

# *Othello*

William Shakespeare

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## Dramatis Personae

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,  
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,  
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,  
And in conclusion,  
Nonsuits my mediators. For "Certes," says he,  
"I have already chose my officer."  
And what was he?  
Forsooth, a great arithmetician,  
One Michael Cassio, a Florentine,  
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 theoric,  
Wherein the toged 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  
At Rhodes, at Cyprus, and on other grounds  
Christened and heathen, must be beleed and  
calmed  
By debtor and creditor. This countercaster,  
He, in good time, must his lieutenant be,  
And I, God bless the mark, his Moorship's ancient.

RODERIGO

By heaven, I rather would have been his hangman.

IAGO

Why, there's no remedy. 'Tis the curse of service.  
Preferment goes by letter and affection,  
And not by old gradation, where each second  
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.

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,  
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,  
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,  
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,  
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  
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.

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.

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!

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?

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!  
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.  
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.

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,

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

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,

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,

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.

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,  
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,  
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  
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  
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.

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.]*

IAGO *[to Roderigo]* Farewell, for I must leave you.  
It seems not meet nor wholesome to my place  
To be producted, as if I stay I shall,  
Against the Moor. For I do know the state,  
However this may gall him with some check,  
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,  
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,



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 despised time  
Is naught but bitterness.—Now, Roderigo,  
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  
Past thought!—What said she to you?—Get more  
tapers.  
Raise all my kindred.—Are they married, think  
you?

RODERIGO Truly, I think they are.

BRABANTIO

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

RODERIGO Yes, sir, I have indeed.

BRABANTIO

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

RODERIGO

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

BRABANTIO

Pray you lead on. At every house I'll call.  
I may command at most.—Get weapons, ho!  
And raise some special officers of night.—  
On, good Roderigo. I 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  
ribs.

OTHELLO

'Tis better as it is.

IAGO Nay, but he prated  
And spoke such scurvy and provoking terms  
Against your Honor,  
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  
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.

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

IAGO

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

OTHELLO Not I. I must be found.

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.  
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?

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,  
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.

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.  
If it prove lawful prize, he's made forever.

CASSIO

I do not understand.

IAGO He's married.

CASSIO To who?

IAGO

Marry, to—

*[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.

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.

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?

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,  
So opposite to marriage that she shunned  
The wealthy curled 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!

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.  
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.

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?

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,  
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.

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,  
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.

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.

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!

*[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. *[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,  
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  
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  
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,  
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  
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.  
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.

*[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.

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

DUKE Why, what's the matter?

BRABANTIO  
My daughter! O, my daughter!

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—  
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  
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  
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.



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  
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,  
And little of this great world can I speak  
More than pertains to feats of broil and battle.  
And therefore little shall I grace my cause  
In speaking for myself. Yet, by your gracious  
patience,  
I will a round 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)  
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,  
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  
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  
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 forced courses  
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  
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.

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  
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  
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:  
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,  
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—  
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.  
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  
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  
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,  
'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,  
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.  
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  
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.  
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.  
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,  
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.  
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,  
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 grise or step may help these lovers  
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.  
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.

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  
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 pierced through the  
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  
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 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  
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,  
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.

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  
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  
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,  
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.  
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.  
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,  
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,  
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.

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.

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  
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,  
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!

*[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

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?

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,  
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  
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.

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 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 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.

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 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 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. 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 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. 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 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 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.

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?

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.]*

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  
'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:  
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  
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.  
*[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.  
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.  
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  
And quench the guards of th' ever-fixed pole.  
I never did like molestation view  
On the enchafed flood.

MONTANO If that the Turkish fleet  
Be not ensheltered and embayed, they are drowned.  
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  
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,  
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  
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!  
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;  
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,  
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,  
Stand in bold cure.

*[Voices cry within. "A sail, a sail, a sail!"]*

*[Enter a Messenger.]*

CASSIO What noise?

MESSENGER

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.

*[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.]*

MONTANO

But, good lieutenant, is your general wived?

CASSIO

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

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,  
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!

*[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  
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.

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.  
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  
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!

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.

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.

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.

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?

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 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.*

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?

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?

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 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,  
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,*



*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.*

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  
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  
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  
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.

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!

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,  
'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  
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.]*  
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.

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.  
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.  
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  
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.

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 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 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 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 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 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.

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 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. 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 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 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, 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 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 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,  
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)  
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  
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

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  
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  
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  
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  
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,  
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' 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.

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.

CASSIO An inviting eye, and yet methinks right modest.

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

CASSIO She is indeed perfection.

IAGO Well, happiness to their sheets! Come, lieutenant, I 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 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 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.

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,  
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  
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;  
And they watch too. Now, 'mongst this flock of  
drunkards  
Am I to put our Cassio in some action  
That may offend the isle. But here they come.  
If consequence do but approve my dream,  
My boat sails freely both with wind and stream.

*[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.

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,*

*Why, then, let a soldier drink.*

Some wine, boys!

CASSIO 'Fore God, an excellent song.

IAGO I learned it in England, where indeed they are most potent in potting. Your Dane, your German, and 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 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 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.  
              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.*  
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 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, 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 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.

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?  
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,  
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  
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  
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  
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  
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  
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.

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.

[*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.

*[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.]*

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!

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  
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.

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,  
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?

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  
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,  
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,  
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,  
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,  
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?  
'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.

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,  
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,  
 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  
 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.  
 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  
 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.

[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.  
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.—  
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!

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

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

CASSIO I will rather sue to be despised than to deceive so good a commander with so slight, so drunken, and so indiscreet an officer. Drunk? And speak parrot? And squabble? Swagger? Swear? And discourse fustian with one's own shadow? O thou invisible 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.

IAGO Is 't possible?

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

IAGO Why, but you are now well enough. How came you thus recovered?

CASSIO It hath pleased the devil drunkenness to give place to the devil wrath. One unperfectness shows

me 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 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 a beast! O, strange! Every inordinate cup is unblessed, and the ingredient is a devil.

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

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

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 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 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.

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 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.]*

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  
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 redeemed sin—  
His soul is so enfettered to her love  
That she may make, unmake, do what she list,  
Even as her appetite shall play the god  
With his weak function. How am I then a villain  
To counsel Cassio to this parallel course  
Directly to his good? Divinity of hell!  
When devils will the blackest sins put on,  
They do suggest at first with heavenly shows,  
As I do now. For whiles this honest fool  
Plies Desdemona to repair his fortune,  
And she for him pleads strongly to the Moor,  
I'll pour this pestilence into his ear:  
That she repeals him for her body's lust;  
And by how much she strives to do him good,  
She shall undo her credit with the Moor.  
So will I turn her virtue into pitch,  
And out of her own goodness make the net  
That shall enmesh them all.

*[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  
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.

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,  
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.  
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.  
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.

*[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?

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?

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.

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!

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

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

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,  
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  
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  
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  
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  
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 Desdemon alone.

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.

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,

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.

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,  
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.

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;  
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.

*[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.

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?

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?

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,  
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.

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.

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?

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  
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?  
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,  
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!  
'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,  
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.

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

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,

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?

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?

IAGO Honest, my lord?

OTHELLO Honest—ay, honest.

IAGO

My lord, for aught I know.

OTHELLO What dost thou think?



IAGO Think, my lord?

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,  
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  
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;

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  
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.

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.

OTHELLO Nay, yet there’s more in this.

I prithee speak to me as to thy thinkings,  
As thou dost ruminate, and give thy worst of  
thoughts  
The worst of words.

IAGO Good my lord, pardon me.  
Though I am bound to every act of duty,  
I am not bound to that all slaves are free to.  
Utter my thoughts? Why, say they are vile and  
false—  
As where's that palace whereinto foul things  
Sometimes intrude not? Who has that breast so  
pure  
But some uncleanly apprehensions  
Keep leets and law days and in sessions sit  
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,  
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  
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.

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;  
'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.

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

OTHELLO O misery!

IAGO

Poor and content is rich, and rich enough;  
But riches fineless is as poor as winter  
To him that ever fears he shall be poor.  
Good God, the souls of all my tribe defend  
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  
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,  
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,  
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  
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,  
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  
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.

OTHELLO And so she did.

IAGO Why, go to, then!  
She that, so young, could give out such a seeming,  
To seal her father's eyes up close as oak,  
He thought 'twas witchcraft! But I am much to  
blame.  
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.

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  
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  
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.

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 proposed matches  
Of her own clime, complexion, and degree,  
Whereto we see in all things nature tends—  
Foh! One may smell in such a will most rank,  
Foul disproportion, thoughts unnatural—  
But pardon me—I do not in position  
Distinctly speak of her, though I may fear  
Her will, recoiling to her better judgment,  
May fall to match you with her country forms  
And happily repent.

OTHELLO Farewell, farewell!

If more thou dost perceive, let me know more.  
Set on thy wife to observe. Leave me, Iago.

IAGO [*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  
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.  
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—  
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  
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  
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  
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;  
Prerogativ'd are they less than the base.  
'Tis destiny unshunnable, like death.  
Even then this forked 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.

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?

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.  
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.

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

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.

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?

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?

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 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  
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  
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,  
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  
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.  
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.



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.

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!  
Farewell the plumed 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,  
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?

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.

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—

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  
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!—  
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.

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.  
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!

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?  
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  
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,  
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.

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

OTHELLO

O monstrous! Monstrous!

IAGO Nay, this was but his  
dream.

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.

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.

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,  
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.  
'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!

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  
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  
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.*]  
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,  
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,  
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.

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.

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,  
'tis stabbing.

DESDEMONA Go to! Where lodges he?

CLOWN To tell you where he lodges is to tell you  
where I lie.

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?

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.

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  
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?

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  
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.

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  
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.

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.

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.

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  
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  
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,  
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?

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,  
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!

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?

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.

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.

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  
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.*]

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.

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,  
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  
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  
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.

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  
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.

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

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.]*  
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,  
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  
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.

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.  
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.

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!

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.  
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.

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?

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,  
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?

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?

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.

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.

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!

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.

IAGO

If they do nothing, 'tis a venial slip.

But if I give my wife a handkerchief—

OTHELLO What then?

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—

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.

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,  
Convinced or supplied them, cannot choose  
But they must blab)—

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.

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”  
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  
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,  
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!

*[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.

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.  
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!  
Would you would bear your fortune like a man!

OTHELLO  
A horned 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?

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.  
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.

IAGO Stand you awhile apart.  
Confine yourself but in a patient list.  
Whilst you were here, o'erwhelmed with your grief—  
A passion most unsuited such a man—  
Cassio came hither. I shifted him away  
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.  
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,  
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.  
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  
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  
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.  
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.

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.

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  
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!

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.

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!

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!

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.

*[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. Wheresoever you had it, I'll take out no work on 't.

CASSIO

How now, my sweet Bianca? How now? How now?

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 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.

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

CASSIO Prithee come. Will you?

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

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

IAGO Did you perceive how he laughed at his vice?

OTHELLO O Iago!

IAGO And did you see the handkerchief?

OTHELLO Was that mine?

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!

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

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!  
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.

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.

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 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.

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?

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.

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.

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?

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?

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?

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.

OTHELLO Indeed?

DESDEMONA My lord?

OTHELLO I am glad to see you mad.

DESDEMONA Why, sweet Othello!

OTHELLO [*striking her*] Devil!

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!  
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.  
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?

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.—  
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  
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  
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.

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?

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?



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  
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.

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?

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.

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.

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.

*[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.

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.

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?

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.  
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!

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,  
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,  
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 fixed figure for the time of scorn  
To point his slow unmoving finger at—  
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,  
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.

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!

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  
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  
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!  
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.

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,

*[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.  
*[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?

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  
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.  
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.  
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  
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.

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!

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.

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,  
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?

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

The Moor’s abused by some most villainous knave,  
Some base notorious knave, some scurvy fellow.

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.

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,

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,

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

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”—

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,  
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.  
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?

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  
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.

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  
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 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 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.

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 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 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.

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 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.

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 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 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!

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—

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.

*[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?

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  
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  
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,  
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.

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.

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,*  
*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*  
stones—  
Lay by these.  
*Sing willow, willow, willow.*  
Prithee hie thee! He'll come anon.  
*Sing all a green willow must be my garland.*  
*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.*  
*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.

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  
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.

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.

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  
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;  
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  
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,  
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  
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?  
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.

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,  
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.  
'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,  
He calls me to a restitution large  
Of gold and jewels that I bobb'd from him  
As gifts to Desdemona.  
It must not be. If Cassio do remain,  
He hath a daily beauty in his life  
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  
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.

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!  
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  
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!



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.

*[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?

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.

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?

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.

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  
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?

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.

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,

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.

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.—  
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!

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  
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 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,

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?—

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.

*[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.

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.

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!

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.  
*[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.  
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,  
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.  
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

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?

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.

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

OTHELLO  
Well, do it, and be brief. I will walk by.  
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.

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

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.

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.

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  
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.

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.

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  
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!  
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.

DESDEMONA What, my lord?

OTHELLO

That he hath used thee.

DESDEMONA How? Unlawfully?

OTHELLO Ay.

DESDEMONA

He will not say so.

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.

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.

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.

*[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.

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.

'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.

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.

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?

*[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.  
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?

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?

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.

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  
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.

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  
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.

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  
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  
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!—  
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  
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  
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—  
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,  
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.  
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.

EMILIA

You told a lie, an odious, damned 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.  
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.

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!

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.]*

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,

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

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

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.  
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?  
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.

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  
(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.

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?

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.

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 damned slave.

*[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?  
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.  
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;  
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.  
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!—  
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.  
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,  
And fiends will snatch at it. Cold, cold, my girl?  
Even like thy chastity.—O cursed, cursed slave!—  
Whip me, you devils,  
From the possession of this heavenly sight!  
Blow me about in winds, roast me in sulfur,  
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.  
*[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,  
For in my sense 'tis happiness to die.

LODOVICO

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

OTHELLO Why, anything.

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.

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.  
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,

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  
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  
Found in his pocket, too; and this it seems  
Roderigo meant t' have sent this damned villain,  
But that, belike, Iago in the interim  
Came in and satisfied him.

OTHELLO O, thou pernicious caitiff!—  
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  
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  
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,  
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  
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,  
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,  
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,  
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,  
I took by th' throat the circumcised 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,  
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,  
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  
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.  
*[They exit.]*