Brabantio. General, be advised,
 He comes to bad intent. 70

OTHELLO Holla, stand there!

RODERIGO
 Signior, it is the Moor.

BRABANTIO Down with him,
 thief!

They draw their swords.

IAGO
 You, Roderigo! Come, sir, I am for you. 75

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

BRABANTIO
 O, thou foul thief, where hast thou stowed my
 daughter? 80
 Damned 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,
 Whether a maid so tender, fair, and happy, 85
 So opposite to marriage that she shunned
 The wealthy curlèd darlings of our nation,
 Would ever have, t' incur a general mock,
 Run from her guardage to the sooty bosom
 Of such a thing as thou—to fear, not to delight! 90
 Judge me the world, if 'tis not gross in sense
 That thou hast practiced on her with foul charms,
 Abused her delicate youth with drugs or minerals
 That weakens motion. I'll have 't disputed on.
 'Tis probable, and palpable to thinking. 95
 I therefore apprehend and do attach thee
 For an abuser of the world, a practicer
 Of arts inhibited and out of warrant.—
 Lay hold upon him. If he do resist,
 Subdue him at his peril. 100

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.—Whither will you that I go
 To answer this your charge? 105

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

OTHELLO What if I do obey?
 How may the Duke be therewith satisfied, 110
 Whose messengers are here about my side,
 Upon some present business of the state,
 To bring me to him?

OFFICER 'Tis true, most worthy signior.
 The Duke's in council, and your noble self
 I am sure is sent for. 115

BRABANTIO How? The Duke in council?
 In this time of the night? Bring him away;

Mine's not an idle cause. The Duke himself,
Or any of my brothers of the state, 120
Cannot but feel this wrong as 'twere their own.
For if such actions may have passage free,
Bondslaves and pagans shall our statesmen be.

They exit.

Scene 3

Enter Duke, Senators, and Officers.

DUKE, *reading a paper*

There's no composition in these news
That gives them credit.

FIRST SENATOR, *reading a paper*

Indeed, they are disproportioned.
My letters say a hundred and seven galleys.

DUKE

And mine, a hundred forty. 5

SECOND SENATOR, *reading a paper*

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
A Turkish fleet, and bearing up to Cyprus. 10

DUKE

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.

SAILOR, *within* What ho, what ho, what ho! 15

Enter Sailor.

OFFICER A messenger from the galleys.

DUKE Now, what's the business?

SAILOR

The Turkish preparation makes for Rhodes.
So was I bid report here to the state
By Signior Angelo. 20

He exits.

DUKE

How say you by this change?

FIRST SENATOR This cannot be,

By no assay of reason. 'Tis a pageant
To keep us in false gaze. When we consider
Th' importancy of Cyprus to the Turk, 25
And let ourselves again but understand

That, as it more concerns the Turk than Rhodes,
So may he with more facile question bear it,
For that it stands not in such warlike brace,
But altogether lacks th' abilities 30

That Rhodes is dressed in—if we make thought of
this,

We must not think the Turk is so unskillful
To leave that latest which concerns him first,
Neglecting an attempt of ease and gain 35
To wake and wage a danger profitless.

DUKE

Nay, in all confidence, he's not for Rhodes.
OFFICER Here is more news.

Enter a Messenger.

MESSENGER

The Ottomites, Reverend and Gracious,
Steering with due course toward the isle of Rhodes, 40
Have there injoined 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
Their backward course, bearing with frank
appearance 45

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.

He exits.

DUKE 'Tis certain, then, for Cyprus. 50

Marcus Luccicos, is not he in town?

FIRST SENATOR

He's now in Florence.

DUKE Write from us to him.

Post-post-haste. Dispatch.

FIRST SENATOR

Here comes Brabantio and the valiant Moor. 55

*Enter Brabantio, Othello, Cassio, Iago, Roderigo, and
Officers.*

DUKE

Valiant Othello, we must straight employ you
Against the general enemy Ottoman.
To Brabantio. I did not see you. Welcome, gentle
signior.

We lacked your counsel and your help tonight. 60

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 65
Is of so floodgate and o'erbearing nature
That it engluts and swallows other sorrows
And it is still itself.

DUKE Why, what's the matter?

BRABANTIO

My daughter! O, my daughter! 70

FIRST 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 prepost'rously to err— 75
Being not deficient, blind, or lame of sense—

Sans witchcraft could not.

DUKE
 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 80
 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 85
 Your special mandate for the state affairs
 Hath hither brought.

ALL We are very sorry for 't.

DUKE, *to Othello*
 What, in your own part, can you say to this?

BRABANTIO Nothing, but this is so. 90

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 95
 Hath this extent, no more. Rude am I in my speech,
 And little blessed 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, 100
 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, 105
 I will a round unvarnished tale deliver
 Of my whole course of love—what drugs, what
 charms,
 What conjuration, and what mighty magic
 (For such proceeding I am charged withal) 110
 I won his daughter.

BRABANTIO A maiden never bold,
 Of spirit so still and quiet that her motion
 Blushed at herself. And she, in spite of nature,
 Of years, of country, credit, everything, 115
 To fall in love with what she feared to look on!
 It is a judgment maimed and most imperfect
 That will confess perfection so could err
 Against all rules of nature, and must be driven
 To find out practices of cunning hell 120
 Why this should be. I therefore vouch again
 That with some mixtures powerful o'er the blood,
 Or with some dram conjured to this effect,
 He wrought upon her.

DUKE To vouch this is no proof 125
 Without more wider and more overt test
 Than these thin habits and poor likelihoods
 Of modern seeming do prefer against him.

FIRST SENATOR But, Othello, speak:

Did you by indirect and forcèd courses 130
 Subdue and poison this young maid's affections?
 Or came it by request, and such fair question
 As soul to soul affordeth?
 OTHELLO I do beseech you,
 Send for the lady to the Sagittary 135
 And let her speak of me before her father.
 If you do find me foul in her report,
 The trust, the office I do hold of you,
 Not only take away, but let your sentence
 Even fall upon my life. 140
 DUKE Fetch Desdemona hither.
 OTHELLO
 Ancient, conduct them. You best know the place.
Iago and Attendants exit.
 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 145
 How I did thrive in this fair lady's love,
 And she in mine.
 DUKE Say it, Othello.
 OTHELLO
 Her father loved me, oft invited me,
 Still questioned me the story of my life 150
 From year to year—the battles, sieges, fortunes
 That I have passed.
 I ran it through, even from my boyish days
 To th' very moment that he bade me tell it,
 Wherein I spoke of most disastrous chances: 155
 Of moving accidents by flood and field,
 Of hairbreadth 'scapes i' th' imminent deadly
 breach,
 Of being taken by the insolent foe
 And sold to slavery, of my redemption thence, 160
 And portance in my traveler's history,
 Wherein of antres vast and deserts idle,
 Rough quarries, rocks, and hills whose heads
 touch heaven,
 It was my hint to speak—such was my process— 165
 And of the cannibals that each other eat,
 The Anthropophagi, and men whose heads
 Do grow beneath their shoulders. These things to
 hear
 Would Desdemona seriously incline. 170
 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,
 Took once a pliant hour, and found good means 175
 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 intently. I did consent,
 And often did beguile her of her tears 180
 When I did speak of some distressful stroke
 That my youth suffered. My story being done,

She gave me for my pains a world of sighs.
 She swore, in faith, 'twas strange, 'twas passing
 strange, 185
 'Twas pitiful, 'twas wondrous pitiful.
 She wished she had not heard it, yet she wished
 That heaven had made her such a man. She thanked
 me,
 And bade me, if I had a friend that loved her, 190
 I should but teach him how to tell my story,
 And that would woo her. Upon this hint I spake.
 She loved me for the dangers I had passed,
 And I loved her that she did pity them.
 This only is the witchcraft I have used. 195
 Here comes the lady. Let her witness it.

Enter Desdemona, Iago, Attendants.

DUKE

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 200
 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. 205
 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. 210
 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 showed
 To you, preferring you before her father, 215
 So much I challenge that I may profess
 Due to the Moor my lord.

BRABANTIO God be with you! I have done.

Please it your Grace, on to the state affairs. 220
 I had rather to adopt a child than get it.—
 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, 225
 I am glad at soul I have no other child,
 For thy escape would teach me tyranny,
 To hang clogs on them.—I have done, my lord.

DUKE

Let me speak like yourself and lay a sentence,
 Which as a guise or step may help these lovers 230
 Into your favor.
 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. 235
 What cannot be preserved when fortune takes,
 Patience her injury a mock'ry makes.
 The robbed that smiles steals something from the
 thief;
 He robs himself that spends a bootless grief. 240

BRABANTIO
 So let the Turk of Cyprus us beguile,
 We lose it not so long as we can smile.
 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 245
 That, to pay grief, must of poor patience borrow.
 These sentences to sugar or to gall,
 Being strong on both sides, are equivocal.
 But words are words. I never yet did hear
 That the bruised heart was piercèd through the 250
 ear.
 I humbly beseech you, proceed to th' affairs of
 state.

DUKE The Turk with a most mighty preparation makes
 for Cyprus. Othello, the fortitude of the place is 255
 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
 slubber the gloss of your new fortunes with this 260
 more stubborn and boist'rous 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 agnize
 A natural and prompt alacrity 265
 I find in hardness, and do undertake
 This present wars against the Ottomites.
 Most humbly, therefore, bending to your state,
 I crave fit disposition for my wife,
 Due reference of place and exhibition, 270
 With such accommodation and besort
 As levels with her breeding.

DUKE
 Why, at her father's.

BRABANTIO I will not have it so.

OTHELLO Nor I. 275

DESDEMONA Nor would I there reside
 To put my father in impatient thoughts
 By being in his eye. Most gracious duke,
 To my unfolding lend your prosperous ear
 And let me find a charter in your voice 280
 T' assist my simpleness.

DUKE What would you, Desdemona?

DESDEMONA
 That I love the Moor to live with him
 My downright violence and storm of fortunes
 May trumpet to the world. My heart's subdued 285

Even to the very quality of my lord.
 I saw Othello's visage in his mind,
 And to his honors and his valiant parts
 Did I my soul and fortunes consecrate.
 So that, dear lords, if I be left behind, 290
 A moth of peace, and he go to the war,
 The rites for why I love him are bereft me
 And I a heavy interim shall support
 By his dear absence. Let me go with him.

OTHELLO Let her have your voice. 295
 Vouch with me, heaven, I therefore beg it not
 To please the palate of my appetite,
 Nor to comply with heat (the young affects
 In me defunct) and proper satisfaction,
 But to be free and bounteous to her mind. 300
 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-winged toys
 Of feathered Cupid seel with wanton dullness
 My speculative and officed instruments, 305
 That my disports corrupt and taint my business,
 Let housewives make a skillet of my helm,
 And all indign and base adversities
 Make head against my estimation.

DUKE
 Be it as you shall privately determine, 310
 Either for her stay or going. Th' affair cries haste,
 And speed must answer it.

FIRST SENATOR
 You must away tonight.

OTHELLO With all my
 heart. 315

DUKE
 At nine i' th' 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
 As doth import you. 320

OTHELLO So please your Grace, my
 ancient.
 A man he is of honesty and trust.
 To his conveyance I assign my wife,
 With what else needful your good Grace shall think 325
 To be sent after me.

DUKE Let it be so.
 Good night to everyone. *To Brabantio.* And, noble
 signior,
 If virtue no delighted beauty lack, 330
 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. *He exits.*

OTHELLO
 My life upon her faith! 335

The Duke, the Senators, Cassio, and Officers exit.

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.—
Come, Desdemona, I have but an hour 340
Of love, of worldly matters, and direction
To spend with thee. We must obey the time.

Othello and Desdemona exit.

RODERIGO Iago—
IAGO What sayst thou, noble heart?
RODERIGO What will I do, think'st thou? 345
IAGO Why, go to bed and sleep.
RODERIGO I will incontinently drown myself.
IAGO If thou dost, I shall never love thee after. Why,
thou silly gentleman!
RODERIGO It is silliness to live, when to live is torment, 350
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
betwixt a benefit and an injury, I never found 355
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 fond, but it is not in my virtue to amend it. 360
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 thyme,
supply it with one gender of herbs or distract it 365
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 scale of reason to poise
another of sensuality, the blood and baseness of our 370
natures would conduct us to most prepost'rous
conclusions. But we have reason to cool our raging
motions, our carnal stings, our unbitted lusts—
whereof I take this that you call love to be a sect, or
scion. 375
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
friend, and I confess me knit to thy deserving 380
with cables of perdurable toughness. I could never
better stead thee than now. Put money in thy purse.
Follow thou the wars; defeat thy favor with an
usurped beard. I say, put money in thy purse. It
cannot be that Desdemona should long continue 385
her love to the Moor—put money in thy purse—
nor he his to her. It was a violent commencement in
her, and thou shalt see an answerable sequestration
—put but money in thy purse. These Moors are

changeable in their wills. Fill thy purse with money. 390
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.
Therefore, put money in thy purse. If thou wilt 395
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 be not too hard for my
wits and all the tribe of hell, thou shalt enjoy her. 400
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.

RODERIGO Wilt thou be fast to my hopes if I depend on 405
the issue?

IAGO Thou art sure of me. Go, make money. I have
told thee often, and I retell thee again and again, I
hate the Moor. My cause is hearted; thine hath no
less reason. Let us be conjunctive in our revenge 410
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
of this tomorrow. Adieu. 415

RODERIGO Where shall we meet i' th' morning?

IAGO At my lodging.

RODERIGO I'll be with thee betimes.

IAGO Go to, farewell. Do you hear, Roderigo?

RODERIGO What say you? 420

IAGO No more of drowning, do you hear?

RODERIGO I am changed.

IAGO Go to, farewell. Put money enough in your
purse.

RODERIGO I'll sell all my land. *He exits.* 425

IAGO
Thus do I ever make my fool my purse.
For I mine own gained 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 430
'Has done my office. I know not if 't be true,
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: 435
To get his place and to plume up my will
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 440
To be suspected, framed to make women false.
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 th' nose

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

445

He exits.

ACT 2

Scene 1

Enter Montano and two Gentlemen.

MONTANO

What from the cape can you discern at sea?

FIRST GENTLEMAN

Nothing at all. It is a high-wrought flood.

I cannot 'twixt the heaven and the main

Descry a sail.

MONTANO

Methinks the wind hath spoke aloud at land. 5

A fuller blast ne'er shook our battlements.

If it hath ruffianed so upon the sea,

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. 10

For do but stand upon the foaming shore,

The chidden billow seems to pelt the clouds,

The wind-shaked surge, with high and monstrous

mane,

Seems to cast water on the burning Bear 15

And quench the guards of th' ever-fixèd pole.

I never did like molestation view

On the enchafèd flood.

MONTANO If that the Turkish fleet

Be not ensheltered and embayed, they are drowned. 20

It is impossible to bear it out.

Enter a third Gentleman.

THIRD GENTLEMAN News, lads! Our wars are done.

The desperate tempest hath so banged the Turks

That their designment halts. A noble ship of Venice

Hath seen a grievous wrack and sufferance 25

On most part of their fleet.

MONTANO

How? Is this true?

THIRD GENTLEMAN The ship is here put in,

A Veronesa. Michael Cassio,

Lieutenant to the warlike Moor Othello, 30

Is come on shore; the Moor himself at sea,

And is in full commission here for Cyprus.

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 35

And prays the Moor be safe, for they were parted

With foul and violent tempest.

MONTANO Pray heaven he be;

For I have served him, and the man commands
Like a full soldier. Let's to the seaside, ho! 40
As well to see the vessel that's come in
As to throw out our eyes for brave Othello,
Even till we make the main and th' aerial blue
An indistinct regard.
THIRD GENTLEMAN Come, let's do so; 45
For every minute is expectancy
Of more arrivance.

Enter Cassio.

CASSIO
Thanks, you the valiant of this warlike isle,
That so approve the Moor! O, let the heavens
Give him defense against the elements, 50
For I have lost him on a dangerous sea.

MONTANO Is he well shipped?

CASSIO
His bark is stoutly timbered, and his pilot
Of very expert and approved allowance;
Therefore my hopes, not surfeited to death, 55
Stand in bold cure.

Voices cry within. "A sail, a sail, a sail!"

”

Enter a Messenger.

CASSIO What noise?

MESENTER

The town is empty; on the brow o' th' sea
Stand ranks of people, and they cry "A sail!"

CASSIO

My hopes do shape him for the Governor. 60
A shot.

SECOND GENTLEMAN

They do discharge their shot of courtesy.
Our friends, at least.

CASSIO I pray you, sir, go forth,

And give us truth who 'tis that is arrived.

SECOND GENTLEMAN I shall. *He exits.* 65

MONTANO

But, good lieutenant, is your general wived?

CASSIO

Most fortunately. He hath achieved a maid
That paragon's description and wild fame,
One that excels the quirks of blazoning pens,
And in th' essential vesture of creation 70
Does tire the ingener.

Enter Second Gentleman.

How now? Who has put in?

SECOND GENTLEMAN

'Tis one Iago, ancient to the General.

CASSIO

'Has had most favorable and happy speed!

Tempests themselves, high seas, and howling winds, 75
The guttered rocks and congregated sands
(Traitors ensteeped to clog the guiltless keel),
As having sense of beauty, do omit
Their mortal natures, letting go safely by
The divine Desdemona. 80

MONTANO What is she?

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 sennight's speed. Great Jove, Othello guard, 85
And swell his sail with thine own powerful breath,
That he may bless this bay with his tall ship,
Make love's quick pants in Desdemona's arms,
Give renewed fire to our extincted spirits,
And bring all Cyprus comfort! 90

Enter Desdemona, Iago, Roderigo, and Emilia.

O, behold,
The riches of the ship is come on shore!
You men of Cyprus, let her have your knees.

He kneels.

Hail to thee, lady, and the grace of heaven,
Before, behind thee, and on every hand 95
Enwheel thee round. *He rises.*

DESDEMONA I thank you, valiant Cassio.

What tidings can you tell of my lord?

CASSIO

He is not yet arrived, nor know I aught
But that he's well and will be shortly here. 100

DESDEMONA

O, but I fear—How lost you company?

CASSIO

The great contention of sea and skies
Parted our fellowship.

Within "A sail, a sail!" A shot.

But hark, a sail!

SECOND GENTLEMAN

They give their greeting to the citadel. 105
This likewise is a friend.

CASSIO See for the news.

Second Gentleman exits.

Good ancient, you are welcome. Welcome, mistress.

He kisses Emilia.

Let it not gall your patience, good Iago,
That I extend my manners. 'Tis my breeding 110
That gives me this bold show of courtesy.

IAGO

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

DESDEMONA

Alas, she has no speech! 115

IAGO In faith, too much.

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. 120

EMILIA You have little cause to say so.

IAGO Come on, come on! You are pictures out of door,
 bells in your parlors, wildcats in your kitchens,
 saints in your injuries, devils being offended, players
 in your huswifery, and huswives in your beds. 125

DESDEMONA Oh, fie upon thee, slanderer.

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. 130

DESDEMONA
 What wouldst write of me if thou shouldst 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 harbor? 135

IAGO Ay, madam.

DESDEMONA, *aside*
 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 140
 from my pate as birdlime does from frieze: it
 plucks out brains and all. But my muse labors, and
 thus she is delivered:
*If she be fair and wise, fairness and wit,
 The one's for use, the other useth it.* 145

DESDEMONA
 Well praised! How if she be black and witty?

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

DESDEMONA
 Worse and worse.

EMILIA How if fair and foolish? 150

IAGO
*She never yet was foolish that was fair,
 For even her folly helped her to an heir.*

DESDEMONA These are old fond paradoxes to make
 fools laugh i' th' alehouse. What miserable praise
 hast thou for her that's foul and foolish? 155

IAGO
*There's none so foul and foolish thereunto,
 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 160
 of her merit did justly put on the vouch of very

malice itself?

IAGO

*She that was ever fair and never proud,
Had tongue at will and yet was never loud,
Never lacked gold and yet went never gay, 165
Fled from her wish, and yet said "Now I may,"
She that being angered, her revenge being nigh,
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, 170
She that could think and ne'er disclose her mind,
See suitors following and not look behind,
She was a wight, if ever such wight were—*

DESDEMONA To do what?

IAGO

To suckle fools and chronicle small beer. 175

DESDEMONA O, most lame and impotent conclusion!

—Do not learn of him, Emilia, though he be thy
husband.—How say you, Cassio? Is he not a most
profane and liberal counselor?

CASSIO He speaks home, madam. You may relish him 180
more in the soldier than in the scholar.

Cassio takes Desdemona's hand.

IAGO, *aside* He takes her by the palm. Ay, well said,
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 185
so indeed. If such tricks as these strip you out of
your lieutenantry, it had 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 190
again your fingers to your lips? Would they were
clyster pipes for your sake! *Trumpets within.*

The Moor. I know his trumpet.

CASSIO 'Tis truly so.

DESDEMONA Let's meet him and receive him. 195

CASSIO Lo, where he comes!

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! 200
If after every tempest come such calms,
May the winds blow till they have wakened death,
And let the laboring bark climb hills of seas
Olympus high, and duck again as low
As hell's from heaven! If it were now to die, 205
'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 210
 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. *They kiss.* 215
 And this, and this, the greatest discords be
 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,
 As honest as I am. 220
 OTHELLO Come. Let us to the castle.—
 News, friends! Our wars are done. The Turks are
 drowned.
 How does my old acquaintance of this isle?—
 Honey, you shall be well desired in Cyprus. 225
 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.
 Bring thou the master to the citadel. 230
 He is a good one, and his worthiness
 Does challenge much respect.—Come, Desdemona.
 Once more, well met at Cyprus.
All but Iago and Roderigo exit.
 IAGO, *to a departing Attendant* Do thou meet me presently
 at the harbor. *To Roderigo.* Come hither. If 235
 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 guard. First, I must tell thee
 this: Desdemona is directly in love with him. 240
 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 but for bragging and telling her fantastical
 lies. And will she love him still for prating? Let not 245
 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 sport,
 there should be, again to inflame it and to give
 satiety a fresh appetite, loveliness in favor, sympathy 250
 in years, manners, and beauties, all which the Moor
 is defective in. Now, for want of these required
 conveniences, her delicate tenderness will find itself
 abused, begin to heave the gorge, disrelish and
 abhor the Moor. Very nature will instruct her in it 255
 and compel her to some second choice. Now, sir,
 this granted—as it is a most pregnant and unforced
 position—who stands so eminent in the degree of
 this fortune as Cassio does? A knave very voluble, no
 further conscionable than in putting on the mere 260
 form of civil and humane seeming for the better
 compassing of his salt and most hidden loose
 affection. Why, none, why, none! A slipper and
 subtle knave, a finder-out of occasions, that has an

eye can stamp and counterfeit advantages, though 265
 true advantage never present itself; a devilish knave!
 Besides, the knave is handsome, young, and hath all
 those requisites in him that folly and green minds
 look after. A pestilent complete knave, and the
 woman hath found him already. 270

RODERIGO I cannot believe that in her. She's full of
 most blessed condition.

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 275
 not see her paddle with the palm of his hand? Didst
 not mark that?

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. 280
 They met so near with their lips that their breaths
 embraced together. Villainous thoughts, Roderigo!
 When these mutualities so marshal the way, hard
 at hand comes the master and main exercise, th'
 incorporate conclusion. Pish! But, sir, be you ruled 285
 by me. I have brought you from Venice. Watch you
 tonight. For the command, I'll lay 't upon you.
 Cassio knows 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 290
 what other course you please, which the time shall
 more favorably minister.

RODERIGO Well.

IAGO Sir, he's rash and very sudden in choler, and
 haply may strike at you. Provoke him that he may, 295
 for even out of that will I cause these of Cyprus to
 mutiny, whose qualification shall come into no
 true 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 300
 impediment most profitably removed, without the
 which there were no expectation of our prosperity.

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

IAGO I warrant thee. Meet me by and by at the citadel. I 305
 must fetch his necessaries ashore. Farewell.

RODERIGO Adieu. *He exits.*

IAGO
 That Cassio loves her, I do well believe 't.
 That she loves him, 'tis apt and of great credit.
 The Moor, howbeit that I endure him not, 310
 Is of a constant, loving, noble nature,
 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) 315
 But partly led to diet my revenge
 For that I do suspect the lusty Moor
 Hath leaped into my seat—the thought whereof
 Doth, like a poisonous mineral, gnaw my inwards,

And nothing can or shall content my soul 320
 Till I am evened with him, wife for wife,
 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 trace 325
 For his quick hunting, stand the putting on,
 I'll have our Michael Cassio on the hip,
 Abuse him to the Moor in the rank garb
 (For I fear Cassio with my nightcap too),
 Make the Moor thank me, love me, and reward me 330
 For making him egregiously an ass
 And practicing upon his peace and quiet
 Even to madness. 'Tis here, but yet confused.
 Knavery's plain face is never seen till used.

He exits.

Scene 2

Enter Othello's Herald with a proclamation.

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 5
 sport and revels his addition 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 till 10
 the bell have told eleven. Heaven bless the isle of
 Cyprus and our noble general, Othello!

He exits.

Scene 3

Enter Othello, Desdemona, Cassio, and Attendants.

OTHELLO
 Good Michael, look you to the guard tonight.
 Let's teach ourselves that honorable stop
 Not to outsport discretion.
 CASSIO
 Iago hath direction what to do,
 But notwithstanding, with my personal eye 5
 Will I look to 't.
 OTHELLO Iago is most honest.
 Michael, goodnight. Tomorrow with your earliest
 Let me have speech with you. *To Desdemona.* Come,
 my dear love, 10
 The purchase made, the fruits are to ensue;
 That profit's yet to come 'tween me and you.—
 Goodnight.

Othello and Desdemona exit, with Attendants.

Enter Iago.

CASSIO
Welcome, Iago. We must to the watch.

IAGO Not this hour, lieutenant. 'Tis not yet ten o' th' 15
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
she is sport for Jove.

CASSIO She's a most exquisite lady. 20

IAGO And, I'll warrant her, full of game.

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

IAGO What an eye she has! Methinks it sounds a parley
to provocation. 25

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, 30
I 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 tonight, good Iago. I have very poor and
unhappy brains for drinking. I could well wish 35
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 tonight, and that was 40
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. 45

CASSIO Where are they?

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

CASSIO I'll do 't, but it dislikes me. *He exits.*

IAGO
If I can fasten but one cup upon him
With that which he hath drunk tonight already, 50
He'll be as full of quarrel and offense
As my young mistress' dog. Now my sick fool
Roderigo,
Whom love hath turned almost the wrong side out,
To Desdemona hath tonight caroused 55
Potations pottle-deep; and he's to watch.
Three else of Cyprus, noble swelling spirits
That hold their honors in a wary distance,
The very elements of this warlike isle,
Have I tonight flustered with flowing cups; 60
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, 65
My boat sails freely both with wind and stream.

*Enter Cassio, Montano, and Gentlemen, followed by
Servants 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. 70

IAGO Some wine, ho!
*Sings. And let me the cannikin clink, clink,
And let me the cannikin clink.
A soldier's a man,
O, man's life's but a span,* 75
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, 80
and your swag-bellied Hollander—drink, ho!—are
nothing to your English.

CASSIO Is your Englishman so exquisite in his
drinking?

IAGO Why, he drinks you, with facility, your Dane 85
dead drunk. He sweats not to overthrow your Almain.
He 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 90
justice.

IAGO O sweet England!
*Sings. King Stephen was and-a worthy peer,
His breeches cost him but a crown;
He held them sixpence all too dear;
With that he called the tailor lown.* 95
*He was a wight of high renown,
And thou art but of low degree;
'Tis pride that pulls the country down,
Then take thy auld cloak about thee.* 100

Some wine, ho!

CASSIO 'Fore God, this is a more exquisite song than
the other!

IAGO Will you hear 't again?

CASSIO No, for I hold him to be unworthy of his place 105
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.

CASSIO For mine own part—no offense to the General, 110
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
have no more of this. Let's to our affairs. God 115
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 I speak well enough. 120
GENTLEMEN Excellent well.
CASSIO Why, very well then. You must not think then
that I am drunk. *He exits.*

MONTANO
To th' platform, masters. Come, let's set the watch. *Gentlemen exit.*

IAGO, *to Montano*
You see this fellow that is gone before? 125
He's 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 th' other. 'Tis pity of him.
I fear the trust Othello puts him in, 130
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.
He'll watch the horologe a double set 135
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
Prizes the virtue that appears in Cassio 140
And looks not on his evils. Is not this true?

Enter Roderigo.

IAGO, *aside to Roderigo* How now, Roderigo?
I pray you, after the Lieutenant, go. *Roderigo exits.*

MONTANO
And 'tis great pity that the noble Moor
Should hazard such a place as his own second 145
With one of an engrafted infirmity.
It were an honest action to say so
To the Moor.

IAGO Not I, for this fair island.
I do love Cassio well and would do much 150
To cure him of this evil—" *Help, help!" within.*
But hark! What noise?

Enter Cassio, pursuing Roderigo.

CASSIO Zounds, you rogue, you rascal!
MONTANO What's the matter, lieutenant?
CASSIO A knave teach me my duty? I'll beat the knave 155
into a twiggen bottle.

RODERIGO Beat me?
CASSIO Dost thou prate, rogue? *He hits Roderigo.*

MONTANO Nay, good lieutenant. I pray you, sir, hold
your hand. 160

CASSIO Let me go, sir, or I'll knock you o'er the
mazard.

MONTANO Come, come, you're drunk.

CASSIO Drunk?

They fight.

IAGO, *aside to Roderigo*

Away, I say! Go out and cry a mutiny.

165

Roderigo exits.

Nay, good lieutenant.—God's will, gentlemen!—
Help, ho! Lieutenant—sir—Montano—sir—
Help, masters!—Here's a goodly watch indeed!

A bell is rung.

Who's that which rings the bell? Diablo, ho!
The town will rise. God's will, lieutenant, hold!
You will be shamed forever.

170

Enter Othello and Attendants.

OTHELLO

What is the matter here?

MONTANO Zounds, I bleed
still.

I am hurt to th' death. He dies!

He attacks Cassio. 175

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, for shame!

180

OTHELLO

Why, how now, ho! From whence ariseth this?

Are we turned 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

185

Holds his soul light; he dies upon his motion.

Silence that dreadful bell. It frights the isle

From her propriety. What is the matter, masters?

Honest Iago, that looks dead with grieving,

Speak. Who began this? On thy love, I charge thee.

190

IAGO

I do not know. Friends all but now, even now,

In quarter and in terms like bride and groom

Divesting them for bed; and then but now,

As if some planet had unwitting men,

Swords out, and tilting one at other's breast,

195

In opposition bloody. I cannot speak

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?

200

CASSIO

I pray you pardon me; I cannot speak.

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

205

That you unlace your reputation thus,
 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, 210
 While I spare speech, which something now 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, 215
 And to defend ourselves it be a sin
 When violence assails us.

OTHELLO Now, by heaven,
 My blood begins my safer guides to rule,
 And passion, having my best judgment collied, 220
 Assays to lead the way. Zounds, if I stir,
 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 offense, 225
 Though he had twinned with me, both at a birth,
 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? 230
 'Tis monstrous. Iago, who began 't?

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. 235
 I had rather have this tongue cut from my mouth
 Than it should do offense 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, 240
 There comes a fellow crying out for help,
 And Cassio following him with determined sword
 To execute upon him. Sir, this gentleman
Pointing to Montano.
 Steps in to Cassio and entreats his pause.
 Myself the crying fellow did pursue, 245
 Lest by his clamor—as it so fell out—
 The town might fall in fright. He, swift of foot,
 Outran my purpose, and I returned the rather
 For that I heard the clink and fall of swords
 And Cassio high in oath, which till tonight 250
 I ne'er might say before. When I came back—
 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. 255
 But men are men; the best sometimes forget.
 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 260
Which patience could not pass.

OTHELLO I know, Iago,
Thy honesty and love doth mince this matter,
Making it light to Cassio.—Cassio, I love thee,
But nevermore be officer of mine. 265

Enter Desdemona attended.

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

DESDEMONA

What is the matter, dear?

OTHELLO All's well now,
sweeting. 270

Come away to bed. *To Montano.* Sir, for your hurts,
Myself will be your surgeon.—Lead him off.

Montano is led off.

Iago, look with care about the town
And silence those whom this vile brawl
distracted.— 275

Come, Desdemona. 'Tis the soldier's life
To have their balmy slumbers waked with strife.

All but Iago and Cassio exit.

IAGO What, are you hurt, lieutenant?

CASSIO Ay, past all surgery.

IAGO Marry, God forbid! 280

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 285

received 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, 290

man, 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 offenseless dog to affright an imperious
lion. Sue to him again and he's yours. 295

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 300
invisible 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. 305

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 310
 with joy, pleasance, 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 315
 place to the devil wrath. One unperfectness shows
 me 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 so befallen. But 320
 since it is as it is, mend it for your own good.

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 325
 a beast! O, strange! Every inordinate cup is unblest,
 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. 330

CASSIO I have well approved it, sir.—I drunk!

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: I may say so in this
 respect, for that he hath devoted and given up 335
 himself to the contemplation, mark, and denotement
 of her parts and 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 340
 goodness not to do more than she is requested. This
 broken joint between 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. 345

CASSIO You advise me well.

IAGO I protest, in the sincerity of love and honest
 kindness.

CASSIO I think it freely; and betimes in the morning I
 will beseech the virtuous Desdemona to undertake 350
 for me. I am desperate of my fortunes if they check
 me here.

IAGO You are in the right. Good night, lieutenant. I
 must to the watch.

CASSIO Good night, honest Iago. *Cassio exits.* 355

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
 To win the Moor again? For 'tis most easy
 Th' inclining Desdemona to subdue 360
 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,

All seals and symbols of redeemèd sin—
 His soul is so en fettered to her love 365
 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
 To counsel Cassio to this parallel course
 Directly to his good? Divinity of hell! 370
 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
 Plies Desdemona to repair his fortune,
 And she for him pleads strongly to the Moor, 375
 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,
 She shall undo her credit with the Moor.
 So will I turn her virtue into pitch, 380
 And out of her own goodness make the net
 That shall enmesh them all.

Enter Roderigo.

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 385
 money is almost spent, I have been tonight exceedingly
 well cudgeled, and I think the issue will be I
 shall have so much experience for my pains, and so,
 with no money at all and a little more wit, return
 again to Venice. 390

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,
 And wit depends on dilatory time.
 Does 't not go well? Cassio hath beaten thee, 395
 And thou, by that small hurt, hast cashiered Cassio.
 Though other things grow fair against the sun,
 Yet fruits that blossom first will first be ripe.
 Content thyself awhile. By th' Mass, 'tis morning!
 Pleasure and action make the hours seem short. 400
 Retire thee; go where thou art billeted.
 Away, I say! Thou shalt know more hereafter.
 Nay, get thee gone. *Roderigo exits.*
 Two things are to be done.
 My wife must move for Cassio to her mistress. 405
 I'll set her on.
 Myself the while to draw the Moor apart
 And bring him jump when he may Cassio find
 Soliciting his wife. Ay, that's the way.
 Dull not device by coldness and delay. 410
He exits.

ACT 3

Scene 1

Enter Cassio with Musicians.

CASSIO

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

They play.

Enter the Clown.

CLOWN Why masters, have your instruments been in
Naples, that they speak i' th' nose thus? 5

MUSICIAN How, sir, how?

CLOWN Are these, I pray you, wind instruments?

MUSICIAN Ay, marry, are they, sir.

CLOWN O, thereby hangs a tail.

MUSICIAN Whereby hangs a tale, sir? 10

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.

MUSICIAN Well, sir, we will not. 15

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.

MUSICIAN We have none such, sir.

CLOWN Then put up your pipes in your bag, for I'll
away. Go, vanish into air, away! 20

Musicians exit.

CASSIO Dost thou hear, mine honest friend?

CLOWN No, I hear not your honest friend. I hear you.

CASSIO Prithee, keep up thy quilllets. *Giving money.*

There's a poor piece of gold for thee. If the gentlewoman 25
that attends the General's wife be stirring,
tell her there's one Cassio entreats her a little favor
of speech. Wilt thou do this?

CLOWN She is stirring, sir. If she will stir hither, I shall
seem to notify unto her. 30

CASSIO

Do, good my friend. *Clown exits.*

Enter Iago.

In happy time, Iago.

IAGO You have not been abed, then?

CASSIO Why, no. The day had broke
Before we parted. I have made bold, Iago, 35
To send in to your wife. My suit to her
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 40
Out of the way, that your converse and business
May be more free.

CASSIO
I humbly thank you for 't. *Iago exits.* I never
knew 45
A Florentine more kind and honest.

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 50
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 55
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. 60

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.

They exit.

Scene 2

Enter Othello, Iago, and Gentlemen.

OTHELLO
These letters give, Iago, to the pilot
And by him do my duties to the Senate. *He gives Iago some papers.*
That done, I will be walking on the works.

Repair there to me.

IAGO Well, my good lord, I'll do 't. 5

OTHELLO
This fortification, gentlemen, shall we see 't?

GENTLEMEN

We wait upon your Lordship.

They exit.

Scene 3

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 cause were his.

DESDEMONA
 O, that's an honest fellow! Do not doubt, Cassio, 5
 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 anything but your true servant. 10

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 farther off
 Than in a politic distance.

CASSIO Ay, but, lady, 15
 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. 20

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; 25
 His bed shall seem a school, his board a shrift;
 I'll intermingle everything he does
 With Cassio's suit. Therefore be merry, Cassio,
 For thy solicitor shall rather die
 Than give thy cause away. 30

Enter Othello and Iago.

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. 35

DESDEMONA Well, do your discretion. *Cassio exits.*

IAGO
 Ha, I like not that.
 OTHELLO What dost thou say?
 IAGO
 Nothing, my lord; or if—I know not what.
 OTHELLO
 Was not that Cassio parted from my wife? 40

IAGO
 Cassio, my lord? No, sure, I cannot think it
 That he would steal away so guiltylike,
 Seeing your coming.
 OTHELLO I do believe 'twas he.
 DESDEMONA How now, my lord? 45
 I have been talking with a suitor here,

A man that languishes in your displeasure.
OTHELLO Who is 't you mean?
DESDEMONA
Why, your lieutenant, Cassio. Good my lord,
If I have any grace or power to move you, 50
His present reconciliation take;
For if he be not one that truly loves you,
That errs in ignorance and not in cunning,
I have no judgment in an honest face.
I prithee call him back. 55

OTHELLO Went he hence now?
DESDEMONA Yes, faith, so humbled
That he hath left part of his grief with me
To suffer with him. Good love, call him back.
OTHELLO
Not now, sweet Desdemon. Some other time. 60
DESDEMONA
But shall 't be shortly?
OTHELLO The sooner, sweet, for you.
DESDEMONA
Shall 't be tonight at supper?
OTHELLO No, not tonight.
DESDEMONA Tomorrow dinner, then? 65
OTHELLO I shall not dine at home;
I meet the captains at the citadel.
DESDEMONA
Why then tomorrow night, or Tuesday morn,
On Tuesday noon or night; on Wednesday morn.
I prithee name the time, but let it not 70
Exceed three days. In faith, he's penitent;
And yet his trespass, in our common reason—
Save that, they say, the wars must make example
Out of her best—is not almost a fault
T' incur a private check. When shall he come? 75
Tell me, Othello. I wonder in my soul
What you would ask me that I should deny,
Or stand so mamm'ring on? What? Michael Cassio,
That came a-wooing with you, and so many a time,
When I have spoke of you dispraisingly, 80
Hath ta'en your part—to have so much to do
To bring him in! By 'r Lady, I could do much—
OTHELLO
Prithee, no more. Let him come when he will;
I will deny thee nothing.
DESDEMONA Why, this is not a boon! 85
'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
To your own person. Nay, when I have a suit
Wherein I mean to touch your love indeed, 90
It shall be full of poise and difficult weight,
And fearful to be granted.
OTHELLO I will deny thee nothing!
Whereon, I do beseech thee, grant me this,
To leave me but a little to myself. 95

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.
 Whate'er you be, I am obedient.

Desdemona and Emilia exit.

OTHELLO
 Excellent wretch! Perdition catch my soul 100
 But I do love thee! And when I love thee not,
 Chaos is come again.

IAGO My noble lord—

OTHELLO
 What dost thou say, Iago?

IAGO Did Michael Cassio, 105
 When you wooed my lady, know of your love?

OTHELLO
 He did, from first to last. Why dost thou ask?

IAGO
 But for a satisfaction of my thought,
 No further harm.

OTHELLO Why of thy thought, Iago? 110

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

OTHELLO
 O yes, and went between us very oft.

IAGO Indeed?

OTHELLO
 Indeed? Ay, indeed! Discern'st thou aught in that?
 Is he not honest? 115

IAGO Honest, my lord?

OTHELLO Honest—ay, honest.

IAGO
 My lord, for aught I know.

OTHELLO What dost thou think?

IAGO Think, my lord? 120

OTHELLO
 "Think, my lord?" By heaven, thou echo'st me
 As if there were some monster in thy thought
 Too hideous to be shown. Thou dost mean
 something.

I heard thee say even now, thou lik'st not that, 125
 When Cassio left my wife. What didst not like?
 And when I told thee he was of my counsel
 In my whole course of wooing, thou cried'st
 "Indeed?"

And didst contract and purse thy brow together 130
 As if thou then hadst shut up in thy brain
 Some horrible conceit. If thou dost love me,
 Show me thy thought.

IAGO My lord, you know I love you.

OTHELLO I think thou dost; 135
 And for I know thou 'rt full of love and honesty
 And weigh'st thy words before thou giv'st them
 breath,

Therefore these stops of thine fright me the more.
 For such things in a false, disloyal knave 140
 Are tricks of custom; but in a man that's just,
 They're close dilations working from the heart
 That passion cannot rule.

IAGO For Michael Cassio,
 I dare be sworn I think that he is honest. 145

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.

IAGO
 Why then, I think Cassio's an honest man. 150

OTHELLO Nay, yet there's more in this.
 I prithee speak to me as to thy thinkings,
 As thou dost ruminare, and give thy worst of
 thoughts
 The worst of words. 155

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— 160
 As where's that palace whereinto foul things
 Sometimes intrude not? Who has that breast so
 pure
 But some uncleanly apprehensions
 Keep leets and law days and in sessions sit 165
 With meditations lawful?

OTHELLO
 Thou dost conspire against thy friend, Iago,
 If thou but think'st him wronged and mak'st his ear
 A stranger to thy thoughts.

IAGO I do beseech you, 170
 Though I perchance am vicious in my guess—
 As, I confess, it is my nature's plague
 To spy into abuses, and oft my jealousy
 Shapes faults that are not—that your wisdom
 From one that so imperfectly conceits 175
 Would take no notice, nor build yourself a trouble
 Out of his scattering and unsure observance.
 It were not for your quiet nor your good,
 Nor for my manhood, honesty, and wisdom,
 To let you know my thoughts. 180

OTHELLO What dost thou mean?

IAGO
 Good name in man and woman, dear my lord,
 Is the immediate jewel of their souls.
 Who steals my purse steals trash. 'Tis something,
 nothing; 185
 '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
 And makes me poor indeed. 190

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?

IAGO O, beware, my lord, of jealousy! 195
 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 damnèd minutes tells he o'er
 Who dotes, yet doubts; suspects, yet strongly loves! 200

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.
 Good God, the souls of all my tribe defend 205
 From jealousy!

OTHELLO Why, why is this?
 Think'st thou I'd make a life of jealousy,
 To follow still the changes of the moon
 With fresh suspicions? No. To be once in doubt 210
 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
 To say my wife is fair, feeds well, loves company, 215
 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,
 For she had eyes, and chose me. No, Iago, 220
 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 this, for now I shall have reason
 To show the love and duty that I bear you 225
 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 eyes thus, not jealous nor secure.
 I would not have your free and noble nature, 230
 Out of self-bounty, be abused. Look to 't.
 I know our country disposition well.
 In Venice they do let God see the pranks
 They dare not show their husbands. Their best
 conscience 235
 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 seemed to shake and fear your looks,
 She loved them most. 240

OTHELLO And so she did.

IAGO Why, go to, then!
 She that, so young, could give out such a seeming,
 To seel her father's eyes up close as oak,
 He thought 'twas witchcraft! But I am much to 245
 blame.
 I humbly do beseech you of your pardon
 For too much loving you.

OTHELLO I am bound to thee forever.

IAGO
 I see this hath a little dashed your spirits. 250

OTHELLO
 Not a jot, not a jot.

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 255
 To grosser issues nor to larger reach
 Than to suspicion.

OTHELLO I will not.

IAGO Should you do so, my lord,
 My speech should fall into such vile success 260
 As my thoughts aim not at. Cassio's my worthy
 friend.
 My lord, I see you're moved.

OTHELLO No, not much moved.
 I do not think but Desdemona's honest. 265

IAGO
 Long live she so! And long live you to think so!

OTHELLO
 And yet, how nature erring from itself—

IAGO
 Ay, there's the point. As, to be bold with you,
 Not to affect many proposèd matches
 Of her own clime, complexion, and degree, 270
 Whereto we see in all things nature tends—
 Foh! One may smell in such a will most rank,
 Foul disproportion, thoughts unnatural—
 But pardon me—I do not in position
 Distinctly speak of her, though I may fear 275
 Her will, recoiling to her better judgment,
 May fall to match you with her country forms
 And happily repent.

OTHELLO Farewell, farewell!
 If more thou dost perceive, let me know more. 280
 Set on thy wife to observe. Leave me, Iago.

IAGO, *beginning to exit* My lord, I take my leave.

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 Honor 285
 To scan this thing no farther. Leave it to time.
 Although 'tis 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. 290

Note if your lady strain his entertainment
 With any strong or vehement importunity.
 Much will be seen in that. In the meantime,
 Let me be thought too busy in my fears—
 As worthy cause I have to fear I am— 295
 And hold her free, I do beseech your Honor.
 OTHELLO Fear not my government.
 IAGO I once more take my leave. *He exits.*
 OTHELLO
 This fellow's of exceeding honesty,
 And knows all qualities with a learned spirit 300
 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 prey at fortune. Haply, for I am black
 And have not those soft parts of conversation 305
 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 310
 And not their appetites! I had rather be a toad
 And live upon the vapor of a dungeon
 Than keep a corner in the thing I love
 For others' uses. Yet 'tis the plague of great ones;
 Prerogated are they less than the base. 315
 'Tis destiny unshunnable, like death.
 Even then this forkèd plague is fated to us
 When we do quicken. Look where she comes.

Enter Desdemona and Emilia.

If she be false, heaven mocks itself!
 I'll not believe 't. 320
 DESDEMONA How now, my dear Othello?
 Your dinner, and the generous islanders
 By you invited, do attend your presence.
 OTHELLO I am to blame.
 DESDEMONA
 Why do you speak so faintly? Are you not well? 325
 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
 It will be well.
 OTHELLO Your napkin is too little. 330
 Let it alone. *The handkerchief falls, unnoticed.*
 Come, I'll go in with you.
 DESDEMONA
 I am very sorry that you are not well. *Othello and Desdemona exit.*
 EMILIA, *picking up the handkerchief*
 I am glad I have found this napkin.
 This was her first remembrance from the Moor. 335
 My wayward husband hath a hundred times

Wooed me to steal it. But she so loves the token
(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 340
And give 't Iago. What he will do with it
Heaven knows, not I.
I nothing but to please his fantasy.

Enter Iago.

IAGO How now? What do you here alone?
EMILIA
Do not you chide. I have a thing for you. 345
IAGO
You have a thing for me? It is a common thing—
EMILIA Ha?
IAGO To have a foolish wife.
EMILIA
O, is that all? What will you give me now
For that same handkerchief? 350
IAGO What handkerchief?
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? 355
EMILIA
No, faith, she let it drop by negligence,
And to th' advantage I, being here, took 't up.
Look, here 'tis.
IAGO A good wench! Give it me.
EMILIA
What will you do with 't, that you have been so 360
earnest
To have me filch it?
IAGO, *snatching it* Why, what is that to you?
EMILIA
If it be not for some purpose of import,
Give 't me again. Poor lady, she'll run mad 365
When she shall lack it.
IAGO Be not acknown on 't.
I have use for it. Go, leave me. *Emilia exits.*
I will in Cassio's lodging lose this napkin
And let him find it. Trifles light as air 370
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, 375
But with a little act upon the blood
Burn like the mines of sulfur.

Enter Othello.

I did say so.
Look where he comes. Not poppy nor mandragora
Nor all the drowsy syrups of the world 380

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!
 OTHELLO
 Avaunt! Begone! Thou hast set me on the rack. 385
 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?
 I saw 't not, thought it not; it harmed not me. 390
 I slept the next night well, fed well, was free and
 merry.
 I found not Cassio's kisses on her lips.
 He that is robbed, not wanting what is stol'n,
 Let him not know 't, and he's not robbed at all. 395
 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, forever
 Farewell the tranquil mind! Farewell content! 400
 Farewell the plumèd troops and the big wars
 That makes ambition virtue! O, farewell!
 Farewell the neighing steed and the shrill trump,
 The spirit-stirring drum, th' ear-piercing fife,
 The royal banner, and all quality, 405
 Pride, pomp, and circumstance of glorious war!
 And O you mortal engines, whose rude throats
 Th' immortal Jove's dread clamors counterfeit,
 Farewell! Othello's occupation's gone!
 IAGO Is 't possible, my lord? 410
 OTHELLO
 Villain, be sure thou prove my love a whore!
 Be sure of it. Give me the ocular proof,
 Or, by the worth of mine eternal soul,
 Thou hadst been better have been born a dog
 Than answer my waked wrath. 415
 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— 420
 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 425
 Greater than that.
 IAGO O grace! O heaven forgive me!
 Are you a man? Have you a soul or sense?
 God b' wi' you. Take mine office.—O wretched fool,

That liv'st to make thine honesty a vice!— 430
 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 offense.
 OTHELLO Nay, stay. Thou shouldst be honest. 435
 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. 440
 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! 445
 IAGO
 I see you are eaten up with passion.
 I do repent me that I put it to you.
 You would be satisfied?
 OTHELLO Would? Nay, and I will.
 IAGO
 And may; but how? How satisfied, my lord? 450
 Would you, the supervisor, grossly gape on,
 Behold her topped?
 OTHELLO Death and damnation! O!
 IAGO
 It were a tedious difficulty, I think,
 To bring them to that prospect. Damn them then 455
 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, 460
 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 might have 't. 465
 OTHELLO
 Give me a living reason she's disloyal.
 IAGO I do not like the office,
 But sith I am entered in this cause so far,
 Pricked to 't by foolish honesty and love,
 I will go on. I lay with Cassio lately, 470
 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.
 In sleep I heard him say "Sweet Desdemona, 475
 Let us be wary, let us hide our loves."
 And then, sir, would he gripe and wring my hand,
 Cry "O sweet creature!" then kiss me hard,
 As if he plucked up kisses by the roots
 That grew upon my lips; then laid his leg 480

O'er my thigh, and sighed, and kissed, and then
 Cried "Cursèd fate that gave thee to the Moor!"

OTHELLO

O monstrous! Monstrous!

IAGO Nay, this was but his
 dream. 485

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. 490

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. 495

IAGO

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

OTHELLO If it be that—

IAGO

If it be that, or any that was hers, 500
 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. 505
 'Tis gone.
 Arise, black vengeance, from the hollow hell!
 Yield up, O love, thy crown and hearted throne
 To tyrannous hate! Swell, bosom, with thy fraught,
 For 'tis of aspics' tongues! 510

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 515
 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 520
 Swallow them up. *He kneels.* Now by yond marble
 heaven,
 In the due reverence of a sacred vow,
 I here engage my words.

IAGO Do not rise yet. *Iago kneels.* 525
 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
 To wronged Othello's service! Let him command, 530
 And to obey shall be in me remorse,
 What bloody business ever. *They rise.*
 OTHELLO I greet thy love
 Not with vain thanks but with acceptance
 bounteous, 535
 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. But let her live. 540
 OTHELLO Damn her, lewd minx! O, damn her, 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. 545
 IAGO I am your own forever.
They exit.

Scene 4

Enter Desdemona, Emilia, and Clown.

DESDEMONA Do you know, sirrah, where Lieutenant
 Cassio lies?
 CLOWN I dare not say he lies anywhere.
 DESDEMONA Why, man?
 CLOWN He's a soldier, and for me to say a soldier lies, 5
 'tis stabbing.
 DESDEMONA Go to! Where lodges he?
 CLOWN To tell you where he lodges is to tell you
 where I lie. 10
 DESDEMONA Can anything 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? 15
 CLOWN I will catechize 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. 20
 CLOWN To do this is within the compass of man's wit,
 and therefore I will attempt the doing it.
Clown exits.
 DESDEMONA
 Where should I lose that handkerchief, Emilia?
 EMILIA I know not, madam.
 DESDEMONA
 Believe me, I had rather have lost my purse 25
 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? 30
DESDEMONA
Who, he? I think the sun where he was born
Drew all such humors from him.
EMILIA Look where he
comes.

Enter Othello.

DESDEMONA
I will not leave him now till Cassio 35
Be called to him.—How is 't with you, my lord?
OTHELLO
Well, my good lady. *Aside.* O, hardness to
dissemble!—
How do you, Desdemona?
DESDEMONA Well, my good lord. 40
OTHELLO
Give me your hand. *He takes her hand.* This hand
is moist, my lady.
DESDEMONA
It yet has felt no age nor known no sorrow.
OTHELLO
This argues fruitfulness and liberal heart.
Hot, hot, and moist. This hand of yours requires 45
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,
A frank one. 50
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.
DESDEMONA
I cannot speak of this. Come now, your promise. 55
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.
DESDEMONA Here, my lord. 60
OTHELLO
That which I gave you.
DESDEMONA I have it not about me.
OTHELLO Not?
DESDEMONA No, faith, my lord.
OTHELLO That's a fault. That handkerchief 65
Did an Egyptian to my mother give.
She was a charmer, and could almost read
The thoughts of people. She told her, while she kept
it,
'Twould make her amiable and subdue my father 70

Entirely to her love. But if she lost it,
 Or made a gift of it, my father's eye
 Should hold her loathed, and his spirits should hunt
 After new fancies. She, dying, gave it me,
 And bid me, when my fate would have me wived, 75
 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
 As nothing else could match.
 DESDEMONA Is 't possible? 80
 OTHELLO
 'Tis true. There's magic in the web of it.
 A sybil that had numbered in the world
 The sun to course two hundred compasses,
 In her prophetic fury sewed the work.
 The worms were hallowed that did breed the silk, 85
 And it was dyed in mummy, which the skillful
 Conserved of maidens' hearts.
 DESDEMONA I' faith, is 't true?
 OTHELLO
 Most veritable. Therefore, look to 't well.
 DESDEMONA
 Then would to God that I had never seen 't! 90
 OTHELLO Ha? Wherefore?
 DESDEMONA
 Why do you speak so startingly and rash?
 OTHELLO
 Is 't lost? Is 't gone? Speak, is 't out o' th' way?
 DESDEMONA Heaven bless us!
 OTHELLO Say you? 95
 DESDEMONA
 It is not lost, but what an if it were?
 OTHELLO How?
 DESDEMONA I say it is not lost.
 OTHELLO Fetch 't. Let me see 't!
 DESDEMONA
 Why, so I can. But I will not now. 100
 This is a trick to put me from my suit.
 Pray you, let Cassio be received again.
 OTHELLO
 Fetch me the handkerchief! *Aside.* My mind
 misgives.
 DESDEMONA Come, come. 105
 You'll never meet a more sufficient man.
 OTHELLO
 The handkerchief!
 DESDEMONA I pray, talk me of Cassio.
 OTHELLO The handkerchief!
 DESDEMONA A man that all his time 110
 Hath founded his good fortunes on your love;
 Shared dangers with you—
 OTHELLO
 The handkerchief!
 DESDEMONA I' faith, you are to blame.
 OTHELLO Zounds! *Othello exits.* 115
 EMILIA Is not this man jealous?

DESDEMONA I ne'er saw this before.
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. 120
They are all but stomachs, and we all but food;
They eat us hungerly, and when they are full
They belch us.

Enter Iago and Cassio.

Look you—Cassio and my husband.

IAGO, *to Cassio*

There is no other way; 'tis she must do 't, 125
And, lo, the happiness! Go and importune her.

DESDEMONA

How now, good Cassio, what's the news with you?

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 130
Whom I with all the office of my heart
Entirely honor. I would not be delayed.

If my offense be of such mortal kind
That nor my service past nor present sorrows
Nor purposed merit in futurity 135

Can ransom me into his love again,
But to know so must be my benefit.
So shall I clothe me in a forced content,
And shut myself up in some other course
To fortune's alms. 140

DESDEMONA Alas, thrice-gentle Cassio,

My advocacy is not now in tune.
My lord is not my lord; nor should I know him
Were he in favor as in humor altered.
So help me every spirit sanctified 145

As I have spoken for you all my best,
And stood within the blank of his displeasure
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. 150

IAGO

Is my lord angry?

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

IAGO

Can he be angry? I have seen the cannon
When it hath blown his ranks into the air 155
And, like the devil, from his very arm
Puffed his own brother—and is he angry?
Something of moment then. I will go meet him.
There's matter in 't indeed if he be angry.

DESDEMONA

I prithee do so. *He exits.* 160
Something, sure, of state,
Either from Venice, or some unhatched practice

Made demonstrable here in Cyprus to him,
 Hath puddled his clear spirit; and in such cases
 Men's natures wrangle with inferior things, 165
 Though great ones are their object. 'Tis even so.
 For let our finger ache, and it endues
 Our other healthful members even to a sense
 Of pain. Nay, we must think men are not gods,
 Nor of them look for such observancy 170
 As fits the bridal. Beshrew me much, Emilia,
 I was—unhandsome warrior as I am!—
 Arraigning his unkindness with my soul.
 But now I find I had suborned the witness,
 And he's indicted falsely. 175

EMILIA Pray heaven it be
 State matters, as you think, 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 answered so. 180
 They are not ever jealous for the cause,
 But jealous for they're jealous. It is a monster
 Begot upon itself, born on itself.

DESDEMONA
 Heaven keep that monster from Othello's mind!

EMILIA Lady, amen. 185

DESDEMONA
 I will go seek him.—Cassio, walk hereabout.
 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.

Desdemona and Emilia exit.

Enter Bianca.

BIANCA
 'Save you, friend Cassio! 190

CASSIO What make you from
 home?
 How is 't 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. 195
 What, keep a week away? Seven days and nights,
 Eightscore eight hours, and lovers' absent hours
 More tedious than the dial eightscore times?
 O weary reck'ning!

CASSIO Pardon me, Bianca. 200
 I have this while with leaden thoughts been pressed,
 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.

BIANCA O, Cassio, whence came this? 205
 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!
Throw your vile guesses in the devil's teeth, 210
From whence you have them. You are jealous now
That this is from some mistress, some
remembrance.
No, by my faith, Bianca.
BIANCA Why, whose is it? 215
CASSIO
I know not neither. I found it in my chamber.
I like the work well. Ere it be demanded,
As like enough it will, I would have it copied.
Take it, and do 't, and leave me for this time.
BIANCA Leave you? Wherefore? 220
CASSIO
I do attend here on the General,
And think it no addition, nor my wish,
To have him see me womaned.
BIANCA Why, I pray you?
CASSIO Not that I love you not. 225
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. 230
BIANCA
'Tis very good. I must be circumstanced.

They exit.

ACT 4

Scene 1

Enter Othello and Iago.

IAGO

Will you think so?

OTHELLO Think so, Iago?

IAGO What,

To kiss in private?

OTHELLO An unauthorized kiss! 5

IAGO

Or to be naked with her friend in bed
An hour or more, not meaning any harm?

OTHELLO

Naked in bed, Iago, and not mean harm?
It is hypocrisy against the devil!
They that mean virtuously, and yet do so,
The devil their virtue tempts, and they tempt
heaven. 10

IAGO

If they do nothing, 'tis a venial slip.
But if I give my wife a handkerchief—

OTHELLO What then? 15

IAGO

Why then, 'tis hers, my lord, and being hers,
She may, I think, bestow 't on any man.

OTHELLO

She is protectress of her honor, too.
May she give that?

IAGO

Her honor is an essence that's not seen;
They have it very oft that have it not.
But for the handkerchief— 20

OTHELLO

By heaven, I would most gladly have forgot it.
Thou saidst—O, it comes o'er my memory
As doth the raven o'er the infectious house,
Boding to all—he had my handkerchief. 25

IAGO

Ay, what of that?

OTHELLO That's not so good now.

IAGO What

If I had said I had seen him do you wrong?
Or heard him say (as knaves be such abroad,
Who having, by their own importunate suit
Or voluntary dotage of some mistress,
Convincèd or supplied them, cannot choose
But they must blab)— 30 35

OTHELLO Hath he said anything?

IAGO

He hath, my lord, but be you well assured,
No more than he'll unswear.

OTHELLO What hath he said?
IAGO
Faith, that he did—I know not what he did. 40
OTHELLO What? What?
IAGO
Lie—
OTHELLO With her?
IAGO With her—on her—what you will.
OTHELLO Lie with her? Lie on her? We say “lie on her” 45
when they belie her. Lie with her—Zounds, that’s
fulsome! Handkerchief—confessions—handkerchief.
To confess and be hanged for his labor.
First to be hanged and then to confess—I tremble
at it. Nature would not invest herself in such shadowing 50
passion without some instruction. It is not
words that shakes me thus. Pish! Noses, ears, and
lips—is ’t possible? Confess—handkerchief—O,
devil! *He falls in a trance.*
IAGO Work on, 55
My medicine, work! Thus credulous fools are
caught,
And many worthy and chaste dames even thus,
All guiltless, meet reproach.—What ho! My lord!
My lord, I say. Othello! 60

Enter Cassio.

How now, Cassio?
CASSIO What’s the matter?
IAGO
My lord is fall’n into an epilepsy.
This is his second fit. He had one yesterday.
CASSIO
Rub him about the temples. 65
IAGO No, forbear.
The lethargy must have his quiet course.
If not, he foams at mouth, and by and by
Breaks out to savage madness. Look, he stirs.
Do you withdraw yourself a little while. 70
He will recover straight. When he is gone,
I would on great occasion speak with you.
Cassio exits.
How is it, general? Have you not hurt your head?
OTHELLO
Dost thou mock me?
IAGO I mock you not, by heaven! 75
Would you would bear your fortune like a man!
OTHELLO
A hornèd man’s a monster and a beast.
IAGO
There’s many a beast, then, in a populous city,
And many a civil monster.
OTHELLO
Did he confess it? 80
IAGO Good sir, be a man!
Think every bearded fellow that’s but yoked

May draw with you. There's millions now alive
 That nightly lie in those unproper beds
 Which they dare swear peculiar. Your case is better. 85
 O, 'tis the spite of hell, the fiend's arch-mock,
 To lip a wanton in a secure couch
 And to suppose her chaste! No, let me know,
 And knowing what I am, I know what she shall be.

OTHELLO O, thou art wise, 'tis certain. 90

IAGO Stand you awhile apart.
 Confine yourself but in a patient list.
 Whilst you were here, o'erwhelmèd with your grief—
 A passion most unsuited such a man—
 Cassio came hither. I shifted him away 95
 And laid good 'scuses upon your ecstasy,
 Bade him anon return and here speak with me,
 The which he promised. Do but encave yourself,
 And mark the fleers, the gibes, and notable scorns
 That dwell in every region of his face. 100
 For I will make him tell the tale anew—
 Where, how, how oft, how long ago, and when
 He hath and is again to cope your wife.
 I say but mark his gesture. Marry, patience,
 Or I shall say you're all in all in spleen, 105
 And nothing of a man.

OTHELLO Dost thou hear, Iago,
 I will be found most cunning in my patience,
 But (dost thou hear?) most bloody.

IAGO That's not amiss. 110
 But yet keep time in all. Will you withdraw?
Othello withdraws.

Now will I question Cassio of Bianca,
 A huswife that by selling her desires
 Buys herself bread and clothes. It is a creature
 That dotes on Cassio—as 'tis the strumpet's plague 115
 To beguile many and be beguiled by one.
 He, when he hears of her, cannot restrain
 From the excess of laughter. Here he comes.

Enter Cassio.

As he shall smile, Othello shall go mad,
 And his unbookish jealousy must construe 120
 Poor Cassio's smiles, gestures, and light behaviors
 Quite in the wrong.—How do you, lieutenant?

CASSIO
 The worser that you give me the addition
 Whose want even kills me.

IAGO
 Ply Desdemona well, and you are sure on 't. 125
 Now, if this suit lay in Bianca's power,
 How quickly should you speed!

CASSIO, *laughing* Alas, poor caitiff!

OTHELLO Look how he laughs already!

IAGO I never knew woman love man so. 130

CASSIO
 Alas, poor rogue, I think i' faith she loves me.

OTHELLO
 Now he denies it faintly and laughs it out.

IAGO
 Do you hear, Cassio?

OTHELLO Now he importunes him
 To tell it o'er. Go to, well said, well said. 135

IAGO
 She gives it out that you shall marry her.
 Do you intend it?

CASSIO Ha, ha, ha!

OTHELLO
 Do you triumph, Roman? Do you triumph?

CASSIO I marry her? What, a customer? Prithee bear 140
 some charity to my wit! Do not think it so unwholesome.
 Ha, ha, ha!

OTHELLO So, so, so, so. They laugh that wins.

IAGO
 Faith, the cry goes that you marry her.

CASSIO Prithee say true! 145

IAGO I am a very villain else.

OTHELLO Have you scored me? Well.

CASSIO This is the monkey's own giving out. She is
 persuaded I will marry her out of her own love and
 flattery, not out of my promise. 150

OTHELLO
 Iago beckons me. Now he begins the story.

CASSIO She was here even now. She haunts me in
 every place. I was the other day talking on the
 sea-bank with certain Venetians, and thither comes
 the bauble. By this hand, she falls thus about my
 neck! 155

OTHELLO Crying, "O dear Cassio," as it were; his
 gesture imports it.

CASSIO So hangs and lolls and weeps upon me, so
 shakes and pulls me. Ha, ha, ha! 160

OTHELLO Now he tells how she plucked him to my
 chamber.—O, I see that nose of yours, but not that
 dog I shall throw it to.

CASSIO Well, I must leave her company.

IAGO Before me, look where she comes. 165

Enter Bianca.

CASSIO 'Tis such another fitchew—marry, a perfumed
 one!—What do you mean by this haunting
 of me?

BIANCA Let the devil and his dam haunt you! What did
 you mean by that same handkerchief you gave me
 even now? I was a fine fool to take it! I must take
 out the work? A likely piece of work, that you
 should find it in your chamber and know not who
 left it there! This is some minx's token, and I must
 take out the work! There, give it your hobbyhorse. 170
 Wheresoever you had it, I'll take out no work on 't.

CASSIO
 How now, my sweet Bianca? How now? How now? 175

OTHELLO
 By heaven, that should be my handkerchief!

BIANCA If you'll come to supper tonight you may. If
 you will not, come when you are next prepared 180
 for. *She exits.*

IAGO After her, after her!

CASSIO Faith, I must. She'll rail in the streets else.

IAGO Will you sup there?

CASSIO Faith, I intend so. 185

IAGO Well, I may chance to see you, for I would very
 fain speak with you.

CASSIO Prithce come. Will you?

IAGO Go to; say no more. *Cassio exits.*

OTHELLO, *coming forward* How shall I murder him,
 Iago? 190

IAGO Did you perceive how he laughed at his vice?

OTHELLO O Iago!

IAGO And did you see the handkerchief?

OTHELLO Was that mine? 195

IAGO Yours, by this hand! And to see how he prizes
 the foolish woman your wife! She gave it him, and
 he hath giv'n it his whore.

OTHELLO I would have him nine years a-killing! A fine
 woman, a fair woman, a sweet woman! 200

IAGO Nay, you must forget that.

OTHELLO Ay, let her rot and perish and be damned
 tonight, for she shall not live. No, my heart is turned
 to stone. I strike it, and it hurts my hand. O, the
 world hath not a sweeter creature! She might lie by 205
 an emperor's side and command him tasks.

IAGO Nay, that's not your way.

OTHELLO Hang her, I do but say what she is! So
 delicate with her needle, an admirable musician—
 O, she will sing the savageness out of a bear! 210
 Of so high and plenteous wit and invention!

IAGO She's the worse for all this.

OTHELLO O, a thousand, a thousand times!—And then
 of so gentle a condition!

IAGO Ay, too gentle. 215

OTHELLO Nay, that's certain. But yet the pity of it,
 Iago! O, Iago, the pity of it, Iago!

IAGO If you are so fond over her iniquity, give her
 patent to offend, for if it touch not you, it comes
 near nobody. 220

OTHELLO I will chop her into messes! Cuckold me?

IAGO O, 'tis foul in her.

OTHELLO With mine officer!

IAGO That's fouler.

OTHELLO Get me some poison, Iago, this night. I'll not
 expostulate with her lest her body and beauty 225
 unprovide my mind again. This night, Iago.

IAGO Do it not with poison. Strangle her in her bed,
 even the bed she hath contaminated.

OTHELLO Good, good. The justice of it pleases. Very
 good. 230

IAGO And for Cassio, let me be his undertaker. You

shall hear more by midnight.
OTHELLO
Excellent good. *A trumpet sounds.*
What trumpet is that same? 235
IAGO I warrant something from Venice.

Enter Lodovico, Desdemona, and Attendants.

'Tis Lodovico. This comes from the Duke.
See, your wife's with him.
LODOVICO God save you, worthy general.
OTHELLO With all my heart, sir. 240
LODOVICO
The Duke and the Senators of Venice greet you.
He hands Othello a paper.

OTHELLO
I kiss the instrument of their pleasures.
DESDEMONA
And what's the news, good cousin Lodovico?
IAGO
I am very glad to see you, signior.
Welcome to Cyprus. 245

LODOVICO
I thank you. How does Lieutenant Cassio?
IAGO Lives, sir.
DESDEMONA
Cousin, there's fall'n between him and my lord
An unkind breach, but you shall make all well.
OTHELLO Are you sure of that? 250

DESDEMONA My lord?
OTHELLO, *reading* "This fail you not to do, as you
will"—
LODOVICO
He did not call; he's busy in the paper.
Is there division 'twixt my lord and Cassio? 255

DESDEMONA
A most unhappy one. I would do much
T' atone them, for the love I bear to Cassio.
OTHELLO Fire and brimstone!
DESDEMONA My lord?
OTHELLO Are you wise? 260

DESDEMONA
What, is he angry?
LODOVICO May be the letter moved him.
For, as I think, they do command him home,
Deputing Cassio in his government.
DESDEMONA By my troth, I am glad on 't. 265

OTHELLO Indeed?
DESDEMONA My lord?
OTHELLO I am glad to see you mad.
DESDEMONA Why, sweet Othello!
OTHELLO, *striking her* Devil! 270
DESDEMONA I have not deserved this.

LODOVICO
My lord, this would not be believed in Venice,
Though I should swear I saw 't. 'Tis very much.

Make her amends. She weeps.
 OTHELLO O, devil, devil! 275
 If that the Earth could teem with woman's tears,
 Each drop she falls would prove a crocodile.
 Out of my sight!
 DESDEMONA I will not stay to offend you. *She begins to leave.*
 LODOVICO Truly an obedient lady. 280
 I do beseech your Lordship call her back.
 OTHELLO Mistress.
 DESDEMONA, *turning back* My lord?
 OTHELLO What would you with her, sir?
 LODOVICO Who, I, my lord? 285
 OTHELLO
 Ay, you did wish that I would make her turn.
 Sir, she can turn, and turn, and yet go on,
 And turn again. And she can weep, sir, weep.
 And she's obedient, as you say, obedient.
 Very obedient.—Proceed you in your tears.— 290
 Concerning this, sir—O, well-painted passion!—
 I am commanded home.—Get you away.
 I'll send for you anon.—Sir, I obey the mandate
 And will return to Venice.—Hence, avaunt!
Desdemona exits.
 Cassio shall have my place. And, sir, tonight 295
 I do entreat that we may sup together.
 You are welcome, sir, to Cyprus. Goats and
 monkeys! *He exits.*
 LODOVICO
 Is this the noble Moor, whom our full senate
 Call all in all sufficient? Is this the nature 300
 Whom passion could not shake, whose solid virtue
 The shot of accident nor dart of chance
 Could neither graze nor pierce?
 IAGO He is much
 changed. 305
 LODOVICO
 Are his wits safe? Is he not light of brain?
 IAGO
 He's that he is. I may not breathe my censure
 What he might be. If what he might he is not,
 I would to heaven he were.
 LODOVICO What? Strike his wife? 310
 IAGO
 'Faith, that was not so well. Yet would I knew
 That stroke would prove the worst.
 LODOVICO Is it his use?
 Or did the letters work upon his blood
 And new-create this fault? 315
 IAGO Alas, alas!
 It is not honesty in me to speak
 What I have seen and known. You shall observe
 him,
 And his own courses will denote him so 320
 That I may save my speech. Do but go after
 And mark how he continues.

LODOVICO

I am sorry that I am deceived in him.

They exit.

Scene 2

Enter Othello and Emilia.

OTHELLO You have seen nothing then?

EMILIA

Nor ever heard, nor ever did suspect.

OTHELLO

Yes, you have seen Cassio and she together.

EMILIA

But then I saw no harm, and then I heard

Each syllable that breath made up between them. 5

OTHELLO

What, did they never whisper?

EMILIA Never, my lord.

OTHELLO Nor send you out o' th' way?

EMILIA Never.

OTHELLO

To fetch her fan, her gloves, her mask, nor nothing? 10

EMILIA Never, my lord.

OTHELLO That's strange.

EMILIA

I durst, my lord, to wager she is honest,

Lay down my soul at stake. If you think other,

Remove your thought. It doth abuse your bosom. 15

If any wretch have put this in your head,

Let heaven requite it with the serpent's curse,

For if she be not honest, chaste, and true,

There's no man happy. The purest of their wives

Is foul as slander. 20

OTHELLO Bid her come hither. Go.

Emilia exits.

She says enough. Yet she's a simple bawd

That cannot say as much. This is a subtle whore,

A closet lock and key of villainous secrets.

And yet she'll kneel and pray. I have seen her do 't. 25

Enter Desdemona and Emilia.

DESDEMONA My lord, what is your will?

OTHELLO

Pray you, chuck, come hither.

DESDEMONA What is your

pleasure?

OTHELLO

Let me see your eyes. Look in my face. 30

DESDEMONA What horrible fancy's this?

OTHELLO, *to Emilia* Some of your function,
mistress.

Leave procreants alone, and shut the door.

Cough, or cry "hem," if anybody come. 35

Your mystery, your mystery! Nay, dispatch.

Emilia exits.

DESDEMONA, *kneeling*
 Upon my knees, what doth your speech import?
 I understand a fury in your words,
 But not the words.

OTHELLO Why? What art thou? 40
 DESDEMONA
 Your wife, my lord, your true and loyal wife.

OTHELLO Come, swear it. Damn thyself,
 Lest, being like one of heaven, the devils themselves
 Should fear to seize thee. Therefore be double
 damned. 45
 Swear thou art honest.

DESDEMONA Heaven doth truly know it.

OTHELLO
 Heaven truly knows that thou art false as hell.

DESDEMONA, *standing*
 To whom, my lord? With whom? How am I false?

OTHELLO
 Ah, Desdemon, away, away, away! 50
 DESDEMONA
 Alas the heavy day, why do you weep?
 Am I the motive of these tears, my lord?
 If haply you my father do suspect
 An instrument of this your calling back,
 Lay not your blame on me. If you have lost him, 55
 I have lost him too.

OTHELLO Had it pleased heaven
 To try me with affliction, had they rained
 All kind of sores and shames on my bare head,
 Steeped me in poverty to the very lips, 60
 Given to captivity me and my utmost hopes,
 I should have found in some place of my soul
 A drop of patience. But alas, to make me
 A fixèd figure for the time of scorn
 To point his slow unmoving finger at— 65
 Yet could I bear that too, well, very well.

But there where I have garnered up my heart,
 Where either I must live or bear no life,
 The fountain from the which my current runs
 Or else dries up—to be discarded thence, 70
 Or keep it as a cistern for foul toads
 To knot and gender in—turn thy complexion there,
 Patience, thou young and rose-lipped cherubin,
 Ay, there look grim as hell.

DESDEMONA
 I hope my noble lord esteems me honest. 75
 OTHELLO
 O, ay, as summer flies are in the shambles,
 That quicken even with blowing! O thou weed,
 Who art so lovely fair, and smell'st so sweet
 That the sense aches at thee, would thou hadst
 ne'er been born! 80
 DESDEMONA
 Alas, what ignorant sin have I committed?

OTHELLO
 Was this fair paper, this most goodly book,

Made to write “whore” upon? What committed?
 Committed? O thou public commoner,
 I should make very forges of my cheeks 85
 That would to cinders burn up modesty,
 Did I but speak thy deeds. What committed?
 Heaven stops the nose at it, and the moon winks;
 The bawdy wind that kisses all it meets
 Is hushed within the hollow mine of earth 90
 And will not hear ’t. What committed?
 Impudent strumpet!
 DESDEMONA By heaven, you do me wrong!
 OTHELLO Are not you a strumpet?
 DESDEMONA No, as I am a Christian! 95
 If to preserve this vessel for my lord
 From any other foul unlawful touch
 Be not to be a strumpet, I am none.
 OTHELLO What, not a whore?
 DESDEMONA No, as I shall be saved. 100
 OTHELLO Is ’t possible?
 DESDEMONA
 O, heaven forgive us!
 OTHELLO I cry you mercy, then.
 I took you for that cunning whore of Venice
 That married with Othello.—You, mistress, 105

Enter Emilia.

That have the office opposite to Saint Peter
 And keeps the gate of hell—you, you, ay, you!
 We have done our course. There’s money for your
 pains. *He gives her money.*
 I pray you turn the key and keep our counsel. 110
He exits.

EMILIA
 Alas, what does this gentleman conceive?
 How do you, madam? How do you, my good lady?
 DESDEMONA Faith, half asleep.
 EMILIA
 Good madam, what’s the matter with my lord?
 DESDEMONA With who? 115
 EMILIA Why, with my lord, madam.
 DESDEMONA
 Who is thy lord?
 EMILIA He that is yours, sweet lady.
 DESDEMONA
 I have none. Do not talk to me, Emilia.
 I cannot weep, nor answers have I none 120
 But what should go by water. Prithee, tonight
 Lay on my bed my wedding sheets. Remember.
 And call thy husband hither.
 EMILIA Here’s a change indeed. *She exits.*
 DESDEMONA
 ’Tis meet I should be used so, very meet. 125
 How have I been behaved that he might stick
 The small’st opinion on my least misuse?

Enter Iago and Emilia.

IAGO

What is your pleasure, madam? How is 't with you?

DESDEMONA

I cannot tell. Those that do teach young babes
Do it with gentle means and easy tasks. 130
He might have chid me so, for, in good faith,
I am a child to chiding.

IAGO What is the matter, lady?

EMILIA

Alas, Iago, my lord hath so bewhored her,
Thrown such despite and heavy terms upon her 135
As true hearts cannot bear.

DESDEMONA

Am I that name, Iago?

IAGO What name, fair
lady?

DESDEMONA

Such as she said my lord did say I was. 140

EMILIA

He called her "whore." A beggar in his drink
Could not have laid such terms upon his callet.

IAGO Why did he so?

DESDEMONA

I do not know. I am sure I am none such.

IAGO

Do not weep, do not weep! Alas the day! 145

EMILIA

Hath she forsook so many noble matches,
Her father and her country and her friends,
To be called "whore"? Would it not make one
weep?

DESDEMONA It is my wretched fortune. 150

IAGO

Beshrew him for 't! How comes this trick upon him?

DESDEMONA Nay, heaven doth know.

EMILIA

I will be hanged if some eternal villain,
Some busy and insinuating rogue,
Some cogging, cozening slave, to get some office, 155
Have not devised this slander. I will be hanged else.

IAGO

Fie, there is no such man. It is impossible.

DESDEMONA

If any such there be, heaven pardon him.

EMILIA

A halter pardon him, and hell gnaw his bones!
Why should he call her "whore"? Who keeps her
company? 160

What place? What time? What form? What
likelihood?

The Moor's abused by some most villainous knave,
Some base notorious knave, some scurvy fellow. 165
O heaven, that such companions thou 'dst unfold,
And put in every honest hand a whip

To lash the rascals naked through the world,
 Even from the east to th' west!

IAGO Speak within door. 170

EMILIA
 O, fie upon them! Some such squire he was
 That turned your wit the seamy side without
 And made you to suspect me with the Moor.

IAGO
 You are a fool. Go to!

DESDEMONA Alas, Iago, 175
 What shall I do to win my lord again?
 Good friend, go to him. For by this light of heaven,
 I know not how I lost him. *She kneels.* Here I
 kneel.

If e'er my will did trespass 'gainst his love,
 Either in discourse of thought or actual deed, 180
 Or that mine eyes, mine ears, or any sense
 Delighted them in any other form,
 Or that I do not yet, and ever did,
 And ever will—though he do shake me off 185
 To beggarly divorcement—love him dearly,
 Comfort forswear me! *She stands.* Unkindness may
 do much,
 And his unkindness may defeat my life,
 But never taint my love. I cannot say “whore”— 190
 It does abhor me now I speak the word.
 To do the act that might the addition earn,
 Not the world's mass of vanity could make me.

IAGO
 I pray you be content. 'Tis but his humor.
 The business of the state does him offense, 195
 And he does chide with you.

DESDEMONA
 If 'twere no other—

IAGO It is but so, I warrant.

Trumpets sound.

Hark how these instruments summon to supper.
 The messengers of Venice stays the meat. 200
 Go in and weep not. All things shall be well.
Desdemona and Emilia exit.

Enter Roderigo.

How now, Roderigo?

RODERIGO I do not find
 That thou deal'st justly with me.

IAGO What in the contrary? 205

RODERIGO Every day thou daff'st me with some device,
 Iago, and rather, as it seems to me now,
 keep'st from me all conveniency than suppliest me
 with the least advantage of hope. I will indeed no
 longer endure it. Nor am I yet persuaded to put up 210
 in peace what already I have foolishly suffered.

IAGO Will you hear me, Roderigo?

RODERIGO Faith, I have heard too much, and your
 words and performances are no kin together.

IAGO You charge me most unjustly. 215

RODERIGO With naught but truth. I have wasted myself
out of my means. The jewels you have had
from me to deliver to Desdemona would half have
corrupted a votaress. You have told me she hath
received them, and returned me expectations and 220
comforts of sudden respect and acquaintance, but I
find none.

IAGO Well, go to! Very well.

RODERIGO "Very well." "Go to!" I cannot go to, man,
nor 'tis not very well! By this hand, I say 'tis very 225
scurvy, and begin to find myself fopped in it.

IAGO Very well.

RODERIGO I tell you 'tis not very well! I will make
myself known to Desdemona. If she will return me
my jewels, I will give over my suit and repent my 230
unlawful solicitation. If not, assure yourself I will
seek satisfaction of you.

IAGO You have said now.

RODERIGO Ay, and said nothing but what I protest
intendment of doing. 235

IAGO Why, now I see there's mettle in thee, and even
from this instant do build on thee a better opinion
than ever before. Give me thy hand, Roderigo.
Thou hast taken against me a most just exception,
but yet I protest I have dealt most directly in thy 240
affair.

RODERIGO It hath not appeared.

IAGO I grant indeed it hath not appeared, and your
suspicion is not without wit and judgment. But,
Roderigo, if thou hast that in thee indeed which I 245
have greater reason to believe now than ever—I
mean purpose, courage, and valor—this night show
it. If thou the next night following enjoy not Desdemona,
take me from this world with treachery and
devise engines for my life. 250

RODERIGO Well, what is it? Is it within reason and
compass?

IAGO Sir, there is especial commission come from
Venice to depute Cassio in Othello's place.

RODERIGO Is that true? Why, then, Othello and Desdemona 255
return again to Venice.

IAGO O, no. He goes into Mauritania and takes away
with him the fair Desdemona, unless his abode be
lingered here by some accident—wherein none
can be so determinate as the removing of Cassio. 260

RODERIGO How do you mean, removing him?

IAGO Why, by making him incapable of Othello's
place: knocking out his brains.

RODERIGO And that you would have me to do?

IAGO Ay, if you dare do yourself a profit and a right. He 265
sups tonight with a harlotry, and thither will I go to
him. He knows not yet of his honorable fortune. If
you will watch his going thence (which I will
fashion to fall out between twelve and one), you may
take him at your pleasure. I will be near to second 270

your attempt, and he shall fall between us. Come,
stand not amazed at it, but go along with me. I will
show you such a necessity in his death that you shall
think yourself bound to put it on him. It is now high
supper time, and the night grows to waste. About it! 275
RODERIGO I will hear further reason for this.
IAGO And you shall be satisfied.

They exit.

Scene 3

*Enter Othello, Lodovico, Desdemona, Emilia, and
Attendants.*

LODOVICO

I do beseech you, sir, trouble yourself no further.

OTHELLO

O, pardon me, 'twill do me good to walk.

LODOVICO

Madam, good night. I humbly thank your Ladyship.

DESDEMONA Your Honor is most welcome.

OTHELLO

Will you walk, sir?—O, Desdemona— 5

DESDEMONA My lord?

OTHELLO Get you to bed on th' instant. I will be
returned forthwith. Dismiss your attendant there.

Look 't be done.

DESDEMONA I will, my lord. 10

All but Desdemona and Emilia exit.

EMILIA

How goes it now? He looks gentler than he did.

DESDEMONA

He says he will return incontinent,
And hath commanded me to go to bed,
And bade me to dismiss you.

EMILIA Dismiss me? 15

DESDEMONA

It was his bidding. Therefore, good Emilia,
Give me my nightly wearing, and adieu.
We must not now displease him.

EMILIA I would you had never seen him.

DESDEMONA

So would not I. My love doth so approve him 20
That even his stubbornness, his checks, his frowns—
Prithee, unpin me—have grace and favor in them.

EMILIA

I have laid those sheets you bade me on the bed.

DESDEMONA

All's one. Good faith, how foolish are our minds!
If I do die before thee, prithee, shroud me 25
In one of those same sheets.

EMILIA Come, come, you talk!

DESDEMONA

My mother had a maid called Barbary.
She was in love, and he she loved proved mad
And did forsake her. She had a song of willow, 30
An old thing 'twas, but it expressed her fortune,

And she died singing it. That song tonight
 Will not go from my mind. I have much to do
 But to go hang my head all at one side
 And sing it like poor Barbary. Prithee, dispatch. 35

EMILIA Shall I go fetch your nightgown?
 DESDEMONA No, unpin me here.
 This Lodovico is a proper man.
 EMILIA A very handsome man.
 DESDEMONA He speaks well. 40

EMILIA I know a lady in Venice would have walked
 barefoot to Palestine for a touch of his nether lip.
 DESDEMONA, *singing*
The poor soul sat sighing by a sycamore tree,
Sing all a green willow.
Her hand on her bosom, her head on her knee, 45
Sing willow, willow, willow.
The fresh streams ran by her and murmured her
moans,
Sing willow, willow, willow;
Her salt tears fell from her, and softened the 50
stones—
 Lay by these.
Sing willow, willow, willow.
 Prithee hie thee! He'll come anon.
Sing all a green willow must be my garland. 55
Let nobody blame him, his scorn I approve.
 Nay, that's not next. Hark, who is 't that knocks?
 EMILIA It's the wind.
 DESDEMONA
I called my love false love, but what said he then?
Sing willow, willow, willow. 60
If I court more women, you'll couch with more
men.—
 So, get thee gone. Good night. Mine eyes do itch;
 Doth that bode weeping?
 EMILIA 'Tis neither here nor there. 65
 DESDEMONA
 I have heard it said so. O these men, these men!
 Dost thou in conscience think—tell me, Emilia—
 That there be women do abuse their husbands
 In such gross kind?
 EMILIA There be some such, no 70
 question.
 DESDEMONA
 Wouldst thou do such a deed for all the world?
 EMILIA
 Why, would not you?
 DESDEMONA No, by this heavenly light!
 EMILIA
 Nor I neither, by this heavenly light. 75
 I might do 't as well i' th' dark.
 DESDEMONA
 Wouldst thou do such a deed for all the world?
 EMILIA The world's a huge thing. It is a great price
 for a small vice.
 DESDEMONA In troth, I think thou wouldst not. 80

EMILIA In troth, I think I should, and undo 't when I
 had done it. Marry, I would not do such a thing for
 a joint ring, nor for measures of lawn, nor for
 gowns, petticoats, nor caps, nor any petty exhibition.
 But for the whole world—'Uds pity! Who 85
 would not make her husband a cuckold to make
 him a monarch? I should venture purgatory for 't.
 DESDEMONA Beshrew me if I would do such a wrong
 for the whole world!
 EMILIA Why, the wrong is but a wrong i' th' world; 90
 and, having the world for your labor, 'tis a wrong in
 your own world, and you might quickly make it
 right.
 DESDEMONA I do not think there is any such woman.
 EMILIA Yes, a dozen; and as many to th' vantage as 95
 would store the world they played for.
 But I do think it is their husbands' faults
 If wives do fall. Say that they slack their duties,
 And pour our treasures into foreign laps;
 Or else break out in peevish jealousies, 100
 Throwing restraint upon us. Or say they strike us,
 Or scant our former having in despite.
 Why, we have galls, and though we have some grace,
 Yet have we some revenge. Let husbands know
 Their wives have sense like them. They see, and 105
 smell,
 And have their palates both for sweet and sour,
 As husbands have. What is it that they do
 When they change us for others? Is it sport?
 I think it is. And doth affection breed it? 110
 I think it doth. Is 't frailty that thus errs?
 It is so too. And have not we affections,
 Desires for sport, and frailty, as men have?
 Then let them use us well. Else let them know,
 The ills we do, their ills instruct us so. 115
 DESDEMONA
 Good night, good night. God me such uses send,
 Not to pick bad from bad, but by bad mend.

They exit.

ACT 5

Scene 1

Enter Iago and Roderigo.

IAGO

Here, stand behind this bulk. Straight will he
come.

Wear thy good rapier bare, and put it home.

Quick, quick! Fear nothing. I'll be at thy elbow.

It makes us or it mars us—think on that,

5

And fix most firm thy resolution.

RODERIGO

Be near at hand. I may miscarry in 't.

IAGO

Here, at thy hand. Be bold and take thy stand.

He moves aside.

RODERIGO

I have no great devotion to the deed,

And yet he hath given me satisfying reasons.

10

'Tis but a man gone. Forth, my sword! He dies.

He draws his sword.

IAGO, *aside*

I have rubbed this young quat almost to the sense,

And he grows angry. Now, whether he kill Cassio,

Or Cassio him, or each do kill the other,

Every way makes my gain. Live Roderigo,

15

He calls me to a restitution large

Of gold and jewels that I bobbed from him

As gifts to Desdemona.

It must not be. If Cassio do remain,

He hath a daily beauty in his life

20

That makes me ugly. And besides, the Moor

May unfold me to him. There stand I in much peril.

No, he must die. Be 't so. I hear him coming.

Enter Cassio.

RODERIGO

I know his gait. 'Tis he!—Villain, thou diest!

He thrusts at Cassio.

CASSIO

That thrust had been mine enemy indeed

25

But that my coat is better than thou know'st.

I will make proof of thine.

He draws, and stabs Roderigo.

RODERIGO O, I am slain!

Roderigo falls.

Iago stabs Cassio in the leg, and exits.

CASSIO

I am maimed forever! Help, ho! Murder, murder!

Enter Othello.

OTHELLO
 The voice of Cassio! Iago keeps his word. 30
 RODERIGO O, villain that I am!
 OTHELLO, *aside* It is even so.
 CASSIO O, help ho! Light! A surgeon!
 OTHELLO, *aside*
 'Tis he! O brave Iago, honest and just,
 That hast such noble sense of thy friend's wrong! 35
 Thou teachest me.—Minion, your dear lies dead,
 And your unblest fate hies. Strumpet, I come.
 Forth of my heart those charms, thine eyes, are
 blotted.
 Thy bed, lust-stained, shall with lust's blood be 40
 spotted. *Othello exits.*

Enter Lodovico and Gratiano.

CASSIO
 What ho! No watch? No passage? Murder, murder!
 GRATIANO
 'Tis some mischance. The voice is very direful.
 CASSIO O, help!
 LODOVICO Hark! 45
 RODERIGO O wretched villain!
 LODOVICO
 Two or three groan. 'Tis heavy night.
 These may be counterfeits. Let's think 't unsafe
 To come in to the cry without more help.
 RODERIGO
 Nobody come? Then shall I bleed to death. 50

Enter Iago with a light.

LODOVICO Hark!
 GRATIANO
 Here's one comes in his shirt, with light and
 weapons.
 IAGO
 Who's there? Whose noise is this that cries on
 murder? 55
 LODOVICO
 We do not know.
 IAGO Did not you hear a cry?
 CASSIO
 Here, here! For heaven's sake, help me!
 IAGO What's the matter?
 GRATIANO, *to Lodovico*
 This is Othello's ancient, as I take it. 60
 LODOVICO
 The same indeed, a very valiant fellow.
 IAGO, *to Cassio*
 What are you here that cry so grievously?
 CASSIO
 Iago? O, I am spoiled, undone by villains.
 Give me some help!

IAGO
 O me, lieutenant! What villains have done this? 65

CASSIO
 I think that one of them is hereabout
 And cannot make away.

IAGO O treacherous villains!
To Lodovico and Gratiano. What are you there?
 Come in, and give some help. 70

RODERIGO O, help me here!

CASSIO
 That's one of them.

IAGO, *to Roderigo* O murd'rous slave! O villain!
He stabs Roderigo.

RODERIGO
 O damned Iago! O inhuman dog!

IAGO
 Kill men i' th' dark?—Where be these bloody 75
 thieves?
 How silent is this town! Ho, murder, murder!—
 What may you be? Are you of good or evil?

LODOVICO
 As you shall prove us, praise us.

IAGO Signior Lodovico? 80

LODOVICO He, sir.

IAGO
 I cry you mercy. Here's Cassio hurt by villains.

GRATIANO Cassio?

IAGO
 How is 't, brother?

CASSIO My leg is cut in two. 85

IAGO Marry, heaven forbid!
 Light, gentlemen. I'll bind it with my shirt.

Enter Bianca.

BIANCA
 What is the matter, ho? Who is 't that cried?

IAGO
 Who is 't that cried?

BIANCA O, my dear Cassio, 90
 My sweet Cassio! O Cassio, Cassio, Cassio!

IAGO
 O notable strumpet! Cassio, may you suspect
 Who they should be that have thus mangled you?

CASSIO No.

GRATIANO
 I am sorry to find you thus; I have been to seek you. 95

IAGO
 Lend me a garter. So.—O for a chair
 To bear him easily hence!

BIANCA
 Alas, he faints. O, Cassio, Cassio, Cassio!

IAGO
 Gentlemen all, I do suspect this trash
 To be a party in this injury.— 100
 Patience awhile, good Cassio.—Come, come;

Lend me a light. *Peering at Roderigo.* Know we this
face or no?
Alas, my friend and my dear countryman
Roderigo? No! Yes, sure. O heaven, Roderigo! 105

GRATIANO What, of Venice?
IAGO Even he, sir. Did you know him?
GRATIANO Know him? Ay.
IAGO
Signior Gratiano? I cry your gentle pardon.
These bloody accidents must excuse my manners 110
That so neglected you.
GRATIANO I am glad to see you.
IAGO
How do you, Cassio?—O, a chair, a chair!
GRATIANO Roderigo?
IAGO
He, he, 'tis he! *A chair is brought in.* O, that's well 115
said; the chair.—
Some good man bear him carefully from hence.
I'll fetch the General's surgeon.—For you, mistress,
Save you your labor.—He that lies slain here,
Cassio, 120
Was my dear friend. What malice was between you?
CASSIO
None in the world. Nor do I know the man.
IAGO, *to Bianca*
What, look you pale?—O, bear him out o' th' air.
Cassio, in the chair, and Roderigo are carried off.
To Gratiano and Lodovico. Stay you, good
gentlemen.—Look you pale, mistress?— 125
Do you perceive the gastness of her eye?—
Nay, if you stare, we shall hear more anon.—
Behold her well. I pray you, look upon her.
Do you see, gentlemen? Nay, guiltiness will speak
Though tongues were out of use. 130

Enter Emilia.

EMILIA
Alas, what is the matter? What is the matter,
husband?
IAGO
Cassio hath here been set on in the dark
By Roderigo and fellows that are scaped.
He's almost slain, and Roderigo dead. 135
EMILIA
Alas, good gentleman! Alas, good Cassio!
IAGO
This is the fruits of whoring. Prithee, Emilia,
Go know of Cassio where he supped tonight.
To Bianca. What, do you shake at that?
BIANCA
He supped at my house, but I therefore shake not. 140
IAGO
O, did he so? I charge you go with me.
EMILIA O fie upon thee, strumpet!

BIANCA

I am no strumpet, but of life as honest
As you that thus abuse me.

EMILIA As I? Faugh! Fie upon thee! 145

IAGO

Kind gentlemen, let's go see poor Cassio dressed.—
Come, mistress, you must tell 's another tale.—
Emilia, run you to the citadel
And tell my lord and lady what hath happed.—
Will you go on afore? *Aside.* This is the night
That either makes me or fordoes me quite.

150

They exit in different directions.

Scene 2

Enter Othello with a light, and Desdemona in her bed.

OTHELLO

It is the cause, it is the cause, my soul.
Let me not name it to you, you chaste stars.
It is the cause. Yet I'll not shed her blood,
Nor scar that whiter skin of hers than snow,
And smooth as monumental alabaster. 5
Yet she must die, else she'll betray more men.
Put out the light, and then put out the light.
If I quench thee, thou flaming minister,
I can again thy former light restore
Should I repent me. But once put out thy light, 10
Thou cunning'st pattern of excelling nature,
I know not where is that Promethean heat
That can thy light relume. When I have plucked the
rose,
I cannot give it vital growth again. 15
It needs must wither. I'll smell it on the tree.
O balmy breath, that dost almost persuade
Justice to break her sword! *He kisses her.* One
more, one more.
Be thus when thou art dead, and I will kill thee 20
And love thee after. One more, and this the last.

He kisses her.

So sweet was ne'er so fatal. I must weep,
But they are cruel tears. This sorrow's heavenly:
It strikes where it doth love. She wakes.

DESDEMONA

Who's there? Othello?

25

OTHELLO Ay, Desdemona.

DESDEMONA Will you come to bed, my lord?

OTHELLO

Have you prayed tonight, Desdemon?

DESDEMONA Ay, my lord.

OTHELLO

If you bethink yourself of any crime
Unreconciled as yet to heaven and grace,
Solicit for it straight.

30

DESDEMONA Alack, my lord,
What may you mean by that?

OTHELLO
 Well, do it, and be brief. I will walk by. 35
 I would not kill thy unprepared spirit.
 No, heaven forfend! I would not kill thy soul.

DESDEMONA Talk you of killing?

OTHELLO
 Ay, I do.

DESDEMONA Then heaven have mercy on me. 40

OTHELLO Amen, with all my heart.

DESDEMONA
 If you say so, I hope you will not kill me.

OTHELLO Humh.

DESDEMONA
 And yet I fear you, for you're fatal then
 When your eyes roll so. Why I should fear I know 45
 not,
 Since guiltiness I know not, but yet I feel I fear.

OTHELLO
 Think on thy sins.

DESDEMONA They are loves I bear to you.

OTHELLO Ay, and for that thou diest. 50

DESDEMONA
 That death's unnatural that kills for loving.
 Alas, why gnaw you so your nether lip?
 Some bloody passion shakes your very frame.
 These are portents, but yet I hope, I hope
 They do not point on me. 55

OTHELLO Peace, and be still.

DESDEMONA
 I will so. What's the matter?

OTHELLO That handkerchief
 Which I so loved, and gave thee, thou gav'st to 60
 Cassio.

DESDEMONA
 No, by my life and soul! Send for the man
 And ask him.

OTHELLO
 Sweet soul, take heed, take heed of perjury.
 Thou art on thy deathbed.

DESDEMONA
 Ay, but not yet to die. 65

OTHELLO Yes, presently.
 Therefore confess thee freely of thy sin.
 For to deny each article with oath
 Cannot remove nor choke the strong conception
 That I do groan withal. Thou art to die. 70

DESDEMONA
 Then Lord have mercy on me!

OTHELLO I say "Amen."

DESDEMONA
 And have you mercy, too. I never did
 Offend you in my life, never loved Cassio
 But with such general warranty of heaven 75
 As I might love. I never gave him token.

OTHELLO
 By heaven, I saw my handkerchief in 's hand!

O perjured woman, thou dost stone my heart
 And mak'st me call what I intend to do
 A murder, which I thought a sacrifice! 80
 I saw the handkerchief!

DESDEMONA He found it, then.
 I never gave it him. Send for him hither.
 Let him confess a truth.

OTHELLO He hath confessed. 85

DESDEMONA What, my lord?
 OTHELLO
 That he hath used thee.

DESDEMONA How? Unlawfully?
 OTHELLO Ay.

DESDEMONA
 He will not say so. 90

OTHELLO No. His mouth is stopped.
 Honest Iago hath ta'en order for 't.

DESDEMONA
 O, my fear interprets. What, is he dead?

OTHELLO
 Had all his hairs been lives, my great revenge
 Had stomach for them all. 95

DESDEMONA
 Alas, he is betrayed, and I undone. *She weeps.*

OTHELLO
 Out, strumpet! Weep'st thou for him to my face?

DESDEMONA
 O banish me, my lord, but kill me not!

OTHELLO Down, strumpet!

DESDEMONA
 Kill me tomorrow, let me live tonight. 100

OTHELLO Nay, if you strive—

DESDEMONA
 But half an hour!

OTHELLO Being done, there is no pause.

DESDEMONA
 But while I say one prayer!

OTHELLO It is too late. 105
He smothers her.

EMILIA, *within*
 My lord, my lord? What ho! My lord, my lord!

OTHELLO
 What noise is this?—Not dead? Not yet quite dead?
 I that am cruel am yet merciful.
 I would not have thee linger in thy pain.
 So, so. 110

EMILIA, *within* What, ho! My lord, my lord!

OTHELLO Who's
 there?

EMILIA, *within*
 O, good my lord, I would speak a word with you.

OTHELLO
 Yes. 'Tis Emilia.—By and by.—She's dead. 115
 'Tis like she comes to speak of Cassio's death.
 The noise was here. Ha, no more moving?
 Still as the grave. Shall she come in? Were 't good?

I think she stirs again. No. What's best to do?
 If she come in, she'll sure speak to my wife. 120
 My wife, my wife! What wife? I have no wife.
 O insupportable! O heavy hour!
 Methinks it should be now a huge eclipse
 Of sun and moon, and that th' affrighted globe
 Should yawn at alteration. 125

EMILIA, *within* I do beseech you
 That I may speak with you. O, good my lord—
 OTHELLO
 I had forgot thee. O, come in, Emilia.—
 Soft, by and by, let me the curtains draw.—
 Where art thou? 130

Enter Emilia.

What's the matter with thee now?
 EMILIA
 O, my good lord, yonder's foul murders done.
 OTHELLO What? Now?
 EMILIA But now, my lord.
 OTHELLO
 It is the very error of the moon. 135
 She comes more nearer Earth than she was wont
 And makes men mad.
 EMILIA Cassio, my lord, hath killed
 A young Venetian called Roderigo.
 OTHELLO
 Roderigo killed? And Cassio killed? 140
 EMILIA No, Cassio is not killed.
 OTHELLO
 Not Cassio killed? Then murder's out of tune,
 And sweet revenge grows harsh.
 DESDEMONA O falsely, falsely murdered.
 EMILIA
 O Lord, what cry is that? 145
 OTHELLO That? What?
 EMILIA
 Out, and alas, that was my lady's voice!
 Help! Help ho! Help! O lady, speak again!
 Sweet Desdemona, O sweet mistress, speak!
 DESDEMONA A guiltless death I die. 150
 EMILIA O, who hath done this deed?
 DESDEMONA Nobody. I myself. Farewell.
 Commend me to my kind lord. O, farewell.

She dies.

OTHELLO
 Why, how should she be murdered?
 EMILIA Alas, who 155
 knows?
 OTHELLO
 You heard her say herself, it was not I.
 EMILIA
 She said so. I must needs report the truth.
 OTHELLO
 She's like a liar gone to burning hell!

'Twas I that killed her. 160

EMILIA
O, the more angel she, and you the blacker devil!

OTHELLO
She turned to folly, and she was a whore.

EMILIA
Thou dost belie her, and thou art a devil!

OTHELLO She was false as water.

EMILIA Thou art rash as fire to say 165
That she was false. O, she was heavenly true!

OTHELLO
Cassio did top her. Ask thy husband else.
O, I were damned beneath all depth in hell
But that I did proceed upon just grounds
To this extremity. Thy husband knew it all. 170

EMILIA My husband?

OTHELLO Thy husband.

EMILIA That she was false to wedlock?

OTHELLO
Ay, with Cassio. Had she been true,
If heaven would make me such another world 175
Of one entire and perfect chrysolite,
I'd not have sold her for it.

EMILIA My husband?

OTHELLO
Ay, 'twas he that told me on her first.
An honest man he is, and hates the slime 180
That sticks on filthy deeds.

EMILIA My husband?

OTHELLO
What needs this iterance, woman? I say, thy
husband.

EMILIA
O mistress, villainy hath made mocks with love!— 185
My husband say she was false?

OTHELLO He, woman.
I say thy husband. Dost understand the word?
My friend, thy husband; honest, honest Iago.

EMILIA
If he say so, may his pernicious soul 190
Rot half a grain a day! He lies to th' heart!
She was too fond of her most filthy bargain.

He draws his sword.

OTHELLO Hah?

EMILIA Do thy worst!
This deed of thine is no more worthy heaven 195
Than thou wast worthy her.

OTHELLO Peace, you were best!

EMILIA
Thou hast not half that power to do me harm
As I have to be hurt. O gull! O dolt,
As ignorant as dirt! Thou hast done a deed— 200
I care not for thy sword. I'll make thee known,
Though I lost twenty lives. Help! Help, ho! Help!
The Moor hath killed my mistress! Murder, murder!

Enter Montano, Gratiano, and Iago.

MONTANO
What is the matter? How now, general?

EMILIA
O, are you come, Iago? You have done well, 205
That men must lay their murders on your neck.

GRATIANO What is the matter?

EMILIA, *to Iago*
Disprove this villain, if thou be'st a man.
He says thou told'st him that his wife was false.
I know thou didst not. Thou 'rt not such a villain. 210
Speak, for my heart is full.

IAGO
I told him what I thought, and told no more
Than what he found himself was apt and true.

EMILIA
But did you ever tell him she was false?

IAGO I did. 215

EMILIA
You told a lie, an odious, damnèd lie!
Upon my soul, a lie, a wicked lie!
She false with Cassio? Did you say with Cassio?

IAGO
With Cassio, mistress. Go to! Charm your tongue.

EMILIA
I will not charm my tongue. I am bound to speak. 220
My mistress here lies murdered in her bed.

ALL O heavens forfend!

EMILIA, *to Iago*
And your reports have set the murder on!

OTHELLO
Nay, stare not, masters; it is true indeed.

GRATIANO 'Tis a strange truth. 225

MONTANO
O monstrous act!

EMILIA Villainy, villainy, villainy!
I think upon 't, I think! I smell 't! O villainy!
I thought so then. I'll kill myself for grief!
O villainy! Villainy! 230

IAGO
What, are you mad? I charge you get you home.

EMILIA
Good gentlemen, let me have leave to speak.
'Tis proper I obey him, but not now.
Perchance, Iago, I will ne'er go home.

OTHELLO
O, O, O! *Othello falls on the bed.* 235

EMILIA Nay, lay thee down, and roar!
For thou hast killed the sweetest innocent
That e'er did lift up eye.

OTHELLO, *standing* O, she was foul!—
I scarce did know you, uncle. There lies your niece, 240
Whose breath indeed these hands have newly
stopped.
I know this act shows horrible and grim.

GRATIANO
 Poor Desdemon, I am glad thy father's dead.
 Thy match was mortal to him, and pure grief 245
 Shore his old thread in twain. Did he live now,
 This sight would make him do a desperate turn,
 Yea, curse his better angel from his side,
 And fall to reprobance.

OTHELLO
 'Tis pitiful. But yet Iago knows 250
 That she with Cassio hath the act of shame
 A thousand times committed. Cassio confessed it,
 And she did gratify his amorous works
 With that recognizance and pledge of love
 Which I first gave her. I saw it in his hand. 255
 It was a handkerchief, an antique token
 My father gave my mother.

EMILIA O God! O heavenly God!

IAGO
 Zounds, hold your peace!

EMILIA 'Twill out, 'twill out. I peace? 260
 No, I will speak as liberal as the north.
 Let heaven and men and devils, let them all,
 All, all, cry shame against me, yet I'll speak.

IAGO Be wise, and get you home.
He draws his sword.

EMILIA
 I will not. 265

GRATIANO Fie, your sword upon a woman!

EMILIA
 O thou dull Moor, that handkerchief thou speak'st
 of
 I found by fortune, and did give my husband—
 For often, with a solemn earnestness 270
 (More than indeed belonged to such a trifle),
 He begged of me to steal 't.

IAGO Villainous whore!

EMILIA
 She give it Cassio? No, alas, I found it,
 And I did give 't my husband. 275

IAGO Filth, thou liest!

EMILIA
 By heaven, I do not, I do not, gentlemen!
To Othello. O murd'rous coxcomb, what should
 such a fool
 Do with so good a wife? 280

OTHELLO Are there no stones in heaven
 But what serves for the thunder?—Precious villain!
The Moor runs at Iago but is disarmed.
Iago kills his wife.

GRATIANO
 The woman falls! Sure he hath killed his wife.

EMILIA
 Ay, ay! O, lay me by my mistress' side. *Iago exits.*

GRATIANO He's gone, but his wife's killed. 285

MONTANO
 'Tis a notorious villain. Take you this weapon

Which I have here recovered from the Moor.
Come, guard the door without. Let him not pass,
But kill him rather. I'll after that same villain,
For 'tis a damnèd slave. 290

Montano and Gratiano exit.

OTHELLO I am not valiant neither,
But every puny whipster gets my sword.
But why should honor outlive honesty?
Let it go all.

EMILIA What did thy song bode, lady? 295

Hark, canst thou hear me? I will play the swan
And die in music.

She sings. Willow, willow, willow.

Moor, she was chaste. She loved thee, cruel Moor.

So come my soul to bliss, as I speak true. 300

So speaking as I think, alas, I die. *She dies.*

OTHELLO

I have another weapon in this chamber.

It is a sword of Spain, the ice brook's temper.

O, here it is.—Uncle, I must come forth.

GRATIANO, *within*

If thou attempt it, it will cost thee dear; 305

Thou hast no weapon and perforce must suffer.

OTHELLO

Look in upon me, then, and speak with me,

Or naked as I am I will assault thee.

Enter Gratiano.

GRATIANO

What is the matter?

OTHELLO Behold, I have a weapon. 310

A better never did itself sustain

Upon a soldier's thigh. I have seen the day

That with this little arm and this good sword

I have made my way through more impediments

Than twenty times your stop. But—O vain boast!— 315

Who can control his fate? 'Tis not so now.

Be not afraid, though you do see me weaponed.

Here is my journey's end, here is my butt

And very sea-mark of my utmost sail.

Do you go back dismayed? 'Tis a lost fear. 320

Man but a rush against Othello's breast,

And he retires. Where should Othello go?

He looks toward the bed.

Now, how dost thou look now? O ill-starred wench,

Pale as thy smock, when we shall meet at compt,

This look of thine will hurl my soul from heaven, 325

And fiends will snatch at it. Cold, cold, my girl?

Even like thy chastity.—O cursèd, cursèd slave!—

Whip me, you devils,

From the possession of this heavenly sight!

Blow me about in winds, roast me in sulfur, 330

Wash me in steep-down gulfs of liquid fire!

O Desdemon! Dead, Desdemon! Dead! O, O!

*Enter Lodovico, Cassio in a chair, Montano, and Iago,
with Officers.*

LODOVICO

Where is this rash and most unfortunate man?

OTHELLO

That's he that was Othello. Here I am.

LODOVICO

Where is that viper? Bring the villain forth. 335

Iago is brought forward.

OTHELLO

I look down towards his feet; but that's a fable.—

If that thou be'st a devil, I cannot kill thee.

He stabs Iago.

LODOVICO

Wrench his sword from him.

Othello is disarmed.

IAGO I bleed, sir, but not killed.

OTHELLO

I am not sorry neither. I'd have thee live, 340

For in my sense 'tis happiness to die.

LODOVICO

O thou Othello, that wert once so good,
Fall'n in the practice of a damnèd slave,
What shall be said to thee?

OTHELLO Why, anything. 345

An honorable murderer, if you will,
For naught I did in hate, but all in honor.

LODOVICO

This wretch hath part confessed his villainy.
Did you and he consent in Cassio's death?

OTHELLO Ay. 350

CASSIO

Dear general, I never gave you cause.

OTHELLO

I do believe it, and I ask your pardon.
Will you, I pray, demand that demi-devil
Why he hath thus ensnared my soul and body?

IAGO

Demand me nothing. What you know, you know. 355
From this time forth I never will speak word.

LODOVICO What? Not to pray?

GRATIANO Torments will ope your lips.

OTHELLO Well, thou dost best.

LODOVICO Sir, 360

You shall understand what hath befall'n,
Which, as I think, you know not. Here is a letter
Found in the pocket of the slain Roderigo,
And here another. *He shows papers.* The one of
them imports 365

The death of Cassio, to be undertook
By Roderigo.

OTHELLO

O villain!

CASSIO Most heathenish and most gross.

LODOVICO
 Now here's another discontented paper 370
 Found in his pocket, too; and this it seems
 Roderigo meant t' have sent this damnèd villain,
 But that, belike, Iago in the interim
 Came in and satisfied him.

OTHELLO O, thou pernicious caitiff!— 375
 How came you, Cassio, by that handkerchief
 That was my wife's?

CASSIO I found it in my chamber.
 And he himself confessed it but even now,
 That there he dropped it for a special purpose 380
 Which wrought to his desire.

OTHELLO O fool, fool, fool!

CASSIO
 There is besides, in Roderigo's letter,
 How he upbraids Iago, that he made him
 Brave me upon the watch, whereon it came 385
 That I was cast. And even but now he spake,
 After long seeming dead: Iago hurt him,
 Iago set him on.

LODOVICO, *to Othello*
 You must forsake this room and go with us.
 Your power and your command is taken off, 390
 And Cassio rules in Cyprus. For this slave,
 If there be any cunning cruelty
 That can torment him much and hold him long,
 It shall be his. You shall close prisoner rest,
 Till that the nature of your fault be known 395
 To the Venetian state.—Come, bring away.

OTHELLO
 Soft you. A word or two before you go.
 I have done the state some service, and they
 know 't.
 No more of that. I pray you in your letters,
 When you shall these unlucky deeds relate, 400
 Speak of me as I am. Nothing extenuate,
 Nor set down aught in malice. Then must you speak
 Of one that loved not wisely, but too well;
 Of one not easily jealous, but being wrought, 405
 Perplexed in the extreme; of one whose hand,
 Like the base Judean, threw a pearl away
 Richer than all his tribe; of one whose subdued
 eyes,
 Albeit unused to the melting mood, 410
 Drops tears as fast as the Arabian trees
 Their medicinable gum. Set you down this.
 And say besides, that in Aleppo once,
 Where a malignant and a turbanned Turk
 Beat a Venetian and traduced the state, 415
 I took by th' throat the circumcisèd dog,
 And smote him, thus. *He stabs himself.*

LODOVICO O bloody period!

GRATIANO All that is spoke is marred.

OTHELLO, *to Desdemona*
 I kissed thee ere I killed thee. No way but this, 420

Killing myself, to die upon a kiss.

He dies.

CASSIO

This did I fear, but thought he had no weapon,
For he was great of heart.

LODOVICO, *to Iago* O Spartan dog,

More fell than anguish, hunger, or the sea, 425
Look on the tragic loading of this bed.

This is thy work.—The object poisons sight.

Let it be hid.—Gratiano, keep the house,

And seize upon the fortunes of the Moor,

For they succeed on you. *To Cassio.* To you, lord 430
governor,

Remains the censure of this hellish villain.

The time, the place, the torture, O, enforce it.

Myself will straight aboard, and to the state

This heavy act with heavy heart relate. 435

They exit.