

Othello

By William Shakespeare

Editor Maximiano Cobra

with Susan Ruddick - Sarah Blackstone - Charles Darlington

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Characters in the Play

OTHELLO, a Moorish general in the Venetian army

DESDEMONA, a Venetian lady

BRABANTIO, a Venetian senator, father to Desdemona

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

EMILIA, Iago's wife and Desdemona's attendant

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

RODERIGO, a Venetian gentleman

Duke of Venice

Venetian gentlemen, kinsmen to Brabantio:

LODOVICO

GRATIANO

Venetian senators

MONTANO, an official in Cyprus

BIANCA, a woman in Cyprus in love with Cassio

Clown, a comic servant to Othello and Desdemona

Gentlemen of Cyprus

Sailors

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

ACT 1

Scene 1
Enter Roderigo and Iago.

RODERIGO

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

IAGO 'Sblood, but you'll not hear me!

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

5

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,

10

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,

15

Wherein the togèd consuls can propose

As masterly as he. Mere prattle without practice
Is all his soldiership. But he, sir, had th' election;
And I, of whom his eyes had seen the proof

At Rhodes, at Cyprus, and on other grounds

30

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.

35

RODERIGO

By heaven, I rather would have been his hangman.

IAGO

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

40

RODERIGO

I would not follow him, then.

IAGO	O, sir, content you. I follow him to serve my turn upon him.	45
	We cannot all be masters, nor all masters Cannot be truly followed. You shall mark Many a duteous and knee-crooking knave That, doting on his own obsequious bondage, Wears out his time, much like his master's ass,	50
	For naught but provender, and when he's old, cashedier.	
	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	55
	their coats, Do themselves homage. These fellows have some soul,	60
	And such a one do I profess myself. For, sir, It is as sure as you are Roderigo, Were I the Moor I would not be Iago. In following him, I follow but myself.	
	Heaven is my judge, not I for love and duty, But seeming so for my peculiar end. For when my outward action doth demonstrate The native act and figure of my heart	65
	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.	70
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	75
	As it may lose some color.	80
RODERIGO		
	Here is her father's house. I'll call aloud.	
IAGO		
	Do, with like timorous accent and dire yell As when, by night and negligence, the fire Is spied in populous cities.	
RODERIGO		
	What ho, Brabantio! Signior Brabantio, ho!	85
IAGO		
	Awake! What ho, Brabantio! Thieves, thieves! Look to your house, your daughter, and your bags! Thieves, thieves!	

Enter Brabantio, above.

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

RODERIGO

Signior, is all your family within?

IAGO

Are your doors locked?

BRABANTIO Why, wherefore ask you this?

IAGO

Zounds, sir, you're robbed. For shame, put on your gown!

95

Your heart is burst. You have lost half your soul.

Even now, now, very now, an old black ram

Is tupping your white ewe. Arise, arise!

Awake the snorting citizens with the bell,

Or else the devil will make a grandsire of you.

100

Arise, I say!

BRABANTIO What, have you lost your wits?

RODERIGO

Most reverend signior, do you know my voice?

BRABANTIO Not I. What are you?

RODERIGO

My name is Roderigo.

105

BRABANTIO The worser welcome.

I have charged thee not to haunt about my doors.

In honest plainness thou hast heard me say

My daughter is not for thee. And now in madness,

Being full of supper and distemp'ring draughts,

110

Upon malicious bravery dost thou come

To start my quiet.

RODERIGO Sir, sir, sir—

BRABANTIO But thou must needs be sure

My spirit and my place have in them power

115

To make this bitter to thee.

RODERIGO

Patience, good sir.

BRABANTIO What tell'st thou me of robbing?

This is Venice. My house is not a grange.

RODERIGO Most grave Brabantio,

120

In simple and pure soul I come to you—

IAGO Zounds, sir, you are one of those that will not

serve God if the devil bid you. Because we come to

do you service and you think we are ruffians, you'll

have your daughter covered with a Barbary horse,

you'll have your nephews neigh to you, you'll have

courters for cousins and jennets for germans.

125

BRABANTIO What profane wretch art thou?

IAGO I am one, sir, that comes to tell you your daughter

130

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,

135

If 't be your pleasure and most wise consent—

As partly I find it is—that your fair daughter,

At this odd-even and dull watch o' th' night,

Transported with no worse nor better guard
But with a knave of common hire, a gondolier,140
To the gross clasps of a lascivious Moor:
If this be known to you, and your allowance,
We then have done you bold and saucy wrongs.
But if you know not this, my manners tell me
We have your wrong rebuke. Do not believe145
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 fortunes150
In an extravagant and wheeling stranger
Of here and everywhere. Straight satisfy yourself.
If she be in her chamber or your house,
Let loose on me the justice of the state
For thus deluding you.155

BRABANTIO Strike on the tinder, ho!
Give me a taper. Call up all my people.
This accident is not unlike my dream.
Belief of it oppresses me already.
Light, I say, light! *He exits.* 160

IAGO, to *Roderigo* Farewell, for I must leave you.
It seems not meet nor wholesome to my place
To be producted, as if I stay I shall,
Against the Moor. For I do know the state,
However this may gall him with some check,165
Cannot with safety cast him, for he's embarked
With such loud reason to the Cyprus wars,
Which even now stands in act, that, for their souls,
Another of his fathom they have none
To lead their business. In which regard,170
Though I do hate him as I do hell pains,
Yet, for necessity of present life,
I must show out a flag and sign of love—
Which is indeed but sign. That you shall surely find
him,175

Lead to the Sagittary the raisèd search,
And there will I be with him. So, farewell. *He exits.*

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

BRABANTIO
It is too true an evil. Gone she is,
And what's to come of my despisèd time
Is naught but bitterness.—Now, Roderigo,180
Where didst thou see her?—O, unhappy girl!—
With the Moor, sayst thou?—Who would be a
father?—
How didst thou know 'twas she?—O, she deceives
me185
Past thought!—What said she to you?—Get more
tapers.
Raise all my kindred.—Are they married, think
you?

RODERIGO Truly, I think they are. 190

BRABANTIO

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

RODERIGO Yes, sir, I have indeed.

BRABANTIO

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

200

RODERIGO

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

BRABANTIO

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

205

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.

5

OTHELLO

'Tis better as it is.

IAGO Nay, but he prated

And spoke such scurvy and provoking terms
Against your Honor, 10
That with the little godliness I have
I did full hard forbear him. But I pray you, sir,
Are you fast married? Be assured of this,
That the magnifico is much beloved,
And hath in his effect a voice potential
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.

15

OTHELLO Let him do his spite.

20

My services which I have done the signiory
Shall out-tongue his complaints. 'Tis yet to know
(Which, when I know that boasting is an honor,
I shall promulgate) I fetch my life and being
From men of royal siege, and my demerits
May speak unbonneted to as proud a fortune
As this that I have reached. For know, Iago,
But that I love the gentle Desdemona,

25

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

30

IAGO
Those are the raisèd 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?

35

IAGO By Janus, I think no.

Enter Cassio, with Officers, and Torches.

OTHELLO		
The servants of the Duke and my lieutenant!		
The goodness of the night upon you, friends.		40
What is the news?		
CASSIO The Duke does greet you, general,		
And he requires your haste-post-haste appearance,		
Even on the instant.		
OTHELLO What is the matter, think you?		45
CASSIO		
Something from Cyprus, as I may divine.		
It is a business of some heat. The galleys		
Have sent a dozen sequent messengers		
This very night at one another's heels,		
And many of the Consuls, raised and met,		50
Are at the Duke's already. You have been hotly		
called for.		
When, being not at your lodging to be found,		
The Senate hath sent about three several questes		
To search you out.		55
OTHELLO 'Tis well I am found by you.		
I will but spend a word here in the house		
And go with you.		
CASSIO Ancient, what makes he here?		
IAGO		
Faith, he tonight hath boarded a land carrack.		60
If it prove lawful prize, he's made forever.		
CASSIO		
I do not understand.		
IAGO He's married.		
CASSIO To who?		
IAGO		
Marry, to—		65

Reenter Othello.

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

Enter Brabantio, Roderigo, with Officers, and Torches.

IAGO

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

70

OTHELLO Holla, stand there!

RODERIGO

Signior, it is the Moor.

BRABANTIO Down with him,
thief!

They draw their swords.

IAGO

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

75

OTHELLO

Keep up your bright swords, for the dew will rust
them.

Good signior, you shall more command with years
Than with your weapons.

BRABANTIO

O, thou foul thief, where hast thou stowed my
daughter?

80

Damned as thou art, thou hast enchanted her!

For I'll refer me to all things of sense,

If she in chains of magic were not bound,

Whether a maid so tender, fair, and happy,

85

So opposite to marriage that she shunned

The wealthy curlèd darlings of our nation,

Would ever have, t' incur a general mock,

Run from her guardage to the sooty bosom

Of such a thing as thou—to fear, not to delight!

90

Judge me the world, if 'tis not gross in sense

That thou hast practiced on her with foul charms,

Abused her delicate youth with drugs or minerals

That weakens motion. I'll have 't disputed on.

'Tis probable, and palpable to thinking.

95

I therefore apprehend and do attach thee

For an abuser of the world, a practicer

Of arts inhibited and out of warrant.—

Lay hold upon him. If he do resist,

Subdue him at his peril.

100

OTHELLO Hold your hands,

Both you of my inclining and the rest.

Were it my cue to fight, I should have known it

Without a prompter.—Whither will you that I go

To answer this your charge?

105

BRABANTIO To prison, till fit time

Of law and course of direct session

Call thee to answer.

OTHELLO What if I do obey?

How may the Duke be therewith satisfied,

110

Whose messengers are here about my side,

Upon some present business of the state,

To bring me to him?

OFFICER 'Tis true, most worthy signior.

The Duke's in council, and your noble self

115

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.

120

They exit.

Scene 3
Enter Duke, Senators, and Officers.

DUKE, *reading a paper*

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

FIRST SENATOR, *reading a paper*

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

DUKE

And mine, a hundred forty.

5

SECOND SENATOR, *reading a paper*

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

10

DUKE

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

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

Enter Sailor.

OFFICER A messenger from the galleys.

DUKE Now, what's the business?

SAILOR

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

He exits. 20

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

25

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. 30

35

DUKE

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

Enter a Messenger.

MESSENGER

The Ottomites, Reverend and Gracious,
Steering with due course toward the isle of Rhodes, 40
Have there injunctiont them with an after fleet.

FIRST SENATOR

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

MESSENGER

Of thirty sail; and now they do restem
Their backward course, bearing with frank
appearance 45
Their purposes toward Cyprus. Signior Montano,
Your trusty and most valiant servitor,
With his free duty recommends you thus,
And prays you to believe him. He exits.

DUKE 'Tis certain, then, for Cyprus. 50
Marcus Luccicos, is not he in town?

FIRST SENATOR

He's now in Florence.

DUKE Write from us to him.

Post-post-haste. Dispatch.

FIRST SENATOR

Here comes Brabantio and the valiant Moor. 55

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

DUKE

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

We lacked your counsel and your help tonight. 60

BRABANTIO

So did I yours. Good your Grace, pardon me.
Neither my place nor aught I heard of business
Hath raised me from my bed, nor doth the general
care
Take hold on me, for my particular grief 65
Is of so floodgate and o'erbearing nature
That it engluts and swallows other sorrows
And it is still itself.

DUKE Why, what's the matter?

BRABANTIO

My daughter! O, my daughter! 70

FIRST SENATOR Dead?

BRABANTIO Ay, to me.

She is abused, stol'n from me, and corrupted
By spells and medicines bought of mountebanks;
For nature so prepost'rously to err— 75
Being not deficient, blind, or lame of sense—

	Sans witchcraft could not.	
DUKE	Whoe'er he be that in this foul proceeding Hath thus beguiled your daughter of herself And you of her, the bloody book of law You shall yourself read in the bitter letter, After your own sense, yea, though our proper son Stood in your action.	80
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.	85
ALL	We are very sorry for 't.	
DUKE, <i>to Othello</i>	What, in your own part, can you say to this?	
BRABANTIO	Nothing, but this is so.	90
OTHELLO	Most potent, grave, and reverend signiors, My very noble and approved good masters: That I have ta'en away this old man's daughter, It is most true; true I have married her. The very head and front of my offending 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,	95
	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,	100
	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)	105
	I won his daughter.	110
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	115
	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.	120
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.	125
FIRST SENATOR	But, Othello, speak:	

Did you by indirect and forcèd courses Subdue and poison this young maid's affections? Or came it by request, and such fair question As soul to soul affordeth?	130
OTHELLO I do beseech you, Send for the lady to the Sagittary And let her speak of me before her father.	135
If you do find me foul in her report, The trust, the office I do hold of you, Not only take away, but let your sentence Even fall upon my life.	140
DUKE Fetch Desdemona hither.	
OTHELLO Ancient, conduct them. You best know the place. <i>Iago and Attendants exit.</i>	
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.	145
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.	150
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,	155
Of hairbreadth 'scapes i' th' imminent deadly breach, Of being taken by the insolent foe And sold to slavery, of my redemption thence,	160
And portance in my traveler's history, Wherein of antres vast and deserts idle, Rough quarries, rocks, and hills whose heads touch heaven,	165
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	170
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,	175
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,	180
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, 185
'Twas pitiful, 'twas wondrous pitiful.
She wished she had not heard it, yet she wished
That heaven had made her such a man. She thanked
me,
And bade me, if I had a friend that loved her, 190
I should but teach him how to tell my story,
And that would woo her. Upon this hint I spake.
She loved me for the dangers I had passed,
And I loved her that she did pity them.
This only is the witchcraft I have used. 195
Here comes the lady. Let her witness it.

Enter Desdemona, Iago, Attendants.

DUKE

I think this tale would win my daughter, too.
Good Brabantio,
Take up this mangled matter at the best.
Men do their broken weapons rather use 200
Than their bare hands.

BRABANTIO I pray you hear her speak.

If she confess that she was half the wooer,
Destruction on my head if my bad blame
Light on the man.—Come hither, gentle mistress. 205
Do you perceive in all this noble company
Where most you owe obedience?

DESDEMONA My noble father,

I do perceive here a divided duty.
To you I am bound for life and education. 210
My life and education both do learn me
How to respect you. You are the lord of duty.
I am hitherto your daughter. But here's my
husband.

And so much duty as my mother showed
To you, preferring you before her father,
So much I challenge that I may profess
Due to the Moor my lord. 215

BRABANTIO God be with you! I have done.

Please it your Grace, on to the state affairs. 220
I had rather to adopt a child than get it.—
Come hither, Moor.

I here do give thee that with all my heart
Which, but thou hast already, with all my heart
I would keep from thee.—For your sake, jewel, 225
I am glad at soul I have no other child,
For thy escape would teach me tyranny,
To hang clogs on them.—I have done, my lord.

DUKE

Let me speak like yourself and lay a sentence,
Which as a grise or step may help these lovers
Into your favor. 230
When remedies are past, the griefs are ended
By seeing the worst, which late on hopes depended.

To mourn a mischief that is past and gone Is the next way to draw new mischief on.	235
What cannot be preserved when fortune takes, Patience her injury a mock'ry makes.	
The robbed that smiles steals something from the thief;	
He robs himself that spends a bootless grief.	240
BRABANTIO	
So let the Turk of Cyprus us beguile, We lose it not so long as we can smile.	
He bears the sentence well that nothing bears But the free comfort which from thence he hears;	
But he bears both the sentence and the sorrow	245
That, to pay grief, must of poor patience borrow.	
These sentences to sugar or to gall, Being strong on both sides, are equivocal.	
But words are words. I never yet did hear That the bruised heart was piercèd through the	250
ear.	
I humbly beseech you, proceed to th' affairs of state.	
DUKE The Turk with a most mighty preparation makes for Cyprus. Othello, the fortitude of the place is	255
best known to you. And though we have there a substitute of most allowed sufficiency, yet opinion, a	
sovereign mistress of effects, throws a more safer voice on you. You must therefore be content to	
slubber the gloss of your new fortunes with this	260
more stubborn and boist'rous expedition.	
OTHELLO	
The tyrant custom, most grave senators, Hath made the flinty and steel couch of war	
My thrice-driven bed of down. I do agnize A natural and prompt alacrity	265
I find in hardness, and do undertake This present wars against the Ottomites.	
Most humbly, therefore, bending to your state, I crave fit disposition for my wife,	
Due reference of place and exhibition,	270
With such accommodation and besort As levels with her breeding.	
DUKE	
Why, at her father's.	
BRABANTIO I will not have it so.	
OTHELLO Nor I.	275
DESDEMONA Nor would I there reside To put my father in impatient thoughts	
By being in his eye. Most gracious duke,	
To my unfolding lend your prosperous ear And let me find a charter in your voice	280
T' assist my simpleness.	
DUKE What would you, Desdemona?	
DESDEMONA	
That I love the Moor to live with him My downright violence and storm of fortunes	
May trumpet to the world. My heart's subdued	285

Even to the very quality of my lord. I saw Othello's visage in his mind, And to his honors and his valiant parts Did I my soul and fortunes consecrate. So that, dear lords, if I be left behind, 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.	290
OTHELLO Let her have your voice.	295
Vouch with me, heaven, I therefore beg it not To please the palate of my appetite, Nor to comply with heat (the young affects In me defunct) and proper satisfaction, But to be free and bounteous to her mind.	300
And heaven defend your good souls that you think I will your serious and great business scant For she is with me. No, when light-winged toys Of feathered Cupid seal with wanton dullness My speculative and officed instruments,	305
That my disports corrupt and taint my business, Let housewives make a skillet of my helm, And all indign and base adversities Make head against my estimation.	
DUKE	
Be it as you shall privately determine, Either for her stay or going. Th' affair cries haste, And speed must answer it.	310
FIRST SENATOR	
You must away tonight.	
OTHELLO With all my heart.	315
DUKE	
At nine i' th' morning here we'll meet again. Othello, leave some officer behind And he shall our commission bring to you, With such things else of quality and respect As doth import you.	320
OTHELLO So please your Grace, my ancient. A man he is of honesty and trust. To his conveyance I assign my wife, With what else needful your good Grace shall think To be sent after me.	325
DUKE Let it be so. Good night to everyone. <i>To Brabantio.</i> And, noble signior, If virtue no delighted beauty lack,	330
Your son-in-law is far more fair than black.	
FIRST SENATOR	
Adieu, brave Moor, use Desdemona well.	
BRABANTIO	
Look to her, Moor, if thou hast eyes to see. She has deceived her father, and may thee.	<i>He exits.</i>
OTHELLO	
My life upon her faith!	335

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

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

Othello and Desdemona exit.

RODERIGO	Iago—	
IAGO	What sayst thou, noble heart?	
RODERIGO	What will I do, think'st thou?	345
IAGO	Why, go to bed and sleep.	
RODERIGO	I will incontinently drown myself.	
IAGO	If thou dost, I shall never love thee after. Why, thou silly gentleman!	
RODERIGO	It is silliness to live, when to live is torment, and then have we a prescription to die when death is our physician.	350
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.	355
RODERIGO	What should I do? I confess it is my shame to be so fond, but it is not in my virtue to amend it.	360
IAGO	Virtue? A fig! 'Tis in ourselves that we are thus or thus. Our bodies are our gardens, to the which our wills are gardeners. So that if we will plant nettles or sow lettuce, set hyssop and weed up thyme, supply it with one gender of herbs or distract it 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.	365
RODERIGO	It cannot be.	370
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	375

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.	390
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.	400
RODERIGO Wilt thou be fast to my hopes if I depend on the issue?	405
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.	410
RODERIGO Where shall we meet i' th' morning?	415
IAGO At my lodging.	
RODERIGO I'll be with thee betimes.	
IAGO Go to, farewell. Do you hear, Roderigo?	
RODERIGO What say you?	420
IAGO No more of drowning, do you hear?	
RODERIGO I am changed.	
IAGO Go to, farewell. Put money enough in your purse.	
RODERIGO I'll sell all my land.	He exits. 425
IAGO	
Thus do I ever make my fool my purse. For I mine own gained knowledge should profane If I would time expend with such a snipe But for my sport and profit. I hate the Moor, And it is thought abroad that 'twixt my sheets	430
'Has done my office. I know not if 't be true, But I, for mere suspicion in that kind, Will do as if for surety. He holds me well. The better shall my purpose work on him.	
Cassio's a proper man. Let me see now: To get his place and to plume up my will In double knavery—How? how?—Let's see.	435
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	440

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

445

He exits.

ACT 2

Scene 1
Enter Montano and two Gentlemen.

MONTANO

What from the cape can you discern at sea?

FIRST GENTLEMAN

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

I cannot 'twixt the heaven and the main
Descry a sail.

MONTANO

Methinks the wind hath spoke aloud at land.
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 enchafèd flood.

MONTANO If that the Turkish fleet

Be not ensheltered and embayed, they are drowned. 20
It is impossible to bear it out.

Enter a third Gentleman.

THIRD GENTLEMAN News, lads! Our wars are done.
The desperate tempest hath so banged the Turks
That their designment halts. A noble ship of Venice
Hath seen a grievous wrack and sufferance
On most part of their fleet. 25

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. 30

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. 35

MONTANO Pray heaven he be;

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

Enter Cassio.

CASSIO
Thanks, you the valiant of this warlike isle,
That so approve the Moor! O, let the heavens
Give him defense against the elements, 50
For I have lost him on a dangerous sea.
MONTANO Is he well shipped?
CASSIO
His bark is stoutly timbered, and his pilot
Of very expert and approved allowance;
Therefore my hopes, not surfeited to death, 55
Stand in bold cure.

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

"

Enter a Messenger.

CASSIO What noise?
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. 60
A shot.

SECOND GENTLEMAN
They do discharge their shot of courtesy.
Our friends, at least.
CASSIO I pray you, sir, go forth,
And give us truth who 'tis that is arrived.
SECOND GENTLEMAN I shall. 65
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 70
Does tire the ingener.

Enter Second Gentleman.

How now? Who has put in?
SECOND GENTLEMAN
'Tis one Iago, ancient to the General.
CASSIO
'Has had most favorable and happy speed!

Tempests themselves, high seas, and howling winds, 75
 The guttered rocks and congregated sands
 (Traitors ensteeped to clog the guiltless keel),
 As having sense of beauty, do omit
 Their mortal natures, letting go safely by
 The divine Desdemona. 80
 MONTANO What is she?
 CASSIO
 She that I spake of, our great captain's captain,
 Left in the conduct of the bold Iago,
 Whose footing here anticipates our thoughts
 A sennight's speed. Great Jove, Othello guard, 85
 And swell his sail with thine own powerful breath,
 That he may bless this bay with his tall ship,
 Make love's quick pants in Desdemona's arms,
 Give renewed fire to our extinguished spirits,
 And bring all Cyprus comfort! 90

Enter Desdemona, Iago, Roderigo, and Emilia.

O, behold,
 The riches of the ship is come on shore!
 You men of Cyprus, let her have your knees. *He kneels.*
 Hail to thee, lady, and the grace of heaven,
 Before, behind thee, and on every hand 95
 Enwheel thee round. *He rises.*
 DESDEMONA I thank you, valiant Cassio.
 What tidings can you tell of my lord?
 CASSIO
 He is not yet arrived, nor know I aught
 But that he's well and will be shortly here. 100
 DESDEMONA
 O, but I fear—How lost you company?
 CASSIO
 The great contention of sea and skies
 Parted our fellowship.
Within "A sail, a sail!" A shot.
 But hark, a sail!
 SECOND GENTLEMAN
 They give their greeting to the citadel. 105
 This likewise is a friend.
 CASSIO See for the news.
Second Gentleman exits.
 Good ancient, you are welcome. Welcome, mistress.
He kisses Emilia.
 Let it not gall your patience, good Iago,
 That I extend my manners. 'Tis my breeding
 That gives me this bold show of courtesy. 110
 IAGO
 Sir, would she give you so much of her lips
 As of her tongue she oft bestows on me,
 You would have enough.
 DESDEMONA
 Alas, she has no speech! 115
 IAGO In faith, too much.

- I find it still when I have list to sleep.
 Marry, before your Ladyship, I grant,
 She puts her tongue a little in her heart
 And chides with thinking. 120
- EMILIA You have little cause to say so.
- AGO Come on, come on! You are pictures out of door,
 bells in your parlors, wildcats in your kitchens,
 saints in your injuries, devils being offended, players
 in your huswifery, and huswives in your beds. 125
- DESDEMONA Oh, fie upon thee, slanderer.
- AGO
 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.
- AGO No, let me not. 130
- DESDEMONA
 What wouldst write of me if thou shouldst praise
 me?
- AGO
 O, gentle lady, do not put me to 't,
 For I am nothing if not critical.
- DESDEMONA
 Come on, assay.—There's one gone to the harbor? 135
- AGO 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?
- AGO 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. 145
- DESDEMONA
 Well praised! How if she be black and witty?
- AGO
If she be black, and thereto have a wit,
She'll find a white that shall her blackness hit.
- DESDEMONA
 Worse and worse.
- EMILIA How if fair and foolish? 150
- AGO
She never yet was foolish that was fair,
For even her folly helped her to an heir.
- DESDEMONA These are old fond paradoxes to make
 fools laugh i' th' alehouse. What miserable praise
 hast thou for her that's foul and foolish? 155
- AGO
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 160

	malice itself?	
AGO		
	<i>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—</i>	165
DESDEMONA	To do what?	
AGO		
	<i>To suckle fools and chronicle small beer.</i>	175
DESDEMONA	O, most lame and impotent conclusion!	
	—Do not learn of him, Emilia, though he be thy husband.—How say you, Cassio? Is he not a most profane and liberal counselor?	
CASSIO	He speaks home, madam. You may relish him more in the soldier than in the scholar.	180
	<i>Cassio takes Desdemona's hand.</i>	
AGO, 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! <i>Trumpets within.</i>	185
	The Moor. I know his trumpet.	
CASSIO	'Tis truly so.	
DESDEMONA	Let's meet him and receive him.	195
CASSIO	Lo, where he comes!	

Enter Othello and Attendants.

OTHELLO		
	O, my fair warrior!	
DESDEMONA	My dear Othello!	
OTHELLO		
	It gives me wonder great as my content To see you here before me. O my soul's joy!	200
	If after every tempest come such calms, May the winds blow till they have wakened death, And let the laboring bark climb hills of seas Olympus high, and duck again as low	
	As hell's from heaven! If it were now to die,	
	'Twere now to be most happy, for I fear	205
	My soul hath her content so absolute That not another comfort like to this Succeeds in unknown fate.	

DESDEMONA	The heavens forbid	210
	But that our loves and comforts should increase	
	Even as our days do grow!	
OTHELLO	Amen to that, sweet powers!	
	I cannot speak enough of this content.	
	It stops me here; it is too much of joy.	They kiss. 215
	And this, and this, the greatest discords be	
	That e'er our hearts shall make!	
IAGO, aside	O, you are well tuned now,	
	But I'll set down the pegs that make this music,	
	As honest as I am.	220
OTHELLO	Come. Let us to the castle.—	
	News, friends! Our wars are done. The Turks are	
	drowned.	
	How does my old acquaintance of this isle?—	
	Honey, you shall be well desired in Cyprus.	225
	I have found great love amongst them. O, my sweet,	
	I prattle out of fashion, and I dote	
	In mine own comforts.—I prithee, good Iago,	
	Go to the bay and disembark my coffers.	
	Bring thou the master to the citadel.	230
	He is a good one, and his worthiness	
	Does challenge much respect.—Come, Desdemona.	
	Once more, well met at Cyprus.	
	<i>All but Iago and Roderigo exit.</i>	
IAGO, to a departing Attendant	Do thou meet me presently	
	at the harbor. To Roderigo. Come hither. If	235
	thou be'st valiant—as they say base men being in	
	love have then a nobility in their natures more than	
	is native to them—list me. The Lieutenant tonight	
	watches on the court of guard. First, I must tell thee	
	this: Desdemona is directly in love with him.	240
RODERIGO	With him? Why, 'tis not possible.	
IAGO	Lay thy finger thus, and let thy soul be instructed.	
	Mark me with what violence she first loved the	
	Moor but for bragging and telling her fantastical	
	lies. And will she love him still for prating? Let not	245
	thy discreet heart think it. Her eye must be fed. And	
	what delight shall she have to look on the devil?	
	When the blood is made dull with the act of sport,	
	there should be, again to inflame it and to give	
	satiety a fresh appetite, loveliness in favor, sympathy	250
	in years, manners, and beauties, all which the Moor	
	is defective in. Now, for want of these required	
	conveniences, her delicate tenderness will find itself	
	abused, begin to heave the gorge, disrelish and	
	abhor the Moor. Very nature will instruct her in it	
	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	255
	further conscientiable 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	260

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.	265
RODERIGO I cannot believe that in her. She's full of most blessed condition.	270
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?	275
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.	280
RODERIGO Well.	285
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.	295
RODERIGO I will do this, if you can bring it to any opportunity.	300
IAGO I warrant thee. Meet me by and by at the citadel. I must fetch his necessaries ashore. Farewell.	305
RODERIGO Adieu.	<i>He exits.</i>
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,	310
	315

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! 5 10

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. 70
- IAGO Some wine, ho!
*Sings. And let me the cannikin clink, clink,
And let me the cannikin clink.
A soldier's a man,
O, man's life's but a span,
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. 80
- 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. 85
- CASSIO To the health of our general!
- MONTANO I am for it, lieutenant, and I'll do you justice. 90
- 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.* 95
- 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. 105
- 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. 110
- 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, 115

and I speak well enough. 120

GENTLEMEN Excellent well.

CASSIO Why, very well then. You must not think then
that I am drunk.

He exits.

MONTANO

To th' platform, masters. Come, let's set the watch.

Gentlemen exit.

IAGO, *to Montano*

You see this fellow that is gone before?

125

He's a soldier fit to stand by Caesar

And give direction; and do but see his vice.

'Tis to his virtue a just equinox,

The one as long as th' other. 'Tis pity of him.

I fear the trust Othello puts him in,

130

On some odd time of his infirmity,

Will shake this island.

MONTANO But is he often thus?

IAGO

'Tis evermore the prologue to his sleep.

135

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

140

And looks not on his evils. Is not this true?

Enter Roderigo.

IAGO, *aside to Roderigo* How now, Roderigo?

I pray you, after the Lieutenant, go.

Roderigo exits.

MONTANO

And 'tis great pity that the noble Moor

145

Should hazard such a place as his own second

With one of an engraffed infirmity.

It were an honest action to say so

To the Moor.

IAGO Not I, for this fair island.

I do love Cassio well and would do much

150

To cure him of this evil—

Help, help!" within.

But hark! What noise?

Enter Cassio, pursuing Roderigo.

CASSIO Zounds, you rogue, you rascal!

MONTANO What's the matter, lieutenant?

CASSIO A knave teach me my duty? I'll beat the knave 155
into a twiggen bottle.

RODERIGO Beat me?

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

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

160

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

MONTANO Come, come, you're drunk.

CASSIO Drunk?

They fight.

IAGO, *aside to Roderigo*

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

165

Roderigo exits.

Nay, good lieutenant.—God's will, gentlemen!—

Help, ho! Lieutenant—sir—Montano—sir—

Help, masters!—Here's a goodly watch indeed!

A bell is rung.

Who's that which rings the bell? Diablo, ho!

The town will rise. God's will, lieutenant, hold!

170

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. 175

OTHELLO Hold, for your lives!

IAGO

Hold, ho! Lieutenant—sir—Montano—
gentlemen—

Have you forgot all sense of place and duty?

Hold! The General speaks to you. Hold, for shame!

180

OTHELLO

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

Are we turned Turks, and to ourselves do that

Which heaven hath forbid the Ottomites?

For Christian shame, put by this barbarous brawl!

He that stirs next to carve for his own rage

185

Holds his soul light; he dies upon his motion.

Silence that dreadful bell. It frights the isle

From her propriety. What is the matter, masters?

Honest Iago, that looks dead with grieving,

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

190

IAGO

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

In quarter and in terms like bride and groom

Divesting them for bed; and then but now,

As if some planet had unwitted men,

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

195

In opposition bloody. I cannot speak

Any beginning to this peevish odds,

And would in action glorious I had lost

Those legs that brought me to a part of it!

OTHELLO

How comes it, Michael, you are thus forgot?

200

CASSIO

I pray you pardon me; I cannot speak.

OTHELLO

Worthy Montano, you were wont be civil.

The gravity and stillness of your youth

The world hath noted. And your name is great

In mouths of wisest censure. What's the matter

205

That you unlace your reputation thus, And spend your rich opinion for the name Of a night-brawler? Give me answer to it.	
MONTANO	
Worthy Othello, I am hurt to danger. Your officer Iago can inform you,	210
While I spare speech, which something now offends me, Of all that I do know; nor know I aught By me that's said or done amiss this night, Unless self-charity be sometimes a vice,	215
And to defend ourselves it be a sin When violence assails us.	
OTHELLO Now, by heaven,	
My blood begins my safer guides to rule, And passion, having my best judgment collied,	220
Assays to lead the way. Zounds, if I stir, Or do but lift this arm, the best of you Shall sink in my rebuke. Give me to know How this foul rout began, who set it on;	225
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,	230
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.	235
I had rather have this tongue cut from my mouth Than it should do offense to Michael Cassio. Yet I persuade myself, to speak the truth Shall nothing wrong him. Thus it is, general: Montano and myself being in speech,	240
There comes a fellow crying out for help, And Cassio following him with determined sword To execute upon him. Sir, this gentleman <i>Pointing to Montano.</i>	
Steps in to Cassio and entreats his pause. Myself the crying fellow did pursue,	245
Lest by his clamor—as it so fell out— The town might fall in fright. He, swift of foot, Outran my purpose, and I returned the rather For that I heard the clink and fall of swords And Cassio high in oath, which till tonight	250
I ne'er might say before. When I came back— For this was brief—I found them close together At blow and thrust, even as again they were When you yourself did part them.	
More of this matter cannot I report.	255
But men are men; the best sometimes forget. Though Cassio did some little wrong to him, As men in rage strike those that wish them best,	

Yet surely Cassio, I believe, received
From him that fled some strange indignity
Which patience could not pass. 260

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

Enter Desdemona attended.

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

DESDEMONA What is the matter, dear?
OTHELLO All's well now,
sweeting. 270
Come away to bed. *To Montano.* Sir, for your hurts,
Myself will be your surgeon.—Lead him off.

Montano is led off.

Iago, look with care about the town
And silence those whom this vile brawl
distracted.— 275
Come, Desdemona. 'Tis the soldier's life
To have their balmy slumbers waked with strife.

All but Iago and Cassio exit.

IAGO What, are you hurt, lieutenant?
CASSIO Ay, past all surgery.
IAGO Marry, God forbid! 280
CASSIO Reputation, reputation, reputation! O, I have
lost my reputation! I have lost the immortal part of
myself, and what remains is bestial. My reputation,
Iago, my reputation!

IAGO As I am an honest man, I thought you had
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, 285
man, there are ways to recover the General again!
You are but now cast in his mood—a punishment
more in policy than in malice, even so as one would
beat his offenseless dog to affright an imperious
lion. Sue to him again and he's yours. 295

CASSIO I will rather sue to be despised than to deceive
so good a commander with so slight, so drunken,
and so indiscreet an officer. Drunk? And speak
parrot? And squabble? Swagger? Swear? And discourse
fustian with one's own shadow? O thou 300
invisible spirit of wine, if thou hast no name to be
known by, let us call thee devil!

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

CASSIO I know not. 305

IAGO Is 't possible?

CASSIO I remember a mass of things, but nothing
distinctly; a quarrel, but nothing wherefore. O

God, that men should put an enemy in their mouths to steal away their brains! That we should with joy, pleasance, revel, and applause transform ourselves into beasts!	310
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.	315
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.	320
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.	325
IAGO Come, come, good wine is a good familiar creature, if it be well used. Exclaim no more against it. And, good lieutenant, I think you think I love you.	330
CASSIO I have well approved it, sir.—I drunk!	
IAGO You or any man living may be drunk at a time, man. I'll tell you what you shall do. Our general's wife is now the general: I may say so in this respect, for that he hath devoted and given up 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.	335
CASSIO You advise me well.	340
IAGO I protest, in the sincerity of love and honest kindness.	345
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.	350
IAGO You are in the right. Good night, lieutenant. I must to the watch.	
CASSIO Good night, honest Iago.	Cassio exits. 355
IAGO	
And what's he, then, that says I play the villain, When this advice is free I give and honest, Probal to thinking, and indeed the course To win the Moor again? For 'tis most easy Th' inclining Desdemona to subdue	360
In any honest suit. She's framed as fruitful As the free elements. And then for her To win the Moor—were 't to renounce his baptism,	

All seals and symbols of redeemèd sin—
His soul is so 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?
DERIGO 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 cudgled, and I think the issue will be I shall have so much experience for my pains, and so, with no money at all and a little more wit, return again to Venice. 390

<p>IAGO</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>395 400</p>
	<i>Roderigo exits.</i>

Two things are to be done.
My wife must move for Cassio to her mistress. 405
I'll set her on.
Myself the while to draw the Moor apart
And bring him jump when he may Cassio find
Soliciting his wife. Ay, that's the way.
Dull not device by coldness and delay. 410
He exits.

ACT 3

Scene 1
Enter Cassio with Musicians.

CASSIO

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

They play.

Enter the Clown.

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

MUSICIAN How, sir, how?

CLOWN Are these, I pray you, wind instruments?

MUSICIAN Ay, marry, are they, sir.

CLOWN O, thereby hangs a tail.

MUSICIAN Whereby hangs a tale, sir? 10

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

MUSICIAN Well, sir, we will not. 15

CLOWN If you have any music that may not be heard, to
't again. But, as they say, to hear music the General
does not greatly care.

MUSICIAN We have none such, sir.

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

Musicians exit.

CASSIO Dost thou hear, mine honest friend?

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

CASSIO Prithee, keep up thy quillets. 25 *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. 30

CASSIO

Do, good my friend.

Clown exits.

Enter Iago.

In happy time, Iago.

IAGO You have not been abed, then?

CASSIO Why, no. The day had broke

Before we parted. I have made bold, Iago,

To send in to your wife. My suit to her

Is that she will to virtuous Desdemona

Procure me some access.

35

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. 40
CASSIO
I humbly thank you for 't. *Iago exits.* I never
knew
A Florentine more kind and honest. 45

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 50
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. 55
CASSIO Yet I beseech you,
If you think fit, or that it may be done,
Give me advantage of some brief discourse
With Desdemona alone. 60
EMILIA Pray you come in.
I will bestow you where you shall have time
To speak your bosom freely.
CASSIO I am much bound to you.

They exit.

Scene 2
Enter Othello, Iago, and Gentlemen.

OTHELLO
These letters give, Iago, to the pilot
And by him do my duties to the Senate.
He gives Iago some papers.
That done, I will be walking on the works.
Repair there to me.
IAGO Well, my good lord, I'll do 't. 5
OTHELLO
This fortification, gentlemen, shall we see 't?
GENTLEMEN
We wait upon your Lordship.

They exit.

Scene 3
Enter Desdemona, Cassio, and Emilia.

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

EMILIA

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

DESDEMONA

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

5

CASSIO Bounteous madam,

Whatever shall become of Michael Cassio,
He's never anything but your true servant.

10

DESDEMONA

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

CASSIO Ay, but, lady,

15

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

20

DESDEMONA

Do not doubt that. Before Emilia here,
I give thee warrant of thy place. Assure thee,
If I do vow a friendship, I'll perform it
To the last article. My lord shall never rest:
I'll watch him tame and talk him out of patience;
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.

25

30

Enter Othello and Iago.

EMILIA Madam, here comes my lord.

CASSIO Madam, I'll take my leave.

DESDEMONA Why, stay, and hear me speak.

CASSIO

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

35

DESDEMONA Well, do your discretion.

Cassio exits.

AGO

Ha, I like not that.

OTHELLO What dost thou say?

AGO

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

OTHELLO

Was not that Cassio parted from my wife?

40

AGO

Cassio, my lord? No, sure, I cannot think it
That he would steal away so guiltylike,
Seeing your coming.

OTHELLO I do believe 'twas he.

DESDEMONA How now, my lord?

45

I have been talking with a suitor here,

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

OTHELLO Went he hence now?
DESDEMONA Yes, faith, so humbled
That he hath left part of his grief with me
To suffer with him. Good love, call him back.

OTHELLO
Not now, sweet Desdemona. Some other time. 60

DESDEMONA
But shall 't be shortly?

OTHELLO The sooner, sweet, for you.

DESDEMONA
Shall 't be tonight at supper?

OTHELLO No, not tonight.

DESDEMONA Tomorrow dinner, then? 65

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

DESDEMONA
Why then tomorrow night, or Tuesday morn,
On Tuesday noon or night; on Wednesday morn.
I prithee name the time, but let it not 70
Exceed three days. In faith, he's penitent;
And yet his trespass, in our common reason—
Save that, they say, the wars must make example
Out of her best—is not almost a fault
T' incur a private check. When shall he come? 75

Tell me, Othello. I wonder in my soul
What you would ask me that I should deny,
Or stand so mamm'ring on? What? Michael Cassio,
That came a-wooing with you, and so many a time,
When I have spoke of you disparagingly, 80

Hath ta'en your part—to have so much to do
To bring him in! By 'r Lady, I could do much—

OTHELLO
Prithee, no more. Let him come when he will;
I will deny thee nothing.

DESDEMONA Why, this is not a boon! 85
'Tis as I should entreat you wear your gloves,
Or feed on nourishing dishes, or keep you warm,
Or sue to you to do a peculiar profit
To your own person. Nay, when I have a suit
Wherein I mean to touch your love indeed, 90
It shall be full of poise and difficult weight,
And fearful to be granted.

OTHELLO I will deny thee nothing!
Whereon, I do beseech thee, grant me this,
To leave me but a little to myself. 95

DESDEMONA

Shall I deny you? No. Farewell, my lord.

OTHELLO

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

DESDEMONA

Emilia, come.—Be as your fancies teach you.

Whate'er you be, I am obedient.

Desdemona and Emilia exit.

OTHELLO

Excellent wretch! Perdition catch my soul

100

But I do love thee! And when I love thee not,

Chaos is come again.

IAGO My noble lord—

OTHELLO

What dost thou say, Iago?

IAGO Did Michael Cassio,

105

When you wooed my lady, know of your love?

OTHELLO

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

IAGO

But for a satisfaction of my thought,

No further harm.

OTHELLO Why of thy thought, Iago?

110

IAGO

I did not think he had been acquainted with her.

OTHELLO

O yes, and went between us very oft.

IAGO Indeed?

OTHELLO

Indeed? Ay, indeed! Discern'st thou aught in that?

Is he not honest?

115

IAGO Honest, my lord?

OTHELLO Honest—ay, honest.

IAGO

My lord, for aught I know.

OTHELLO What dost thou think?

IAGO Think, my lord?

120

OTHELLO

"Think, my lord?" By heaven, thou echo'st me

As if there were some monster in thy thought

Too hideous to be shown. Thou dost mean

something.

I heard thee say even now, thou lik'st not that,

125

When Cassio left my wife. What didst not like?

And when I told thee he was of my counsel

In my whole course of wooing, thou cried'st

"Indeed?"

And didst contract and purse thy brow together

130

As if thou then hadst shut up in thy brain

Some horrible conceit. If thou dost love me,

Show me thy thought.

IAGO My lord, you know I love you.

OTHELLO I think thou dost;

135

And for I know thou 'rt full of love and honesty

And weigh'st thy words before thou giv'st them

breath,

Therefore these stops of thine fright me the more. For such things in a false, disloyal knave Are tricks of custom; but in a man that's just, They're close dilations working from the heart That passion cannot rule.	140
IAGO For Michael Cassio, I dare be sworn I think that he is honest.	145
OTHELLO I think so too.	
IAGO Men should be what they seem; Or those that be not, would they might seem none!	
OTHELLO Certain, men should be what they seem.	
IAGO Why then, I think Cassio's an honest man.	150
OTHELLO Nay, yet there's more in this. I prithee speak to me as to thy thinkings, As thou dost ruminate, and give thy worst of thoughts	
The worst of words.	155
IAGO Good my lord, pardon me. Though I am bound to every act of duty, I am not bound to that all slaves are free to. Utter my thoughts? Why, say they are vile and false—	
As where's that palace whereinto foul things Sometimes intrude not? Who has that breast so pure	160
But some uncleanly apprehensions Keep leets and law days and in sessions sit With meditations lawful?	165
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	170
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.	175
OTHELLO What dost thou mean?	180
IAGO Good name in man and woman, dear my lord, Is the immediate jewel of their souls. Who steals my purse steals trash. 'Tis something, nothing;	185
'Twas mine, 'tis his, and has been slave to thousands.	
But he that filches from me my good name Robs me of that which not enriches him And makes me poor indeed.	190

OTHELLO	By heaven, I'll know thy thoughts.	
AGO	You cannot, if my heart were in your hand, Nor shall not, whilst 'tis in my custody.	
OTHELLO	Ha?	
AGO	O, beware, my lord, of jealousy!	195
	It is the green-eyed monster which doth mock The meat it feeds on. That cuckold lives in bliss Who, certain of his fate, loves not his wronger; But O, what damnèd minutes tells he o'er Who dotes, yet doubts; suspects, yet strongly loves!	
OTHELLO	O misery!	200
AGO	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!	205
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.	210
	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.	215
AGO	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	220
	Is not to leave 't undone, but keep 't unknown.	225
OTHELLO	Dost thou say so?	
AGO	She did deceive her father, marrying you, And when she seemed to shake and fear your looks, She loved them most.	230
OTHELLO	And so she did.	235
		240

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.	245
	I humbly do beseech you of your pardon For too much loving you.	
OTHELLO	I am bound to thee forever.	
IAGO		
	I see this hath a little dashed your spirits.	250
OTHELLO		
	Not a jot, not a jot.	
IAGO	I' faith, I fear it has.	
	I hope you will consider what is spoke Comes from my love. But I do see you're moved. I am to pray you not to strain my speech To grosser issues nor to larger reach Than to suspicion.	255
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.	260
	My lord, I see you're moved.	
OTHELLO	No, not much moved.	
	I do not think but Desdemona's honest.	265
IAGO		
	Long live she so! And long live you to think so!	
OTHELLO		
	And yet, how nature erring from itself—	
IAGO		
	Ay, there's the point. As, to be bold with you, Not to affect many proposèd matches Of her own clime, complexion, and degree, 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.	270
OTHELLO	Farewell, farewell!	
	If more thou dost perceive, let me know more.	275
	Set on thy wife to observe. Leave me, Iago.	
IAGO, <i>beginning to exit</i>	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, <i>returning</i>		
	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.	285
		290

Note if your lady strain his entertainment
With any strong or vehement importunity.
Much will be seen in that. In the meantime,
Let me be thought too busy in my fears—
As worthy cause I have to fear I am—
And hold her free, I do beseech your Honor. 295

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 learnèd spirit 300
Of human dealings. If I do prove her haggard,
Though that her jesses were my dear heartstrings,
I'd whistle her off and let her down the wind
To prey at fortune. Haply, for I am black
And have not those soft parts of conversation
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;
Prerogativated are they less than the base. 315
'Tis destiny unshunnable, like death.
Even then this forkèd plague is fated to us
When we do quicken. Look where she comes.

Enter Desdemona and Emilia.

If she be false, heaven mocks itself!
I'll not believe 't. 320

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

OTHELLO I am to blame.

DESDEMONA

Why do you speak so faintly? Are you not well? 325

OTHELLO

I have a pain upon my forehead, here.

DESDEMONA

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

OTHELLO Your napkin is too little. 330
Let it alone. *The handkerchief falls, unnoticed.*

Come, I'll go in with you.

DESDEMONA

I am very sorry that you are not well.

Othello and Desdemona exit.

EMILIA, *picking up the handkerchief*

I am glad I have found this napkin.
This was her first remembrance from the Moor. 335
My wayward husband hath a hundred times

Wooed me to steal it. But she so loves the token
(For he conjured her she should ever keep it)
That she reserves it evermore about her
To kiss and talk to. I'll have the work ta'en out 340
And give 't Iago. What he will do with it
Heaven knows, not I.
I nothing but to please his fantasy.

Enter Iago.

IAGO How now? What do you here alone?
EMILIA 345
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 350
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? 355
EMILIA No, faith, she let it drop by negligence,
And to th' advantage I, being here, took 't up.
Look, here 'tis.
IAGO A good wench! Give it me.
EMILIA 360
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 365
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 370
Are to the jealous confirmations strong
As proofs of holy writ. This may do something.
The Moor already changes with my poison;
Dangerous conceits are in their natures poisons,
Which at the first are scarce found to distaste, 375
But with a little act upon the blood
Burn like the mines of sulfur.

Enter Othello.

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

Shall ever medicine thee to that sweet sleep
Which thou owedst yesterday.
OTHELLO Ha, ha, false to me?
IAGO
Why, how now, general? No more of that!
OTHELLO
Avaunt! Begone! Thou hast set me on the rack. 385
I swear 'tis better to be much abused
Than but to know 't a little.
IAGO How now, my lord?
OTHELLO
What sense had I of her stol'n hours of lust?
I saw 't not, thought it not; it harmed not me. 390
I slept the next night well, fed well, was free and
merry.
I found not Cassio's kisses on her lips.
He that is robbed, not wanting what is stol'n,
Let him not know 't, and he's not robbed at all. 395
IAGO I am sorry to hear this.
OTHELLO
I had been happy if the general camp,
Pioneers and all, had tasted her sweet body,
So I had nothing known. O, now, forever
Farewell the tranquil mind! Farewell content! 400
Farewell the plumèd troops and the big wars
That makes ambition virtue! O, farewell!
Farewell the neighing steed and the shrill trump,
The spirit-stirring drum, th' ear-piercing fife,
The royal banner, and all quality, 405
Pride, pomp, and circumstance of glorious war!
And O you mortal engines, whose rude throats
Th' immortal Jove's dread clamors counterfeit,
Farewell! Othello's occupation's gone!
IAGO Is 't possible, my lord? 410
OTHELLO
Villain, be sure thou prove my love a whore!
Be sure of it. Give me the ocular proof,
Or, by the worth of mine eternal soul,
Thou hadst been better have been born a dog
Than answer my waked wrath. 415
IAGO Is 't come to this?
OTHELLO
Make me to see 't, or at the least so prove it
That the probation bear no hinge nor loop
To hang a doubt on, or woe upon thy life!
IAGO My noble lord— 420
OTHELLO
If thou dost slander her and torture me,
Never pray more. Abandon all remorse;
On horror's head horrors accumulate;
Do deeds to make heaven weep, all Earth amazed;
For nothing canst thou to damnation add 425
Greater than that.
IAGO O grace! O heaven forgive me!
Are you a man? Have you a soul or sense?
God b' wi' you. Take mine office.—O wretched fool,

That liv'st to make thine honesty a vice!—	430
O monstrous world! Take note, take note, O world:	
To be direct and honest is not safe.—	
I thank you for this profit, and from hence	
I'll love no friend, sith love breeds such offense.	
OTHELLO Nay, stay. Thou shouldst be honest.	435
IAGO	
I should be wise; for honesty's a fool	
And loses that it works for.	
OTHELLO By the world,	
I think my wife be honest and think she is not.	
I think that thou art just and think thou art not.	440
I'll have some proof! Her name, that was as fresh	
As Dian's visage, is now begrimed and black	
As mine own face. If there be cords, or knives,	
Poison, or fire, or suffocating streams,	
I'll not endure it. Would I were satisfied!	445
IAGO	
I see you are eaten up with passion.	
I do repent me that I put it to you.	
You would be satisfied?	
OTHELLO Would? Nay, and I will.	
IAGO	
And may; but how? How satisfied, my lord?	450
Would you, the supervisor, grossly gape on,	
Behold her topped?	
OTHELLO Death and damnation! O!	
IAGO	
It were a tedious difficulty, I think,	
To bring them to that prospect. Damn them then	455
If ever mortal eyes do see them bolster	
More than their own! What then? How then?	
What shall I say? Where's satisfaction?	
It is impossible you should see this,	
Were they as prime as goats, as hot as monkeys,	460
As salt as wolves in pride, and fools as gross	
As ignorance made drunk. But yet I say,	
If imputation and strong circumstances	
Which lead directly to the door of truth	
Will give you satisfaction, you might have 't.	465
OTHELLO	
Give me a living reason she's disloyal.	
IAGO	
I do not like the office,	
But sith I am entered in this cause so far,	
Pricked to 't by foolish honesty and love,	
I will go on. I lay with Cassio lately,	470
And being troubled with a raging tooth	
I could not sleep. There are a kind of men	
So loose of soul that in their sleeps will mutter	
Their affairs. One of this kind is Cassio.	
In sleep I heard him say "Sweet Desdemona,	475
Let us be wary, let us hide our loves."	
And then, sir, would he gripe and wring my hand,	
Cry "O sweet creature!" then kiss me hard,	
As if he plucked up kisses by the roots	
That grew upon my lips; then laid his leg	480

O'er my thigh, and sighed, and kissed, and then Cried "Cursèd fate that gave thee to the Moor!"	
OTHELLO	
O monstrous! Monstrous!	
IAGO	Nay, this was but his
	dream.
OTHELLO	
But this denoted a foregone conclusion.	485
'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.	490
She may be honest yet. Tell me but this:	
Have you not sometimes seen a handkerchief	
Spotted with strawberries in your wife's hand?	
OTHELLO	
I gave her such a one. 'Twas my first gift.	495
IAGO	
I know not that; but such a handkerchief—	
I am sure it was your wife's—did I today	
See Cassio wipe his beard with.	
OTHELLO	If it be that—
IAGO	
If it be that, or any that was hers,	500
It speaks against her with the other proofs.	
OTHELLO	
O, that the slave had forty thousand lives!	
One is too poor, too weak for my revenge.	
Now do I see 'tis true. Look here, Iago,	
All my fond love thus do I blow to heaven.	505
'Tis gone.	
Arise, black vengeance, from the hollow hell!	
Yield up, O love, thy crown and hearted throne	
To tyrannous hate! Swell, bosom, with thy fraught,	
For 'tis of aspics' tongues!	510
IAGO	Yet be content.
OTHELLO	O, blood, blood, blood!
IAGO	
	Patience, I say. Your mind perhaps may change.
OTHELLO	
Never, Iago. Like to the Pontic Sea,	
Whose icy current and compulsive course	515
Ne'er feels retiring ebb, but keeps due on	
To the Propontic and the Hellespont,	
Even so my bloody thoughts, with violent pace	
Shall ne'er look back, ne'er ebb to humble love,	
Till that a capable and wide revenge	520
Swallow them up. <i>He kneels.</i> Now by yond marble	
heaven,	
In the due reverence of a sacred vow,	
I here engage my words.	
IAGO	Do not rise yet.
	<i>Iago kneels.</i> 525
	Witness, you ever-burning lights above,

You elements that clip us round about, Witness that here Iago doth give up The execution of his wit, hands, heart To wronged Othello's service! Let him command, And to obey shall be in me remorse, What bloody business ever.	530
	<i>They rise.</i>
OTHELLO I greet thy love Not with vain thanks but with acceptance bounteous,	535
And will upon the instant put thee to 't. Within these three days let me hear thee say That Cassio's not alive.	
IAGO My friend is dead. 'Tis done at your request. But let her live.	540
OTHELLO Damn her, lewd minx! O, damn her, damn her!	
Come, go with me apart. I will withdraw To furnish me with some swift means of death For the fair devil. Now art thou my lieutenant.	545
IAGO I am your own forever.	
	<i>They exit.</i>

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.	5
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?	10
CLOWN	I know not where he lodges; and for me to devise a lodging and say he lies here, or he lies there, were to lie in mine own throat.	
DESDEMONA	Can you inquire him out, and be edified by report?	15
CLOWN	I will catechize the world for him—that is, make questions, and by them answer.	
DESDEMONA	Seek him, bid him come hither. Tell him I have moved my lord on his behalf and hope all will be well.	20
CLOWN	To do this is within the compass of man's wit, and therefore I will attempt the doing it.	
DESDEMONA		<i>Clown exits.</i>

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? 30
DESDEMONA
Who, he? I think the sun where he was born
Drew all such humors from him.
EMILIA Look where he
comes.

Enter Othello.

DESDEMONA
I will not leave him now till Cassio 35
Be called to him.—How is 't with you, my lord?
OTHELLO
Well, my good lady. *Aside.* O, hardness to
dissemble!—
How do you, Desdemona?
DESDEMONA Well, my good lord. 40
OTHELLO
Give me your hand. *He takes her hand.* This hand
is moist, my lady.
DESDEMONA
It yet has felt no age nor known no sorrow.
OTHELLO
This argues fruitfulness and liberal heart.
Hot, hot, and moist. This hand of yours requires 45
A sequester from liberty, fasting and prayer,
Much castigation, exercise devout;
For here's a young and sweating devil here
That commonly rebels. 'Tis a good hand,
A frank one. 50
DESDEMONA You may indeed say so,
For 'twas that hand that gave away my heart.
OTHELLO
A liberal hand! The hearts of old gave hands,
But our new heraldry is hands, not hearts.
DESDEMONA
I cannot speak of this. Come now, your promise. 55
OTHELLO What promise, chuck?
DESDEMONA
I have sent to bid Cassio come speak with you.
OTHELLO
I have a salt and sorry rheum offends me.
Lend me thy handkerchief.
DESDEMONA Here, my lord. 60
OTHELLO
That which I gave you.
DESDEMONA I have it not about me.
OTHELLO Not?
DESDEMONA No, faith, my lord.
OTHELLO That's a fault. That handkerchief 65
Did an Egyptian to my mother give.
She was a charmer, and could almost read
The thoughts of people. She told her, while she kept
it,
'Twould make her amiable and subdue my father 70

Entirely to her love. But if she lost it,
Or made a gift of it, my father's eye
Should hold her loathèd, and his spirits should hunt
After new fancies. She, dying, gave it me,
And bid me, when my fate would have me wived, 75
To give it her. I did so; and take heed on 't,
Make it a darling like your precious eye.
To lose 't or give 't away were such perdition
As nothing else could match.

DESDEMONA Is 't possible? 80

OTHELLO
'Tis true. There's magic in the web of it.
A sybil that had numbered in the world
The sun to course two hundred compasses,
In her prophetic fury sewed the work.
The worms were hallowed that did breed the silk, 85
And it was dyed in mummy, which the skillful
Conserved of maidens' hearts.

DESDEMONA I' faith, is 't true?

OTHELLO Most veritable. Therefore, look to 't well.

DESDEMONA Then would to God that I had never seen 't! 90

OTHELLO Ha? Wherefore?

DESDEMONA Why do you speak so startingly and rash?

OTHELLO Is 't lost? Is 't gone? Speak, is 't out o' th' way?

DESDEMONA Heaven bless us!

OTHELLO Say you? 95

DESDEMONA It is not lost, but what an if it were?

OTHELLO How?

DESDEMONA I say it is not lost.

OTHELLO Fetch 't. Let me see 't!

DESDEMONA Why, so I can. But I will not now. 100
This is a trick to put me from my suit.
Pray you, let Cassio be received again.

OTHELLO Fetch me the handkerchief! *Aside*. My mind
misgives.

DESDEMONA Come, come. 105
You'll never meet a more sufficient man.

OTHELLO The handkerchief!

DESDEMONA I pray, talk me of Cassio.

OTHELLO The handkerchief!

DESDEMONA A man that all his time 110
Hath founded his good fortunes on your love;
Shared dangers with you—

OTHELLO The handkerchief!

DESDEMONA I' faith, you are to blame.

OTHELLO Zounds! Othello exits. 115

EMILIA Is not this man jealous?

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

EMILIA

'Tis not a year or two shows us a man.
They are all but stomachs, and we all but food;
They eat us hungerly, and when they are full
They belch us.

120

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.

125

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.

130

135

140

DESDEMONA Alas, thrice-gentle Cassio,
My advocation 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.

145

150

IAGO

Is my lord angry?
EMILIA He went hence but now,
And certainly in strange unquietness.

IAGO

Can he be angry? I have seen the cannon
When it hath blown his ranks into the air
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.

155

DESDEMONA

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

He exits. 160

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.	165
EMILIA Pray heaven it be State matters, as you think, and no conception Nor no jealous toy concerning you.	170
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.	175
DESDEMONA Heaven keep that monster from Othello's mind!	
EMILIA Lady, amen.	180
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.	185

Enter Disease

BIANCA		
'Save you, friend Cassio!		190
CASSIO	What make you from	
home?		
How is 't with you, my most fair Bianca?		
I' faith, sweet love, I was coming to your house.		
BIANCA		
And I was going to your lodging, Cassio.		195
What, keep a week away? Seven days and nights,		
Eightscore eight hours, and lovers' absent hours		
More tedious than the dial eightscore times?		
O weary reck'ning!		
CASSIO	Pardon me, Bianca.	200
I have this while with leaden thoughts been pressed,		
But I shall in a more continuatue time		
Strike off this score of absence. Sweet Bianca,		
<i>Giving her Desdemona's handkerchief.</i>		
Take me this work out.		
BIANCA	O, Cassio, whence came this?	205
This is some token from a newer friend.		
To the felt absence now I feel a cause.		

Is 't come to this? Well, well.
CASSIO Go to, woman!
Throw your vile guesses in the devil's teeth, 210
From whence you have them. You are jealous now
That this is from some mistress, some
remembrance.

No, by my faith, Bianca.
BIANCA Why, whose is it? 215
CASSIO
I know not neither. I found it in my chamber.
I like the work well. Ere it be demanded,
As like enough it will, I would have it copied.
Take it, and do 't, and leave me for this time.

BIANCA Leave you? Wherfore? 220
CASSIO
I do attend here on the General,
And think it no addition, nor my wish,
To have him see me womanned.

BIANCA Why, I pray you?
CASSIO Not that I love you not. 225
BIANCA But that you do not love me!
I pray you bring me on the way a little,
And say if I shall see you soon at night.

CASSIO
'Tis but a little way that I can bring you,
For I attend here. But I'll see you soon. 230

BIANCA
'Tis very good. I must be circumstanced.

They exit.

ACT 4

Scene 1 *Enter Othello and Iago.*

IAGO

Will you think so?

OTHELLO Think so, Iago?

IAGO What,

To kiss in private?

OTHELLO An unauthorized kiss!

5

IAGO

Or to be naked with her friend in bed

An hour or more, not meaning any harm?

OTHELLO

Naked in bed, Iago, and not mean harm?

It is hypocrisy against the devil!

They that mean virtuously, and yet do so,

10

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?

15

IAGO

Why then, 'tis hers, my lord, and being hers,

She may, I think, bestow 't on any man.

OTHELLO

She is protectress of her honor, too.

May she give that?

IAGO

Her honor is an essence that's not seen;

20

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,

25

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?

30

Or heard him say (as knaves be such abroad,

Who having, by their own importunate suit

Or voluntary dotage of some mistress,

Convincèd or supplied them, cannot choose

But they must blab)—

35

OTHELLO Hath he said anything?

IAGO

He hath, my lord, but be you well assured,

No more than he'll unswear.

OTHELLO	What hath he said?	
IAGO	Faith, that he did—I know not what he did.	40
OTHELLO	What? What?	
IAGO	Lie—	
OTHELLO	With her?	
IAGO	With her—on her—what you will.	
OTHELLO	Lie with her? Lie on her? We say "lie on her" 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!	45 50
	<i>He falls in a trance.</i>	
IAGO	Work on,	55
	My medicine, work! Thus credulous fools are caught,	
	And many worthy and chaste dames even thus, All guiltless, meet reproach.—What ho! My lord! My lord, I say. Othello!	
		60

Enter Cassio.

How now, Cassio?
CASSIO What's the matter?
IAGO My lord is fall'n into an epilepsy.
This is his second fit. He had one yesterday.
CASSIO Rub him about the temples.
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! 75
Would you would bear your fortune like a man!
OTHELLO A hornèd man's a monster and a beast.
IAGO There's many a beast, then, in a populous city,
And many a civil monster.
OTHELLO Did he confess it?
IAGO Good sir, be a man! 80
Think every bearded fellow that's but yoked

May draw with you. There's millions now alive
 That nightly lie in those unproper beds
 Which they dare swear peculiar. Your case is better. 85
 O, 'tis the spite of hell, the fiend's arch-mock,
 To lip a wanton in a secure couch
 And to suppose her chaste! No, let me know,
 And knowing what I am, I know what she shall be.
 OTHELLO O, thou art wise, 'tis certain. 90
 IAGO Stand you awhile apart.
 Confine yourself but in a patient list.
 Whilst you were here, o'erwhelmèd with your grief—
 A passion most unsuiting such a man—
 Cassio came hither. I shifted him away 95
 And laid good 'scuses upon your ecstasy,
 Bade him anon return and here speak with me,
 The which he promised. Do but encave yourself,
 And mark the fleers, the gibes, and notable scorns
 That dwell in every region of his face. 100
 For I will make him tell the tale anew—
 Where, how, how oft, how long ago, and when
 He hath and is again to cope your wife.
 I say but mark his gesture. Marry, patience,
 Or I shall say you're all in all in spleen, 105
 And nothing of a man.
 OTHELLO Dost thou hear, Iago,
 I will be found most cunning in my patience,
 But (dost thou hear?) most bloody.
 IAGO That's not amiss. 110
 But yet keep time in all. Will you withdraw?
Othello withdraws.

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

Enter Cassio.

As he shall smile, Othello shall go mad,
 And his unbookish jealousy must construe 120
 Poor Cassio's smiles, gestures, and light behaviors
 Quite in the wrong.—How do you, lieutenant?
 CASSIO The worser that you give me the addition
 Whose want even kills me.
 IAGO Ply Desdemona well, and you are sure on 't. 125
 Now, if this suit lay in Bianca's power,
 How quickly should you speed!
 CASSIO, laughing Alas, poor caitiff!
 OTHELLO Look how he laughs already!
 IAGO I never knew woman love man so. 130
 CASSIO Alas, poor rogue, I think i' faith she loves me.

OTHELLO

Now he denies it faintly and laughs it out.

IAGO

Do you hear, Cassio?

OTHELLO Now he importunes him

To tell it o'er. Go to, well said, well said.

135

IAGO

She gives it out that you shall marry her.

Do you intend it?

CASSIO Ha, ha, ha!

OTHELLO

Do you triumph, Roman? Do you triumph?

CASSIO I marry her? What, a customer? Prithee bear

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!

140

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.

145

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!

150

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!

155

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.

160

165

Enter Bianca.

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

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

170

175

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.*

180

IAGO After her, after her!

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

IAGO Will you sup there?

CASSIO Faith, I intend so.

185

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

CASSIO Prithee come. Will you?

IAGO Go to; say no more.

Cassio exits.

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

190

IAGO Did you perceive how he laughed at his vice?

OTHELLO O Iago!

IAGO And did you see the handkerchief?

OTHELLO Was that mine?

195

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

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

200

IAGO Nay, you must forget that.

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

205

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!

210

IAGO She's the worse for all this.

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

IAGO Ay, too gentle.

215

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

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

220

OTHELLO I will chop her into messes! Cuckold me?

IAGO O, 'tis foul in her.

OTHELLO With mine officer!

IAGO That's fouler.

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

225

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

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

230

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

<p>Make her amends. She weeps.</p> <p>OTHELLO O, devil, devil!</p> <p>If that the Earth could teem with woman's tears, Each drop she falls would prove a crocodile. Out of my sight!</p> <p>DESDEMONA I will not stay to offend you.</p>	<p>275</p>
<p><i>She begins to leave.</i></p> <p>LODOVICO Truly an obedient lady.</p> <p>I do beseech your Lordship call her back.</p>	<p>280</p>
<p>OTHELLO Mistress.</p> <p>DESDEMONA, <i>turning back</i> My lord?</p> <p>OTHELLO What would you with her, sir?</p>	<p>285</p>
<p>LODOVICO Who, I, my lord?</p> <p>OTHELLO</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>290</p>
<p>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!</p>	
	<p><i>Desdemona exits.</i></p>
<p>Cassio shall have my place. And, sir, tonight</p> <p>I do entreat that we may sup together.</p> <p>You are welcome, sir, to Cyprus. Goats and monkeys!</p>	<p>295</p>
	<p><i>He exits.</i></p>
<p>LODOVICO</p> <p>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?</p>	<p>300</p>
<p>IAGO He is much changed.</p>	<p>305</p>
<p>LODOVICO</p> <p>Are his wits safe? Is he not light of brain?</p>	
<p>IAGO</p> <p>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.</p>	
<p>LODOVICO What? Strike his wife?</p>	<p>310</p>
<p>IAGO</p> <p>'Faith, that was not so well. Yet would I knew That stroke would prove the worst.</p>	
<p>LODOVICO Is it his use?</p> <p>Or did the letters work upon his blood And new-create this fault?</p>	<p>315</p>
<p>IAGO Alas, alas!</p> <p>It is not honesty in me to speak What I have seen and known. You shall observe him,</p>	
<p>And his own courses will denote him so That I may save my speech. Do but go after And mark how he continues.</p>	<p>320</p>

LODOVICO

I am sorry that I am deceived in him.

They exit.

Scene 2
Enter Othello and Emilia.

OTHELLO You have seen nothing then?

EMILIA

Nor ever heard, nor ever did suspect.

OTHELLO

Yes, you have seen Cassio and she together.

EMILIA

But then I saw no harm, and then I heard
Each syllable that breath made up between them.

5

OTHELLO

What, did they never whisper?

EMILIA Never, my lord.

OTHELLO Nor send you out o' th' way?

EMILIA Never.

OTHELLO

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

10

EMILIA Never, my lord.

OTHELLO That's strange.

EMILIA

I durst, my lord, to wager she is honest,
Lay down my soul at stake. If you think other,
Remove your thought. It doth abuse your bosom.
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.

15

OTHELLO Bid her come hither. Go.

Emilia exits.

She says enough. Yet she's a simple bawd
That cannot say as much. This is a subtle whore,
A closet lock and key of villainous secrets.
And yet she'll kneel and pray. I have seen her do 't.

25

Enter Desdemona and Emilia.

DESDEMONA My lord, what is your will?

OTHELLO

Pray you, chuck, come hither.

DESDEMONA What is your
pleasure?

OTHELLO

Let me see your eyes. Look in my face.

30

DESDEMONA What horrible fancy's this?

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

Leave procreants alone, and shut the door.

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

35

Your mystery, your mystery! Nay, dispatch.

Emilia exits.

DESDEMONA, *kneeling*
Upon my knees, what doth your speech import?
I understand a fury in your words,
But not the words.
OTHELLO Why? What art thou? 40
DESDEMONA
Your wife, my lord, your true and loyal wife.
OTHELLO Come, swear it. Damn thyself,
Lest, being like one of heaven, the devils themselves
Should fear to seize thee. Therefore be double
damned. 45
Swear thou art honest.
DESDEMONA Heaven doth truly know it.
OTHELLO
Heaven truly knows that thou art false as hell.
DESDEMONA, *standing*
To whom, my lord? With whom? How am I false?
OTHELLO
Ah, Desdemona, away, away, away! 50
DESDEMONA
Alas the heavy day, why do you weep?
Am I the motive of these tears, my lord?
If haply you my father do suspect
An instrument of this your calling back,
Lay not your blame on me. If you have lost him, 55
I have lost him too.
OTHELLO Had it pleased heaven
To try me with affliction, had they rained
All kind of sores and shames on my bare head,
Steeped me in poverty to the very lips, 60
Given to captivity me and my utmost hopes,
I should have found in some place of my soul
A drop of patience. But alas, to make me
A fixèd figure for the time of scorn
To point his slow unmoving finger at— 65
Yet could I bear that too, well, very well.
But there where I have garnered up my heart,
Where either I must live or bear no life,
The fountain from the which my current runs
Or else dries up—to be discarded thence, 70
Or keep it as a cistern for foul toads
To knot and gender in—turn thy complexion there,
Patience, thou young and rose-lipped cherubin,
Ay, there look grim as hell.
DESDEMONA
I hope my noble lord esteems me honest. 75
OTHELLO
O, ay, as summer flies are in the shambles,
That quicken even with blowing! O thou weed,
Who art so lovely fair, and smell'st so sweet
That the sense aches at thee, would thou hadst
ne'er been born! 80
DESDEMONA
Alas, what ignorant sin have I committed?
OTHELLO
Was this fair paper, this most goodly book,

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

Enter Emilia.

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

Enter Iago and Emilia.

IAGO

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

DESDEMONA

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

130

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.

135

DESDEMONA

Am I that name, Iago?

IAGO What name, fair
lady?

DESDEMONA

Such as she said my lord did say I was.

140

EMILIA

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

IAGO Why did he so?

DESDEMONA

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

IAGO

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

145

EMILIA

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

DESDEMONA It is my wretched fortune.

150

IAGO

Besrew 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.

155

IAGO

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

DESDEMONA

If any such there be, heaven pardon him.

EMILIA

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

160

What place? What time? What form? What
likenhood?

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

165

O heaven, that such companions thou 'dst unfold,
And put in every honest hand a whip

To lash the rascals naked through the world, Even from the east to th' west!	
IAGO Speak within door.	170
EMILIA	
O, fie upon them! Some such squire he was That turned your wit the seamy side without And made you to suspect me with the Moor.	
IAGO	
You are a fool. Go to!	
DESDEMONA Alas, Iago,	175
What shall I do to win my lord again? Good friend, go to him. For by this light of heaven, I know not how I lost him. <i>She kneels.</i> 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	180
To beggarly divorcement—love him dearly, Comfort forswear me! <i>She stands.</i> Unkindness may do much, And his unkindness may defeat my life, But never taint my love. I cannot say "whore"—	185
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.	190
IAGO	
I pray you be content. 'Tis but his humor. The business of the state does him offense,	195
And he does chide with you.	
DESDEMONA	
If 'twere no other—	
IAGO It is but so, I warrant.	
	<i>Trumpets sound.</i>
Hark how these instruments summon to supper. The messengers of Venice stays the meat.	200
Go in and weep not. All things shall be well.	
	<i>Desdemona and Emilia exit.</i>
	<i>Enter Roderigo.</i>
How now, Roderigo?	
RODERIGO I do not find That thou deal'st justly with me.	
IAGO What in the contrary?	205
RODERIGO Every day thou daff'st me with some device, Iago, and rather, as it seems to me now, keep'st from me all conveniency than suppliest me with the least advantage of hope. I will indeed no longer endure it. Nor am I yet persuaded to put up	210
in peace what already I have foolishly suffered.	
IAGO Will you hear me, Roderigo?	
RODERIGO Faith, I have heard too much, and your words and performances are no kin together.	

IAGO	You charge me most unjustly.	215
RODERIGO	With naught but truth. I have wasted myself out of my means. The jewels you have had from me to deliver to Desdemona would half have corrupted a votaress. You have told me she hath received them, and returned me expectations and comforts of sudden respect and acquaintance, but I find none.	220
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.	225
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.	230
IAGO	You have said now.	
RODERIGO	Ay, and said nothing but what I protest intendment of doing.	235
IAGO	Why, now I see there's mettle in thee, and even from this instant do build on thee a better opinion than ever before. Give me thy hand, Roderigo. Thou hast taken against me a most just exception, but yet I protest I have dealt most directly in thy affair.	240
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.	245
RODERIGO	Well, what is it? Is it within reason and compass?	250
IAGO	Sir, there is especial commission come from Venice to depute Cassio in Othello's place.	
RODERIGO	Is that true? Why, then, Othello and Desdemona 255 return again to Venice.	
IAGO	O, no. He goes into Mauritania and takes away with him the fair Desdemona, unless his abode be linger'd here by some accident—wherein none can be so determinate as the removing of Cassio.	260
RODERIGO	How do you mean, removing him?	
IAGO	Why, by making him incapable of Othello's place: knocking out his brains.	
RODERIGO	And that you would have me to do?	
IAGO	Ay, if you dare do yourself a profit and a right. He 265 sups tonight with a harlotry, and thither will I go to him. He knows not yet of his honorable fortune. If you will watch his going thence (which I will fashion to fall out between twelve and one), you may	

take him at your pleasure. I will be near to second 270
your attempt, and he shall fall between us. Come,
stand not amazed at it, but go along with me. I will
show you such a necessity in his death that you shall
think yourself bound to put it on him. It is now high
supper time, and the night grows to waste. About it! 275
RODERIGO I will hear further reason for this.
IAGO And you shall be satisfied.

They exit.

Scene 3
*Enter Othello, Lodovico, Desdemona, Emilia, and
Attendants.*

LODOVICO
I do beseech you, sir, trouble yourself no further.
OTHELLO
O, pardon me, 'twill do me good to walk.
LODOVICO
Madam, good night. I humbly thank your Ladyship.
DESDEMONA Your Honor is most welcome.
OTHELLO
Will you walk, sir?—O, Desdemona— 5
DESDEMONA My lord?
OTHELLO Get you to bed on th' instant. I will be
returned forthwith. Dismiss your attendant there.
Look 't be done.
DESDEMONA I will, my lord. 10
All but Desdemona and Emilia exit.
EMILIA
How goes it now? He looks gentler than he did.
DESDEMONA
He says he will return incontinent,
And hath commanded me to go to bed,
And bade me to dismiss you.
EMILIA Dismiss me? 15
DESDEMONA
It was his bidding. Therefore, good Emilia,
Give me my nightly wearing, and adieu.
We must not now displease him.
EMILIA I would you had never seen him.
DESDEMONA
So would not I. My love doth so approve him 20
That even his stubbornness, his checks, his frowns—
Prithee, unpin me—have grace and favor in them.
EMILIA
I have laid those sheets you bade me on the bed.
DESDEMONA
All's one. Good faith, how foolish are our minds!
If I do die before thee, prithee, shroud me 25
In one of those same sheets.
EMILIA Come, come, you talk!
DESDEMONA
My mother had a maid called Barbary.
She was in love, and he she loved proved mad
And did forsake her. She had a song of willow, 30

An old thing 'twas, but it expressed her fortune,
And she died singing it. That song tonight
Will not go from my mind. I have much to do
But to go hang my head all at one side
And sing it like poor Barbary. Prithee, dispatch. 35

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

EMILIA I know a lady in Venice would have walked
barefoot to Palestine for a touch of his nether lip.
DESDEMONA, *singing*

The poor soul sat sighing by a sycamore tree,
Sing all a green willow.
Her hand on her bosom, her head on her knee, 45
Sing willow, willow, willow.
The fresh streams ran by her and murmured her
moans,
Sing willow, willow, willow;
Her salt tears fell from her, and softened the
stones—

Lay by these.
Sing willow, willow, willow.
Prithee hie thee! He'll come anon.
Sing all a green willow must be my garland. 55
Let nobody blame him, his scorn I approve.
Nay, that's not next. Hark, who is 't that knocks?

EMILIA It's the wind.
DESDEMONA

I called my love false love, but what said he then?
Sing willow, willow, willow. 60
If I court more women, you'll couch with more
men.—

So, get thee gone. Good night. Mine eyes do itch;
Doth that bode weeping?

EMILIA 'Tis neither here nor there. 65
DESDEMONA

I have heard it said so. O these men, these men!
Dost thou in conscience think—tell me, Emilia—
That there be women do abuse their husbands
In such gross kind?

EMILIA There be some such, no 70
question.

DESDEMONA

Wouldst thou do such a deed for all the world?

EMILIA

Why, would not you?

DESDEMONA No, by this heavenly light!

EMILIA

Nor I neither, by this heavenly light. 75
I might do 't as well i' th' dark.

DESDEMONA

Wouldst thou do such a deed for all the world?

EMILIA The world's a huge thing. It is a great price
for a small vice.

DESDEMONA In troth, I think thou wouldest not. 80
EMILIA In troth, I think I should, and undo 't when I
had done it. Marry, I would not do such a thing for
a joint ring, nor for measures of lawn, nor for
gowns, petticoats, nor caps, nor any petty exhibition.
But for the whole world—'Uds pity! Who 85
would not make her husband a cuckold to make
him a monarch? I should venture purgatory for 't.
DESDEMONA Beshrew me if I would do such a wrong
for the whole world!
EMILIA Why, the wrong is but a wrong i' th' world; 90
and, having the world for your labor, 'tis a wrong in
your own world, and you might quickly make it
right.
DESDEMONA I do not think there is any such woman.
EMILIA Yes, a dozen; and as many to th' vantage as 95
would store the world they played for.
But I do think it is their husbands' faults
If wives do fall. Say that they slack their duties,
And pour our treasures into foreign laps;
Or else break out in peevish jealousies, 100
Throwing restraint upon us. Or say they strike us,
Or scant our former having in despite.
Why, we have galls, and though we have some grace,
Yet have we some revenge. Let husbands know
Their wives have sense like them. They see, and 105
smell,
And have their palates both for sweet and sour,
As husbands have. What is it that they do
When they change us for others? Is it sport?
I think it is. And doth affection breed it? 110
I think it doth. Is 't frailty that thus errs?
It is so too. And have not we affections,
Desires for sport, and frailty, as men have?
Then let them use us well. Else let them know,
The ills we do, their ills instruct us so. 115
DESDEMONA
Good night, good night. God me such uses send,
Not to pick bad from bad, but by bad mend.

They exit.

ACT 5

Scene 1
Enter Iago and Roderigo.

IAGO

Here, stand behind this bulk. Straight will he come.
Wear thy good rapier bare, and put it home.
Quick, quick! Fear nothing. I'll be at thy elbow.
It makes us or it mars us—think on that,
And fix most firm thy resolution.

5

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 bobbed 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.

15

20

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.

25

He draws, and stabs Roderigo.

RODERIGO O, I am slain!

Roderigo falls.

Iago stabs Cassio in the leg, and exits.

CASSIO

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

Enter Othello.

OTHELLO

The voice of Cassio! Iago keeps his word. 30

RODERIGO O, villain that I am!

OTHELLO, *aside* It is even so.

CASSIO O, help ho! Light! A surgeon!

OTHELLO, *aside*

'Tis he! O brave Iago, honest and just,
That hast such noble sense of thy friend's wrong!

35

Thou teachest me.—Minion, your dear lies dead,
And your unblest fate hies. Strumpet, I come.

Forth of my heart those charms, thine eyes, are
blotted.

Thy bed, lust-stained, shall with lust's blood be 40
spotted.

Othello exits.

Enter Lodovico and Gratiano.

CASSIO

What ho! No watch? No passage? Murder, murder!

GRATIANO

'Tis some mischance. The voice is very direful.

CASSIO O, help!

LODOVICO Hark! 45

RODERIGO O wretched villain!

LODOVICO

Two or three groan. 'Tis heavy night.

These may be counterfeits. Let's think 't unsafe
To come in to the cry without more help.

RODERIGO

Nobody come? Then shall I bleed to death. 50

Enter Iago with a light.

LODOVICO Hark!

GRATIANO

Here's one comes in his shirt, with light and
weapons.

IAGO

Who's there? Whose noise is this that cries on
murder?

55

LODOVICO

We do not know.

IAGO Did not you hear a cry?

CASSIO

Here, here! For heaven's sake, help me!

IAGO What's the matter?

GRATIANO, *to Lodovico*

This is Othello's ancient, as I take it.

60

LODOVICO

The same indeed, a very valiant fellow.

IAGO, *to Cassio*

What are you here that cry so grievously?

CASSIO

Iago? O, I am spoiled, undone by villains.

Give me some help!

IAGO		
O me, lieutenant! What villains have done this?		65
CASSIO		
I think that one of them is hereabout And cannot make away.		
IAGO O treacherous villains! <i>To Lodovico and Gratiano.</i> What are you there? Come in, and give some help.	70	
RODERIGO O, help me here!		
CASSIO		
That's one of them.		
IAGO, to Roderigo O murd'rous slave! O villain! <i>He stabs Roderigo.</i>		
RODERIGO		
O damned Iago! O inhuman dog!		
IAGO		
Kill men i' th' dark?—Where be these bloody thieves?	75	
How silent is this town! Ho, murder, murder!— What may you be? Are you of good or evil?		
LODOVICO		
As you shall prove us, praise us.		
IAGO Signior Lodovico?	80	
LODOVICO He, sir.		
IAGO		
I cry you mercy. Here's Cassio hurt by villains.		
GRATIANO Cassio?		
IAGO		
How is 't, brother?		
CASSIO My leg is cut in two.	85	
IAGO Marry, heaven forbid!		
Light, gentlemen. I'll bind it with my shirt.		
<i>Enter Bianca.</i>		
BIANCA		
What is the matter, ho? Who is 't that cried?		
IAGO		
Who is 't that cried?		
BIANCA O, my dear Cassio,	90	
My sweet Cassio! O Cassio, Cassio, Cassio!		
IAGO		
O notable strumpet! Cassio, may you suspect Who they should be that have thus mangled you?		
CASSIO No.		
GRATIANO		
I am sorry to find you thus; I have been to seek you.	95	
IAGO		
Lend me a garter. So.—O for a chair To bear him easily hence!		
BIANCA		
Alas, he faints. O, Cassio, Cassio, Cassio!		
IAGO		
Gentlemen all, I do suspect this trash To be a party in this injury.—	100	
Patience awhile, good Cassio.—Come, come;		

Lend me a light. *Peering at Roderigo.* Know we this
face or no?
Alas, my friend and my dear countryman
Roderigo? No! Yes, sure. O heaven, Roderigo! 105
GRATIANO What, of Venice?
IAGO Even he, sir. Did you know him?
GRATIANO Know him? Ay.
IAGO
Signior Gratiano? I cry your gentle pardon.
These bloody accidents must excuse my manners
That so neglected you. 110
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.— 115
Some good man bear him carefully from hence.
I'll fetch the General's surgeon.— For you, mistress,
Save you your labor.—He that lies slain here,
Cassio, 120
Was my dear friend. What malice was between you?
CASSIO
None in the world. Nor do I know the man.
IAGO, *to Bianca*
What, look you pale?—O, bear him out o' th' air.
Cassio, in the chair, and Roderigo are carried off.
To Gratiano and Lodovico. Stay you, good
gentlemen.—Look you pale, mistress?— 125
Do you perceive the gastness of her eye?—
Nay, if you stare, we shall hear more anon.—
Behold her well. I pray you, look upon her.
Do you see, gentlemen? Nay, guiltiness will speak
Though tongues were out of use. 130

Enter Emilia.

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

BIANCA

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

EMILIA As I? Faugh! Fie upon thee!

145

AGO

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.

5

Yet she must die, else she'll betray more men.

Put out the light, and then put out the light.

If I quench thee, thou flaming minister,

I can again thy former light restore

Should I repent me. But once put out thy light,

10

Thou cunning'st pattern of excelling nature,

I know not where is that Promethean heat

That can thy light relume. When I have plucked the
rose,

I cannot give it vital growth again.

15

It needs must wither. I'll smell it on the tree.

O balmy breath, that dost almost persuade

Justice to break her sword! *He kisses her.* One
more, one more.

Be thus when thou art dead, and I will kill thee

20

And love thee after. One more, and this the last.

He kisses her.

So sweet was ne'er so fatal. I must weep,

But they are cruel tears. This sorrow's heavenly:

It strikes where it doth love. She wakes.

DESDEMONA

Who's there? Othello?

25

OTHELLO Ay, Desdemona.

DESDEMONA Will you come to bed, my lord?

OTHELLO

Have you prayed tonight, Desdemona?

DESDEMONA Ay, my lord.

OTHELLO

If you bethink yourself of any crime

30

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.	35	
I would not kill thy unprepared spirit.		
No, heaven forfend! I would not kill thy soul.		
DESDEMONA	Talk you of killing?	
OTHELLO		
Ay, I do.		
DESDEMONA	Then heaven have mercy on me.	40
OTHELLO	Amen, with all my heart.	
DESDEMONA		
If you say so, I hope you will not kill me.		
OTHELLO	Humh.	
DESDEMONA		
And yet I fear you, for you're fatal then		
When your eyes roll so. Why I should fear I know	45	
not,		
Since guiltiness I know not, but yet I feel I fear.		
OTHELLO		
Think on thy sins.		
DESDEMONA	They are loves I bear to you.	
OTHELLO	Ay, and for that thou diest.	50
DESDEMONA		
That death's unnatural that kills for loving.		
Alas, why gnaw you so your nether lip?		
Some bloody passion shakes your very frame.		
These are portents, but yet I hope, I hope		
They do not point on me.	55	
OTHELLO	Peace, and be still.	
DESDEMONA		
I will so. What's the matter?		
OTHELLO	That handkerchief	
Which I so loved, and gave thee, thou gav'st to		
Cassio.	60	
DESDEMONA		
No, by my life and soul! Send for the man		
And ask him.		
OTHELLO		
Sweet soul, take heed, take heed of perjury.		
Thou art on thy deathbed.		
DESDEMONA		
Ay, but not yet to die.	65	
OTHELLO	Yes, presently.	
Therefore confess thee freely of thy sin.		
For to deny each article with oath		
Cannot remove nor choke the strong conception		
That I do groan withal. Thou art to die.	70	
DESDEMONA		
Then Lord have mercy on me!		
OTHELLO	I say "Amen."	
DESDEMONA		
And have you mercy, too. I never did		
Offend you in my life, never loved Cassio		
But with such general warranty of heaven	75	
As I might love. I never gave him token.		
OTHELLO		
By heaven, I saw my handkerchief in 's hand!		

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

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

OTHELLO He hath confessed. 85
DESDEMONA What, my lord?
OTHELLO
That he hath used thee.

DESDEMONA How? Unlawfully?

OTHELLO Ay.

DESDEMONA
He will not say so. 90
OTHELLO No. His mouth is stopped.
Honest Iago hath ta'en order for 't.

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

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

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

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

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

OTHELLO Down, strumpet!

DESDEMONA
Kill me tomorrow, let me live tonight. 100
OTHELLO Nay, if you strive—

DESDEMONA
But half an hour!

OTHELLO Being done, there is no pause.

DESDEMONA
But while I say one prayer!

OTHELLO It is too late. 105
He smothers her.

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

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

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

OTHELLO Who's
there?

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

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

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

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

Enter Emilia.

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

She dies.

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

'Twas I that killed her.	160
EMILIA	
O, the more angel she, and you the blacker devil!	
OTHELLO	
She turned to folly, and she was a whore.	
EMILIA	
Thou dost belie her, and thou art a devil!	
OTHELLO	
She was false as water.	
EMILIA	
Thou art rash as fire to say	165
That she was false. O, she was heavenly true!	
OTHELLO	
Cassio did top her. Ask thy husband else.	
O, I were damned beneath all depth in hell	
But that I did proceed upon just grounds	
To this extremity. Thy husband knew it all.	170
EMILIA	
My husband?	
OTHELLO	
Thy husband.	
EMILIA	
That she was false to wedlock?	
OTHELLO	
Ay, with Cassio. Had she been true,	
If heaven would make me such another world	175
Of one entire and perfect chrysolite,	
I'd not have sold her for it.	
EMILIA	
My husband?	
OTHELLO	
Ay, 'twas he that told me on her first.	
An honest man he is, and hates the slime	180
That sticks on filthy deeds.	
EMILIA	
My husband?	
OTHELLO	
What needs this iterance, woman? I say, thy	
husband.	
EMILIA	
O mistress, villainy hath made mocks with love!—	185
My husband say she was false?	
OTHELLO	
He, woman.	
I say thy husband. Dost understand the word?	
My friend, thy husband; honest, honest Iago.	
EMILIA	
If he say so, may his pernicious soul	190
Rot half a grain a day! He lies to th' heart!	
She was too fond of her most filthy bargain.	
	<i>He draws his sword.</i>
OTHELLO	
Hah?	
EMILIA	
Do thy worst!	
This deed of thine is no more worthy heaven	195
Than thou wast worthy her.	
OTHELLO	
Peace, you were best!	
EMILIA	
Thou hast not half that power to do me harm	
As I have to be hurt. O gull! O dolt,	
As ignorant as dirt! Thou hast done a deed—	200
I care not for thy sword. I'll make thee known,	
Though I lost twenty lives. Help! Help, ho! Help!	
The Moor hath killed my mistress! Murder, murder!	

Enter Montano, Gratiano, and Iago.

MONTANO

What is the matter? How now, general?

EMILIA

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

205

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.

210

IAGO

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

EMILIA

But did you ever tell him she was false?

IAGO I did.

215

EMILIA

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

IAGO

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

EMILIA

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

220

ALL O heavens forfend!

EMILIA, *to Iago*

And your reports have set the murder on!

OTHELLO

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

GRATIANO 'Tis a strange truth.

225

MONTANO

O monstrous act!

EMILIA Villainy, villainy, villainy!

I think upon 't, I think! I smell 't! O villainy!

I thought so then. I'll kill myself for grief!

O villainy! Villainy!

230

IAGO

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

EMILIA

Good gentlemen, let me have leave to speak.

'Tis proper I obey him, but not now.

Perchance, Iago, I will ne'er go home.

OTHELLO

O, O, O!

Othello falls on the bed. 235

EMILIA Nay, lay thee down, and roar!

For thou hast killed the sweetest innocent

That e'er did lift up eye.

OTHELLO, *standing* O, she was foul!—

I scarce did know you, uncle. There lies your niece,

240

Whose breath indeed these hands have newly
stopped.

I know this act shows horrible and grim.

GRATIANO

Poor Desdemona, 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.

245

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.

250

EMILIA O God! O heavenly God!

IAGO

Zounds, hold your peace!

EMILIA 'Twill out, 'twill out. I peace?

260

No, I will speak as liberal as the north.

Let heaven and men and devils, let them all,
All, all, cry shame against me, yet I'll speak.

IAGO Be wise, and get you home.

He draws his sword.

EMILIA

I will not.

265

GRATIANO Fie, your sword upon a woman!

EMILIA

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

270

IAGO Villainous whore!

EMILIA

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

275

IAGO Filth, thou liest!

EMILIA

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

280

OTHELLO Are there no stones in heaven

But what serves for the thunder?—Precious villain!

The Moor runs at Iago but is disarmed.

Iago kills his wife.

GRATIANO

The woman falls! Sure he hath killed his wife.

EMILIA

Ay, ay! O, lay me by my mistress' side.

Iago exits.

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

285

MONTANO

'Tis a notorious villain. Take you this weapon

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

LODOVICO

Where is this rash and most unfortunate man?

OTHELLO

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

LODOVICO

Where is that viper? Bring the villain forth.

335

Iago is brought forward.

OTHELLO

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

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

He stabs Iago.

LODOVICO

Wrench his sword from him.

Othello is disarmed.

IAGO I bleed, sir, but not killed.

OTHELLO

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

340

For in my sense 'tis happiness to die.

LODOVICO

O thou Othello, that wert once so good,
Fall'n in the practice of a damnèd slave,

What shall be said to thee?

OTHELLO Why, anything.

345

An honorable murderer, if you will,

For naught I did in hate, but all in honor.

LODOVICO

This wretch hath part confessed his villainy.

Did you and he consent in Cassio's death?

OTHELLO Ay.

350

CASSIO

Dear general, I never gave you cause.

OTHELLO

I do believe it, and I ask your pardon.

Will you, I pray, demand that demi-devil

Why he hath thus ensnared my soul and body?

IAGO

Demand me nothing. What you know, you know.

355

From this time forth I never will speak word.

LODOVICO What? Not to pray?

GRATIANO Torments will ope your lips.

OTHELLO Well, thou dost best.

LODOVICO Sir,

360

You shall understand what hath befall'n,

Which, as I think, you know not. Here is a letter

Found in the pocket of the slain Roderigo,

And here another. *He shows papers.* The one of
them imports

365

The death of Cassio, to be undertook

By Roderigo.

OTHELLO

O villain!

CASSIO Most heathenish and most gross.

LODOVICO		
Now here's another discontented paper		370
Found in his pocket, too; and this it seems		
Roderigo meant t' have sent this damnèd villain,		
But that, belike, Iago in the interim		
Came in and satisfied him.		
OTHELLO O, thou pernicious caitiff!—		375
How came you, Cassio, by that handkerchief		
That was my wife's?		
CASSIO I found it in my chamber.		
And he himself confessed it but even now,		
That there he dropped it for a special purpose		380
Which wrought to his desire.		
OTHELLO O fool, fool, fool!		
CASSIO		
There is besides, in Roderigo's letter,		
How he upbraids Iago, that he made him		
Brave me upon the watch, whereon it came		385
That I was cast. And even but now he spake,		
After long seeming dead: Iago hurt him,		
Iago set him on.		
LODOVICO, <i>to Othello</i>		
You must forsake this room and go with us.		
Your power and your command is taken off,		390
And Cassio rules in Cyprus. For this slave,		
If there be any cunning cruelty		
That can torment him much and hold him long,		
It shall be his. You shall close prisoner rest,		
Till that the nature of your fault be known		395
To the Venetian state.—Come, bring away.		
OTHELLO		
Soft you. A word or two before you go.		
I have done the state some service, and they		
know 't.		
No more of that. I pray you in your letters,		400
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,		405
Perplexed in the extreme; of one whose hand,		
Like the base Judean, threw a pearl away		
Richer than all his tribe; of one whose subdued		
eyes,		
Albeit unused to the melting mood,		410
Drops tears as fast as the Arabian trees		
Their medicinable gum. Set you down this.		
And say besides, that in Aleppo once,		
Where a malignant and a turbanned Turk		
Beat a Venetian and traduced the state,		415
I took by th' throat the circumcisèd dog,		
And smote him, thus.		
	<i>He stabs himself.</i>	
LODOVICO O bloody period!		
GRATIANO All that is spoke is marred.		
OTHELLO, <i>to Desdemona</i>		
I kissed thee ere I killed thee. No way but this,		420

Killing myself, to die upon a kiss. *He dies.*
CASSIO
This did I fear, but thought he had no weapon,
For he was great of heart.
LODOVICO, *to Iago* O Spartan dog,
More fell than anguish, hunger, or the sea, 425
Look on the tragic loading of this bed.
This is thy work.—The object poisons sight.
Let it be hid.—Gratiano, keep the house,
And seize upon the fortunes of the Moor,
For they succeed on you. *To Cassio.* To you, lord
governor, 430
Remains the censure of this hellish villain.
The time, the place, the torture, O, enforce it.
Myself will straight aboard, and to the state
This heavy act with heavy heart relate. 435
They exit.