

OTHELLO

SCENE I-MICHAEL CASSIO'S OPENING MONOLOG

(DARKNESS. WE SEE ONLY THE LIGHT OF AN IRON. WE HEAR SOMEONE ANGRILY MUTTERING AND CURSING HIS FATE, MICHAEL CASSIO. THE LIGHTS COME UP TO REVEAL HIM IRONING IN FRONT OF A TRIANGULAR CLOTHES LINE.)

MICHAEL CASSIO

STUCK IN THE DARK BASMENT WITH AN IRON INSTEAD OF A MACHINE GUN. WHILE OUTSIDE THE TURKS SHOOT EVERYONE IN SIGHT HOW CAN YOU KEEP PEACE IN A BASEMENT. SHIT! THIS NEW COMMANDER A REAL PRIG! HE WANTS ME TO IRON EVERYTHING, EVEN THE CLOTHESPINS! IF HE FINDS ONE WRINKLE, IT'S ANOTHER WEEK IN THE BASEMENT. FOR GOD'S SAKE, THIS IS WOMAN'S WORK!

JUST CAUSE I WAS COURTMARSHALLED. I DID WHAT THE LAW SHOULD HAVE DONE. AFTER WHAT THAT BASTARD DID TO ME, TO HER, TO HIM. HE WAS THE BEST GENERAL I EVER SERVED UNDER. YEAH, HE WAS BLACK, BUT ALL IN ALL, WE SHALL NEVER SEE HIS LIKE AGAIN. OTHELLO WAS ALWAYS THE FIRST INTO THE BREECH, "SAYING FOLLOW ME MEN!" OTHELLO ALWAYS WENT BACK ACROSS THE ENEMY LINES TO BRING BACK THE CRIMSOM WOUNDED, UPON HIS BROAD SHOULDERS. BRAVERY DOESN'T HAVE A COLOR IN MY BOOK.

BUT WHAT THAT IAGO DID TO THE GENERAL. HEAVEN CRIED FOR JUSTICE. HE POISONED THE GENERAL'S NOBLE MIND WITH LIES. TURNED HIM AGAINST THE SWEETEST GIRL I EVER SAW. DES. SHE WAS BEAUTIFUL. SHE WAS PURE AND KIND AND NOW SHE'S DEAD. THE GENERAL'S DEAD TOO, ALL BECAUSE OF IAGO.

SO I KILLED THE SON OF A BITCH. MAYBE I DID RUN A HOT IRON OVER HIS CHEEKS. JUST TO GIVE HIM A PRE-TASTE OF THE FIRES IN HELL. HE SCREAMED LIKE A BABY. THE BURNS MADE HIM LOOK LIKE A CLOWN. MAYBE I DID BASH HIS BRAINS IN AFTER A WHILE TO SHUT HIM UP, BUT HE DESERVED IT.

YOU SHOOT A FOX THAT GETS INTO THE CHICKEN COOP, DON'T YOU? EVER SEE WHAT A FOX DOES TO A CHICKEN? TEARS IT APART. BLOOD AND FEATHERS ALL OVER THE PLACE, JUST DOES IT FOR FUN. THAT'S WHAT IAGO DID TO THE GENERAL'S MARRIAGE. TORE IT TO PIECES WITH RUMORS AND GOSSIP.

JUST LIKE BULLETS, WORDS CAN KILL.

DAMN YOU TO HELL, IAGO! AND I END UP HERE DOWN IN THE BASEMENT FOR PUNISHING HIM. I DESERVED A MEDAL.

(LIGHT CHANGE)

SCENE II-IT ALL STARTED IN VENICE, WHEN GENERAL OTHELLO MADE ME HIS SECOND IN COMMAND. IT WAS MY FIRST COMMISSION AND I SWORE I WOULD DO MY BEST. THEN ONE DAY I GOT A BOTTLE OF CHIANTI AND A MESSAGE

(LIGHT CHANGE. HE READS MESSAGE)

DEAR MICHAEL,

CONGRATULATIONS ON THE COMMISSION. KNOW YOU ARE THE RIGHT MAN FOR THE JOB

FROM "YOUR DEAR FRIEND, IAGO"

(HE LAUGHS CYNICALLY)

MY DEAR FRIEND IAGO!

THE DIRTY HYPOCRITE SLID OUT OF THE BARRACKS AND ONTO HIS GONDOLA BEFORE I COULD EVEN THANK HIM. I SAW HIM TALKING TO HIMSELF AS HE POLED DOWN THE GRAND CANAL. IF ONLY I HAD HEARD WHAT HE WAS SAYING...

(CHANGE TO IAGO.)

SCENE III

IAGO

MICHAEL CASSIO AND NOT ME! DISEMBOWEL ME AND PULL ME APART IN FOUR PIECES, IF I HATE NOT THE MOOR! FOR I SUSPECT HE HAS LEAPED INTO MY SEAT WITH MY OWN WIFE, EMILIA! CUT OFF MY PRIVY PARTS AND ROAST THEM BEFORE MY EYES, IF I EVER DO HIM KINDNESS!

BUT THE MOOR IN HIS BLACK PRIDE, HORRIBLY STUFFED WITH THE EPITHETS OF WAR CHOOSES ONE, MICHAEL CASSIO, WHO NEVER SET A SQUADRON IN THE FIELD NOR KNOWS MORE THAN A SPINSTER, MERE PRATTLE WITHOUT PRACTICE AND I IN GOOD TIME, MUST HIS LIEUTENANT BE.

BUT HARK, WHAT IS THIS BARK THAT APPROACHES WITH A LUTENIST ABOARD. IT SEEMS THE VERY MONTH OF MAY HAS TAKEN TO WATER. SHE IS SO EMBOWERED WITH BLOSSOMS, ROSES, PALE LILIES AND LILACS, THAT THE VERY TOWERS OF VENICE DO LEAN OVER THAT THEY MIGHT CATCH SWEET SCENT AS SHE PASSES? WHY IT IS MY GENERAL OTHELLO WITH HIS FAIR LADY DESDEMONA.

(IAGO MEETS OTHELLO AND DESDEMONA IN A FLOWERED GONDOLA COMING FROM SAN MARCO)

HAIL MY GENERAL! AND YOU DEAR LADY, THE JOY ON THY FACE DOTH MAKE THEE LOVLIER THAN THE FLOWERS THAT SURROUND THEE. WHY SINGS YOU BIRD SO SWEETLY? WHAT YOU ARE COME FROM THE CATHEDRAL OF SAN MARCO. THERE MOST FRESHLY MARRIED. I WISH YOU THEN LONG LIFE TOGETHER AND MANY HEALTHY CHILDREN.

(THE FLOWERED GONDULA PASSES. IAGO WAVES GOOD BYE TO THE NEWLYWEDS, THEN TURN TO THE PUBLIC)

MORE BROWN BASTARDS TO GROW TO INTO PICKPOCKETS AND WHORES.
OTHELLO! IN FOLLOWING HIM, I FOLLOW BUT MYSELF.

BUT I WILL WEAR MY HEART ON MY SLEEVE. I AM NOT WHAT I AM.

I SHALL STRAIGHT TO HER HOUSE AND CALL UP HER FATHER, BRAVE
BRABANTIO –ROUSE HIM, TO MAKE AFTER THEM BOTH AND SO POISON THE
MOOR'S DELIGHT. THE OLD SENATOR SHALL I TELL THAT -THE BLACK RAM
LIES UPON HIS OWN PURE WHITE SHEEP. I DO HATE THE LUSTFUL MOOR!
RIGHT AFTER THE RIALTO.

(IAGO TURNS THE GONDOLA)

SCENE IV

HERE IS THE PALAZZO OF BRABANTIO.

(IAGO DISMEBARKS AND CALLS UP)

BRABANTIO, WHAT HO! BRABANTIO! LOOK TO YOUR HOUSE AND YOUR
DAUGHTER. THEIVES! THEIVES! THIS VERY MOMENT THE MOOR AND YOUR
DAUGHTER MAKE THE BEAST WITH TWO BACKS!

BRABANTIO

GO TO YOUR LADY'S CHAMBER AND FETCH ME DESDEMONA! HER ROOM
HOLDS NAUGHT BUT EMPTINESS! AND HER BIRD TOO, NOT LEFT A FEATHER!
IT IS TOO TRUE AND EVIL. GONE SHE IS. O HEAVEN! HOW GOT SHE OUT? O
UNHAPPY GIRL. WITH THE MOOR SAYS'T THOU?
WHO WOULD BE A FATHER? ARE THEY MARRIED THINK YOU? SHE DECEIVES
ME? FATHERS FROM HENCE TRUST NOT YOUR DAUGHTERS' MINDS FROM
WHAT YOU SEE THEM ACT.
OTHELLO. THOU FOUL THIEF! WHERE HAST THOU STOWED MY DAUGHTER?
DAMNED AS THOU ART THOU HAST ENCHANTED HER AND BOUND HER IN
STRONG BONDS OF MAGIC. I'LL GET ME TO THE SENATE

(FANFARE)

OTHELLO

MOST POTENT, GRAVE AND REVEREND SENATORS
MY VERY NOBLE AND APPROV'D MASTERS
THAT I HAVE TAKEN AWAY BRABANTIO'S FAIR DAUGHTER IS TRUE: TRUE I
HAVE MARRIED HER
THAT IS THE VERY HEAD AND FRONT OF MY OFFENDING, NO MORE
RUDE AM I OF SPEECH AND LITTLE BLESSED WITH THE SOFT PHRASE OF
PEACE.
YOU WELL LOVED ME ONCE, BRABANTIO; OFT INVITED ME TO YOUR HOUSE;

STILL QUESTIONED ME THE STORY OF MY LIFE,
FROM YEAR TO YEAR, -THE BATTLES, THE SIEGES, FORTUNES I PASS'D
I RAN IT THROUGH, EVEN FROM MY BOYISH DAYS
WHEREIN I SPAKE OF MOST DISASTROUS CHANCES
OF MOVING ACCIDENTS OF FLOOD AND FIELD;
OF HAIRBREADTH ESCAPES I'THE IMMINENT DEADLY BREECH;
OF BEING TAKEN BY THE INSOLENT FOE,
AND SOLD TO SLAVERY; OF MY REDEMPTION THENCE
AND OF STRANGE THINGS SEEN IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES
YOUR DAUGHTER HEARD MY STORIES WITH A GREEDY EAR.
FOR MY PAINS SHE GAVE ME A WORLD OF SIGHS

SHE LOVED ME FOR THE DANGERS I HAD PASSED
AND I DID LOVE HER THAT SHE DID PITY THEM.
THIS IS THE ONLY WITCHCRAFT I HAVED US'D
HERE COMES THE LADY; LET HER WITNESS IT

(CHANGE TO DESDEMONA WITH BIRD ON HER FINGER)

DESDEMONA

MY NOBLE FATHER, I DO PERCEIVE HERE A DIVIDED DUTY:
TO YOU I AM BOUND FOR LIFE AND EDUCATION;
LIFE AND EDUCATION BOTH DO LEARN ME HOW TO REPECT YOU
YOU ARE LORD OF ALL MY DUTY. I AM HITHERTO YOUR DAUGHTER

(SHE BOWS TO HER FATHER)

BUT HERE'S MY HUSBAND, OTHELLO.

(SHE BOWS TO OTHELLO AND RISES AS BRABANTIO)

BRABANTIO

COME HITHER, MOOR:
I GIVE THEE THAT WHICH THOU ALREADY HAST STOLEN. A JEWEL THAT
WITH ALL MY HEART I WOULD KEEP FROM THEE.

LOOK TO HER MOOR, IF THOU HAST EYES TO SEE
SHE HAS DECEIVED HER FATHER, AND MAY THEE

TELEGRAPHINIST

(HE USES A CLOTHES PIN AS A TELEGRAPH)

AN OTTOMITE FLEET WITH 140 MEN OF WAR BEARING DOWN ON CYPRUS.
GENERAL OTHELLO IS COMANDED TO PREPARE ITS DEFENSES.
OF THE ISLAND. HE IS ORDERED TO SAIL WITH THE MORNING TIDE.

OTHELLO

COME DESDEMONA, I HAVE BUT ONE ALL TOO SHORT A NIGHT OF LOVE TO SPEND WITH THEE. THEN WORDLY MATTERS WILL WAKE US. WE MUST OBEY THE TIME.

(OTHELLO LEAVES WITH DESDEMONA. CHANGE TO IAGO)

IAGO

IT CANNOT BE THAT DESDEMONA SHOULD LONG CONTINUE HER LOVE TO THE MOOR, NOR HE TO HER. IT WAS OF SUCH VIOLENT COMMENCEMENT. HOT FLAMES NEED MUST COOL DOWN. INCONSTANCY THY NAME IS WOMAN. THESE MOORS ARE CHANGEABLE IN THEIR WILLS. WHEN THE WANTON HAS SUCKED THE OLD MOOR DRY OF PLEASURE, THEN WILL SHE SEE THE ERROR OF HER CHOICE. SHE WILL SOON SEEK A MORE POTENT YOUNG LORDLING...LIKE MICHAEL CASSIO. INDEED CASSIO IS FILLS HIS CODPIECE MOST BOUNTEOUSLY, A PROPER MAN. LET ME SEE NOW. HOW CAN I GET CASSIO'S POST AND BETRAY THE MOOR. AH! I CAN KILL TWO FLIES WITH ONE BLOW. I SHALL TELL THE MOOR THAT CASSIO IS TOO FAMILIAR WITH HIS NEW WIFE. CASSIO HATH A SHAPELY LEG TO MAKE ANY LADY FALSE.

THE MOOR IS OF FREE AND OPEN NATURE, THAT THINKS MEN HONEST BUT SEEM TO BE SO AND WILL AS TENDERLY BE LED BY THE NOSE AS ASSES ARE. I HAVE OFTEN SAID AND SAY AGAIN: I HATE THE MOOR. MY HATE FOR HIM IS LIKE IVY CLINGING TIGHT AROUND MY HEART.

I HAVE'T- IT IS ENGENDERED- HELL AND NIGHT
MUST BRING THIS MONSTROUS BIRTH TO LIGHT!
EMILIA PACK OUR THINGS! WE'RE OFF TO CYPRUS!

SCENE V

(NAVAL BATTLE- VENETIANS AGAINST THE TURKS)

SCENE VI

DESDEMONA

WHAT DID YOU DISCERN AT SEA, GENTLE EMILIA?

EMILIA

(EMILIA DESCRIBES THE BATTLE)

THE GREAT OTTOMITE FLEEET AS FAR AS EYE CAN SEE DID SAIL THE MIDDLE SEA LIKE A GREAT CRESCENT MOON OR LIKE A SHARP SCYTHE TO CUT DOWN THE PROUD MASTS OF OUR CHRISTIAN SHIPS LIKE CORN.
BUT BRAVE OTHELLO'S FLEET DOTH CUT THROUGH THE OTTOMITE LINES WITH FIRE AND DESTRUCTION. THE VENETIANS RAM AND BOARD THE ENEMY SHIPS. MANY SINK UNDER THE FOAMING WATER. THE OTTOMITES FLEE FOR THEIR VERY LIVES, LIKE WILD DUCKS FROM A WATER SPANIEL.

(SOUND OF THUNDER)

BEHOLD OUR WARS ARE DONE! A DESPERATE TEMPEST HATH SO BANGED THEIR FLEET THEY NEVER CAN AGAIN ATTACK. IF THE OTTOMITE FLEET BE NOT ENSHELTERED OR EMBAYED, THEY ARE DROWNED.

BUT HERE COMES CASSIO. HE WILL TELL US OF YOUR VALIANT HUSBAND. SIR, HAVE YOU NEWS OF THE GENERAL?

(ENTER MICHAEL CASSIO)

CASSIO

O, LET THE HEAVENS GIVE OTHELLO DEFENSE AGAINST THE ELEMENTS FOR I HAVE LOST HIM ON A DANGEROUS SEA.

BUT THE TOWN IS EMPTY; ON THE BROW OF THE SEA STAND RANKS OF PEOPLE, AND THEY CRY, "A SAIL!" IT NEEDS MUST BE OUR GENERAL.

BUT BEHOLD, THE RICHEST JEWEL ERE CARRIED IN A VENETIAN SHIP IS NOW ON SHORE. FAIR DESDEMONA. YOU MEN OF CYPRUS LET HER HAVE YOUR KNEES. AND THE GRACE OF HEAVEN, BEFORE, BEHIND AND ON EVERY HAND, ENCIRCLE THEE.

(HE KISSES HIS OWN HAND WITH A BIG WEDDING RING, THEN JOINS HIS OTHER HAND TO IT)

BUT LOOK WHERE COMES THE HONEST IAGO.

(IAGO ENTERS)

IAGO

LIEUTENANT.

(IAGO SALUTES CASSIO)

LADY DESDEMONA.

(IAGO BOWS TO DESDEMONA)

KISS YOUR HUSBAND, EMILIA.

(HE QUICKLY KISSES EMILIA)

WHAT HAS THE CAT GOT YOUR TONGUE? MARRY BEFORE YOUR LADYSHIP, I GRANT SHE PUTS HER TONGUE A LITTLE IN HER HEART AND SCOLDS WITH MERE THINKING. SHE IS SILENT AS A PICTURE IN PUBLIC, NOISY IN THE PARLOR, AND A WILDCAT IN THE KITCHEN. I SPEAK NO SLANDER. IT IS TRUE OR ELSE I AM AN OTTOMITE. FOR I AM NOTHING IF NOT CRITICAL.

(FANFARE)

THE MOOR! I KNOW HIS TRUMPET.

(OTHELLO ARRIVES, VICTORIOUS)

OTHELLO

(HE LOOKS TO DESDEMONA)

IT GIVES ME WONDER GREAT AS MY CONTENT
TO SEE YOU HERE BEFORE ME. O, MY SOUL'S JOY! SWEET DESDEMONA.
IF AFTER EVERY TEMPEST COME SUCH CALMS, MAY THE WINDS BLOW TILL
THEY HAVE WAKENED DEATH.
I CANNOT SPEAK ENOUGH OF THIS CONTENT;
IT STOPS ME HERE; IT IS TOO MUCH OF JOY.

(HE KISSES DESDEMONA)

AND THIS AND THIS THE GREATEST DISCORDS BE
THAT ERE OUR HEARTS SHALL MAKE
COME, DESDEMONA, ONCE MORE WELL MET IN CYPRUS. COME EMILIA, TEND
TO THY LADY AND MICHAEL, I WOULD IN PRIVATE CONFER WITH THEE.

(THEY ALL EXIT LEAVING IAGO ALONE)

IAGO

THEY ARE NOW WELL TUNED, BUT I SHALL TIGHTEN THE STRINGS AND MAKE
A SHRILL DISHARMONY.

THAT CASSIO LOVES HER, I DO WELL BELIEVE IT. MICHAEL CASSIO IS A
DEVILISH KNAVE! BESIDES, THE KNAVE IS HANDSOME AND YOUNG AND THE
WOMAN HATH FOUND HIM ALREADY.

THAT SHE LOVE HIM IS APT AND OF GREAT CREDIT. HER EYE MUST BE FED.
AND WHAT DELIGHT SHALL SHE HAVE TO LOOK UPON A DEVIL? WHEN HER
BLOOD IS MADE DULL WITH AMOROUS SPORT, THERE MUST SHE FIND
SOMETHING NEW TO ENFLAME IT. LOVELINESS, SYMPATHY IN YEARS,
MANNERS AND BEAUTIES, ALL WHICH THE MOOR IS DEFECTIVE IN.

HE, HOWBEIT THAT I ENDURE HIM NOT, IS OF A CONSTANT AND LOVING
NATURE. HE'LL PROVE TO DESDEMONA A MOST DEAR HUSBAND... FOR A
WHILE.

I SHALL PUT THE MOOR IN A JEALOUSY SO STRONG, THAT JUDGEMENT
CANNOT CURE IT. MAKE THE MOOR THANK ME, LOVE ME, AND REWARD ME
FOR MAKING HIM EGREGIOUSLY AN ASS.

AND PRACTISING UPON HIS PEACE AND QUIET, EVEN TO MADNESS.

'TIS THERE, BUT YET CONFUSED
KNAVERY'S FACE IS NEVER SEEN TILL USED.

EMILIA, SET OUT MY BEST DOUBLET. FOR I SHALL DRINK TO MOOR'S GREAT
VICTORY TONIGHT

SCENE VII

(SOUNDS OF A PARTY)

OTHELLO

DEAR FRIENDS, OUR WARS ARE DONE; THE OTTOMITES DROWNED. HEAVEN BLESS THE ISLE OF CYPRUS!

(OTHELLO DANCES WITH DESDEMONA. "WHAT I SAY")

MICHAEL, GOOD NIGHT. TOMORROW AT YOUR EARLIEST LET ME HAVE SPEECH WITH YOU.

(TO DESDEMONA)

COME MY DEAR LOVE,
THE PURCHASE MADE, THE FRUITS ENSUE
THAT PROFIT'S YET TO COME 'TWEEN ME AND YOU
GOOD NIGHT.

IAGO

HEAVEN BLESS OUR NOBLE OUR NOBLE GENERAL OTHELLO!

(THEY RETIRE)

DRUNK LAST NIGHT, DRUNK THE NIGHT BEFORE.
I'M GONNA GET DRUNK TONIGHT LIKE I NEVER GOT DRUNK BEFORE
FOR WHEN I'M DRUNK, I'M AS HAPPY AS CAN BE
FOR THEN I 'M A MEMBER OF THE HEINEKIN FAMILY
THERE'S THE POTSDAM DUTCH, THE ROTTERDAM DUTCH, THE VOLLENDAM
DUTCH AND THE GOD DAM DUTCH!
FOR WHEN I'M DRUNK I'M AS HAPPY AS CAN BE, FOR THEN I'M A MEMBER OF
THE HEINKEN FAMILY!

T'IS A MOST EXCELLENT SONG. I LEARNED IT IN ENGLAND WHERE MORE
BEER FLOWS DOWN THEIR GULLETS THAN THAMES WATER FLOWS INTO THE
SEA.

YOUR DANE, YOUR GERMAN, YOUR SWAG BELLIED HOLLANDER ARE NOTHING
NEXT TO THE ENGLISH. AN ENGLISHMAN WILL DRINK WITH FACILITY YOUR
DANE DEAD; HE DRINKS YOUR GERMAN UNDER TISCH AND TABLE AND MAKE
THE HOLLANDER VOMIT BEFORE HE CAN ASK FOR THE NEXT PINT. TO THE
HEALTH OF OUR GENERAL AND HIS NEW WIFE!

*(MICHAEL CASSIO DRINKS TO BLUE RAY CHARLES MUSIC & PASSES OUT ENTER
OTHELLO.)*

OTHELLO

ARE WE NO BETTER THAN THE SWAGBELLIED BATVAIANS?

IAGO

MEN ARE MEN; THE BEST SOMETIMES FORGET.
I HAD RATHER HAD MY TONGUE CUT OUT
THAN IT SHOULD SPEAK OFFENCE TO MICHAEL CASSIO

OTHELLO

I KNOW IAGO, THY HONESTY AND LOVE DOTH MINCE THIS MATTER,
MAKING IT LIGHT TO CASSIO. MICHAEL, I LOVE THEE, BUT NEVERMORE BE
OFFICER OF MINE.

CASSIO

I AM HURT PAST ALL SURGERY.
REPUTATION, REPUTATION, REPUTATION! I HAVE LOST MY REPUTATION! I
HAVE LOST THAT IMMORTAL PART OF MYSELF AND WHAT REMAINS IS
BESTIAL. I WOULD RATHER BE DISPISED THAN DISPLEASE SO GOOD
COMMANDER WITH DRUNKENESS. O THOU INVISIBLE SPIRIT OF WINE, IF
THOU HAST NO NAME, LET US CALL THE DEVIL.

IAGO

OUR GENERAL'S WIFE IS NOW GENERAL. CONFESS YOURSELF FREELY TO HER,
HUMBLY ASK HER HELP TO PUT YOU IN YOUR PLACE AGAIN. SHE IS SO FREE,
SO KIND, APT, SO BLESSED IN DISPOSITION, THAT SHE HOLDS IT A VICE IN
HER GOODNESS NOT TO DO MORE THAN REQUESTED. THIS GREAT WOODEN
WEDGE BETWEEN AND HER HUSBAND, BEG HER TO SPLINTER WITH HER
LOVE; AND MY FORTUNES AGAINST ANY LAY WORTH NAMING, THIS CRACK OF
YOUR LOVE SHALL GROW STRONGER THAN IT WAS BEFORE

(CASSIO GOES)

GOOD NIGHT, LIEUTENANT

AND WHAT IS HE THEN THAT SAYS I AM A VILLIAN, WHEN THIS ADVICE IS
FREE I GIVE AND HONEST.

WHILE THIS FECKLESS FOOL,
PLIES DESDEMONA TO REPAIR HIS FORTUNES
AND SHE FOR HIM PLEADS STRONGLY TO THE MOOR
I'LL POUR THIS PESTILENCE INTO HIS EAR:
YOU THAT SHE PLEADS FOR CASSIO, BUT TO FEED 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 CATCH THEM ALL.

SCENE VIII

CASSIO

SO THE NEXT DAY I WENT TO THE GENERAL'S HOUSE AND ASKED FOR EMILIA,
DESDEMONA'S SERVING LADY. SHE TOLD ME ALL WILL BE WELL. THE
GENERAL AND HIS WIFE WERE TALKING ABOUT THE CASE AT THIS VERY
MOMENT. SHE WENT TO FETCH HER FOR ME.

(ENTER DESDEMONA)

DESDEMONA

BE ASSURED GOOD CASSIO I WILL DO ALL IN MY ABILITIES IN THY BEHALF. EMILIA TELLS ME THIS GRIEVES HER HUSBAND, THE HONEST IAGO, AS IF THE CASE WERE HIS. DO NOT DOUBT, CASSIO, BUT I WILL HAVE MY LORD AND YOU AGAIN AS FRIENDLY AS YOU WERE. HERE COMES MY OTHELLO WITH HIS DEAR FRIEND. MY LORD SHALL NEVER REST. I'LL TAME HIS TEMPER AND TALK HIM OUT OF PATIENCE; I'LL INTERMINGLE YOUR CASE IN EVERY THING HE DOES. THEREFORE BE MERRY, CASSIO, FOR THEY SOLLICITOR SHALL RATHER DIE THAN GIVE THY CAUSE AWAY. RUN NOT AWAY LIKE A FRIGHTENED HARE. MY LORD IS NO BLACK WOLF. WELL, AS YOU LIKE

CASSIO

I COULDN'T BEAR TO SEE THE GENERAL. HE WOULD HAVE CALLED ME A DRUNKEN FOOL, NOT WORTHY TO LEAD A BATTALION SWAGBELLIED HOLLANDERS INTO AN ALEHOUSE. EMILLIA WHO STANDING BY TOLD ME WHAT OTHELLO, IAGO AND HER MISTRESS SAID.

IAGO SEEING ME GO SWIFTLY TOLD HIS MASTER, HE LIKED IT NOT. OTHELLO ASKED HIM WAS IT INDEED MICHAEL CASSIO WHO HAD BEEN TALKING TO HIS WIFE. IAGO, THE SNAKE REPLIED THAT HE COULD NOT THINK CASSIO WOULD SNEAK AWAY SO GUILTY LIKE. GUILTY OF WHAT! GUILTY OF TRYING TO GET BACK MY GOOD NAME!

DESDEMONA

HOW NOW, MY LORD?

I HAVE BEEN TALKING WITH A SUITOR HERE

A MAN THAT LANGUISHES IN YOUR DISPLEASURE.

WHY, YOUR LIEUTENANT, CASSIO. GOOD MY LORD

IF I HAVE GRACE OF POWER TO MOVE YOU

FORGIVE THE POOR MAN FOR IF HE NOT BE ONE WHO LOVES YOU I HAVE NO JUDGEMENT IN AN HONEST FACE. WHAT, SOME OTHER TIME?

SHALL IT BE SHORTLY? NOT SHORTLY, THEN FOR SUPPER? NOT SUPPER, BUT TONIGHT? NOT TONIGHT, BUT TOMORROW? WHY THEN, TOMORROW NIGHT, OR TUESDAY MORN OR NOON OR NIGHT OR ON WEDNESDAY. I PRITHEE NAME THE TIME, BUT LET IT NOT EXCEED THREE DAYS IN FAITH. HE IS PENITENT. O, THANKS.

(SHE KISSES HIS HAND)

LET HIM COME WHEN HE WILL. YOU CAN DENY ME NOTHING. I THANK MY GOOD LORD. WHY TIS NOT A GREAT FAVOR.

'TIS AS I SHOULD ASK YOU TO WEAR YOUR GLOVES IN WINTER OR FEED ON LESS PASTA IN THE SUMMER. WHEN I HAVE A REQUEST WHEREIN I MEAN TO TOUCH YOUR LOVE INDEED, IT SHALL BE FULL OF DIFFICULT WEIGHT AND FEARFUL TO BE GRANTED

SCENE IX

CASSIO

BUT ALTHOUGH HE CALLED HER AN EXCELLENT WRETCH AND CLAIMED HE LOVED HER, OTHELLO NEVER GRANTED HER LAST DIFFICULT REQUEST, BUT I AM GETTING AHEAD OF MYSELF. I HEARD FROM A BLIND VETERAN STANDING NEAR THAT IAGO SAID,

"I LIKE NOT THAT " THEN THE GENERAL ASKED HIM WHAT EXACTLY HE DIDN'T LIKE.

"TIS NOTHING" THEN IAGO INNOCENTLY ASKED,"DIDN'T CASSIO HELP YOU WOO THE FAIR DESDEMONA?"

"INDEED, FROM FIRST TO LAST," REPLIED OTHELLO. "WHY DO YOU ASK?"

AGAIN PLAYING THE HONEST MAN, IAGO ANSWERED, "JUST WONDERING" OTHELLO COMMANDED IAGO TO SPEAK WHAT HE KNEW AND GIVE WORDS TO HIS DARKEST THOUGHTS. HE REPLIED-

"AND WHAT IF SOME THOUGHTS VERY VILE SHOULD HAVE INTRUDED INTO MY BREAST, AS WHERE IS THE PALACE INTO WHICH FOUL THINGS DO NOT ENTER," REPLIED THE FALSE KNAVE

SO IAGO HAD PUT THE GENERAL ON A RACK OF SUSPICION MORE HORRIBLE THAN ANY CRUEL TORTURE OF THE VENETIAN INQUISITION. THE GENERAL TRIED NOT TO DOUBT HIS WIFE, BUT THE SEEDS OF JEALOUSY HAD BEEN PLANTED, SEEDS THAT TAKE ROOT TOO QUICKLY IN SOME HEARTS. HE CLEVERLY WARNED THE GENERAL AGAINST THE VERY JEALOUSY HE WAS CREATING BY SAYING, 'O, BEWARE MY LORD OF JEALOUSY! IT IS A GREEN EYED MONSTER THAT MOCKS THE MEAT IT FEEDS ON.'" THE GENERAL TRIED TO TRUST HIS WIFE, BUT THE DAMGE HAD BEEN DONE.

"I KNOW THAT MY WIFE IS FAIR, LOVES COMPANY AND FEASTING, IS FREE OF SPEECH, SINGS, PLAYS, AND DANCES WELL: BUT WHERE VIRTUE IS, THESE QUALITIES ARE VIRTUOUS. IF SHE BE FALSE, O, THEN HEAVEN MOCKS ITSELF! I'LL NOT BELIEVE IT. I MUST HAVE PROOF BEFORE I THINK HER DISHONEST." HEN IAGO TIGHTENED HIS RACK ONE MORE EVIL KNOTCH BY INSINUATING THAT DESDEMONA HAD DECIEVED HER OWN FATHER BY MARRYING OTHELLO, MIGHT SHE NOT THEN DECIEVE HER HUSBAND.

(ENTER DESDEMONA)

DESDEMONA

HOW NOW, MY DEAR OTHELLO! YOUR DINNER DOES AWAIT YOU. YOU HOLD YOUR FOREHEAD AS IF YOU HAVE A HEADACHE. HERE LET ME WIPE YOUR TROUBLED BROW.

(SHE WIPES HIS BROW WITH HER HANDKERCHIEF)

I AM VERY SORRY YOU ARE NOT WELL.

(SHE DROPS THE HANDKERCHIEF)

COME, MY GOOD LORD, YOUR GUESTS AWAIT

(OTHELLO AND DESDEMONA EXIT. EMILIA PICKS UP THE HANDKERCHIEF)

SCENE XI

EMILIA

I AM GLAD I HAVE FOUND THIS HANDKERCHIEF.
THIS WAS HER FIRST REMEMBRANCE FROM THE MOOR
MY WAYWARD HUSBAND HATH A HUNDRED TIMES
BEGGED ME TO STEAL IT, BUT SHE SO LOVES THIS TOKEN OF HIS AFFECTION
TO KISS AND TALK TO.
I'LL GIVE IT TO IAGO
WHAT HE WILL DO WITH IT, HEAVEN KNOWS, NOT I;

(ENTER IAGO)

HUSBAND, I HAVE A THING FOR YOU. NOT **THAT** THING! THE VERY
HANDKERCHIEF THAT THE MOOR GAVE TO DESDEMONA; THAT WHICH SO
OFTEN YOU BADE ME STEAL.

(EMILIA GIVES IT TO HER HUSBAND AFTER A PLAYFUL SCUFFLE)

IAGO

GIVE IT ME, WIFE!
LEAVE ME, WIFE!
I WILL LEAVE THIS UNDER CASSIO'S PILLOW. I KNOW HE WILL FIND IT.
TRIFLES LIGHT AS AIR ARE TO THE JEALOUS CONFIRMATIONS STRONG AS
HOLY SCRIPTURE. THIS MAY DO SOMETHING.

(ENTER OTHELLO)

THE MOOR ALREADY CHANGES WITH MY POISON. LOOK WHERE HE COMES!
NOT ALL THE OPIUM IN CHINA NOR ALL THE DROWSY SYRUPS OF THE WORLD
SHALL EVER BRING HIS TROUBLED HEART TO SWEET SLEEP.

OTHELLO

BEGONE, IAGO! THOU HAST SET ME ON THE RACK. VILLAIN, BE SURE TO
PROVE MY LOVE A WHORE; GIVE ME CONCRETE PROOF OR IT HAD BEEN
BETTER TO HAVE BORN A DOG THAN ANSWER MY WAKENED ANGER.

SCENE XII

*(ENTER DESDEMONA. IN THIS SCENE DESDEMONA WILL BOW AND OTHELLO
RISE UP FROM HER BOWING)*

DESDEMONA

I HAVE SENT TO BID CASSIO COME SPEAK WITH YOU.

OTHELLO

I HAVE SALT AND SORRY RHEUM. LEND ME THE HANDKERCHIEF I GAVE THEE.

DESDEMONA

I HAVE I NOT ABOUT ME

OTHELLO

THIS IS A FAULT INDEED. THAT HANDKERCHIEF AN EGYPTIAN WOMAN GAVE MY MOTHER; THE WOMAN WAS A WITCH AND COULD READ PEOPLE'S THOUGHTS; SHE TOLD MY MOTHER, WHILE SHE KEPT IT, IT WOULD MAKE HER AMIABLE, AND MY FATHER WOULD LOVE HER; BUT IF SHE LOST IT OR GAVE IT AWAY, MY FATHER'S FANCY WOULD TURN, AND HE WOULD LOATHE HER AS MUCH AS HE HAD LOVED HER. SHE DYING GAVE IT TO ME, AND BADE ME, IF EVER I MARRIED, TO GIVE IT TO MY WIFE. I DID SO. TAKE HEED OF IT. MAKE IT A DARLING AS PRECIOUS AS YOUR EYE. IT IS A MAGIC HANDKERCHIEF; THE SILK WORMS THAT FURNISHED THE SILK WERE HOLY AND IT WAS DYED IN MUMMY OF MAIDENS HEARTS CONSERVED.

DESDEMONA

WHY DO YOU SPEAK SO STARTINGLY AND RASH, MY LORD?

OTHELLO

IS'T GONE? IS'T LOST?

DESDEMONA

I SAY IT IS NOT LOST.

OTHELLO

FETCH IT: LET ME SEE IT.

DESDEMONA

WHY SO I CAN; BUT WILL NOT NOW.
THIS IS A TRICK TO PUT ME FROM MY SUIT
PRAY YOU LET CASSIO BE RECEIVED AGAIN.

OTHELLO

FETCH ME THE HANDKERCHIEF!

DESDEMONA

COME, COME, YOU'LL NEVER MEET A MORE SUFFICIENT MAN

OTHELLO

THE HANDKERCHIEF!

DESDEMONA

A MAN THAT ALL THIS TIME
HATH FOUNDED HIS GOOD FORTUNES ON YOUR LOVE
SHARED DANGERS WITH YOU-

OTHELLO

THE HANDKERCHIEF!

(OTHELLO EXITS. EMILIA NOTICES HIS ANGRY EXIT)

DESDEMONA

SURE, THERE IS SOME WONDER IN THIS HANDKERCHIEF:
I AM MOST UNHAPPY IN THE LOSS OF IT. I HAD RATHER LOSE MY PURSE
FULL OF CRUSADOS, BUT MY NOBLE MOOR IS TRUE OF MIND, AND MADE OF
NO BASNESS AS JEALOUS CREATURES ARE.

EMILIA

IS THIS NOT JEALOUSY? ALTHOUGH YOU GAVE HIM NO CAUSE JEALOUS SOULS
WILL NOT BE ANSWERED SO
THEY ARE NOT EVER JEALOUS FOR THE CAUSE BUT JEALOUS FOR THEY ARE
JEALOUS. IT IS A MONSTER
BEGOT UPON ITSELF, BORN ON ITSELF

DESDEMONA

HEAVEN KEEP THAT MONSTER FROM OTHELLO'S MIND.

(EXIT DESDEMONA. ENTER OTHELLO)

SCENE XIII

EMILIA

I, MY LORD, WAGER SHE IS HONEST.
LAY DOWN MY SOUL AT THE STAKE. IF YOU THINK OTHER,
REMOVE YOUR THOUGHT. IT ABUSES YOUR BOSOM.
LET HEAVEN REQUITE IT WITH THE SERPENT'S CURSE!
FOR IF SHE NOT BE HONEST, CHASTE, AND TRUE
THERE'S NO MAN HAPPY. THE PUREST OF THEIR WIVES
IS FOUL AS SLANDER. I'LL SAY NO MORE.

(EXIT EMILIA, ENTER IAGO)

OTHELLO

HATH CASSIO SAID ANYTHING? WHAT? WHAT?

IAGO

LIE-

OTHELLO

WITH HER?

IAGO

WITH HER, ON HER, WHAT YOU WILL.

OTHELLO

LIE WITH HER? LIE ON HER? ZOUNDS!

IAGO

I BUNKED WITH CASSIO THE OTHER NIGHT
AND BEING TROUBLED WITH A RAGING TOOTH
I COULD NOT SLEEP
THERE ARE A KIND OF MEN SO LOOSE OF SOUL
THAT IN THEIR SLEEP THEY MUTTER THEIR AFFAIRS,
IN HIS SLEEP, I HEARD HIM SAY: SWEET DESDEMONA, LET US BE WARY, LET
US HIDE OUR LOVES: AND THEN WITH EYES SHUT HE SPRANG DOWN FROM
THE TOP BUNK AND GRABBED MY HAND
AND CRIED, 'O SWEET CREATURE, AND THEN KISSED ME HARD THEN HE
TURNED ME ON MY BELLY AND CRIED, CURSED FATE THAT EVER GAVE THEE
TO THE MOOR. THEN I PUSHED HIM OFF THE BED, BEFORE HE COULD USE ME
AS HIS MINION. I AM A MARRIED MAN!

CASSIO

AS IF I WOULD KISS THAT FOUL TOAD EVEN IN MY SLEEP. I AM NO
FRENCHMAN! HE WAS LYING OUT OF HIS CROOKED TEETH. I NEVER SLEEP
WITH THE NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS AND CERTAINLY NEVER WITH HIM.
BUT HE HAD THE GENERAL'S EAR AND I WAS IN DISGRACE.

IAGO

THEN HE WIPED HIS BEARD WITH A HANDEKERCHIEF WITH STRAWBERRIES
EMBROIDERED ON IT.

OTHELLO

MONSTROUS, MONSTROUS!

IAGO

I THOUGHT IT MUST HAVE COME FROM HIS MOTHER. WHAT? YOU GAVE
DESDEMONA ONE, YOUR VERY FIRST GIFT TO HER. HOW COULD CASSIO GET
IT? OH, NOW I SEE. IF IT WAS HERS, IT SPEAKS AGAINST HER WITH THE
OTHER PROOFS.

OTHELLO

OH, BLOOD, BLOOD, BLOOD!

I TREMBLE AT IT.

(IAGO HAS AN EPILEPTIC FIT)

IT IS NOT WORDS THAT SHAKE ME THUS

(OTHELLO FALLS QUIVERING)

IAGO

MY MEDICINE, WORK! THE CREDULOUS FOOLS ARE CAUGHT,
AND MANY WORTHY AND CHASTE DAMES EVEN THUS ALL GUILTLESS, MEET
REPROACH. CASSIO, MY LORD HAS FALLEN INTO A FIT OF EPILEPSY.

CASSIO

EPILEPSY! RUB HIM AROUND THE TEMPLES!

(HE FRANTICALLY CONSULTS AN ARMY FIRST AID BOOK)

EPIDEMICS, EPILATION, AH, HERE, EPILEPSY

EPILEPSY IS NOTHING MORE THAN A STORM INSIDE THE BRAIN. IT IS NOT
SOMEONE BEING SIEZED BY THE DEVIL, THANK GOD. THE MOST IMPORTANT
RULE IS TO STAY CALM...

(CASSIO TAKES A DEEP BREATH)

1. Prevent injury. During the seizure, you can exercise your common sense by insuring there is nothing within reach that could harm the person if she struck it.

(CASSIO REMOVES THE IRON FROM THE BOARD)

2. Pay attention to the length of the seizure

(CASSIO LOOKS AT HIS WATCH)

37 SECONDS!

- 3 Make the person as comfortable as possible

- 4 Keep onlookers away

5 Do not hold the person down. If the person having a seizure thrashes around there is no need for you to restrain them. Remember to consider your safety as well

(CASSIO PUTS A CLOTHES PIN BETWEEN OTHELLO'S TEETH)

- 6 Contrary to popular belief, a person having a seizure is incapable of swallowing their tongue so you can breathe easy in the knowledge that you do not have to stick your fingers into the mouth of someone in this condition. Do **not** put anything in the person's mouth!

CASSIO

OH, SHIT!

(CASSIO PULLS THE CLOTHES PIN OUT OF OTHELLO'S MOUTH)

- 7 Do not give the person water, pills, or food until fully alert
8 If the seizure continues for longer than five minutes, call 911

THERE ARE NO TELEPHONES ON CYPRUS!

- 9 Be sensitive and supportive, and ask others to do the same.

IAGO, SHALL WE HOLD HANDS AND TELL EACH OTHER WHAT WE LIKE ABOUT OUR GENERAL.

IAGO

I'D RATHER KISS A PIG'S ASS!

CASSIO

OH, MY GOD, AN ATTACK CAN BE FOLLOWED BY HEAVY VOMITING.

(OTHELLO VOMITS ONTO CASSIO. HE WIPES THE VOMIT OFF WITH THE STRAWBERRY HANDKERCHIEF)

MAMELUKE PUKE!

(CASSIO RUNS TO WASH HIMSELF. OTHELLO STANDS UP WITH THE HANDKERCHIEF)

OTHELLO

OH, IAGO, DO YOU SEE THE HANDKERCHIEF?

IAGO

YOUR FIRST GIFT TO DESDEMONA AND SEE HOW CASSIO PRIZES THE FOOLISH WOMAN WHO GAVE IT TO HIM BY WIPING UP WITH IT YOUR DEMI-DIGESTED DINNER.

OTHELLO

HANG HER! BUT SHE IS SO DELICATE, SHE WILL SING THE DELICATENESS OUT OF A BEAR

IAGO

SHE'S THE WORSE FOR ALL THIS

OTHELLO

BUT YET THE PITY OF IT, IAGO. O IAGO, THE PITY OF IT, IAGO!

(ENTER DESDEMONA)

DESDEMONA

ALAS, THE HEAVY DAY! WHY DO YOU SHAKE, MY LORD?

OTHELLO

WHO ART THOU?

DESDEMONA

YOUR WIFE, MY LORD, YOUR TRUE AND LOYAL WIFE

OTHELLO

HEAVEN TRULY KNOWS THAT THOU ART FALSE AS HELL

DESDEMONA

FALSE? TO WHOM, MY LORD? WITH WHOM? HOW AM I FALSE?

OTHELLO

HAD IT PLEASED HEAVEN TO TRY ME WITH AFFLICTIONS, HAD THEY RAINED ALL KIND OF SORES AND SHAMES UPON MY BARE HEAD STEEPED ME IN POVERTY UNTO THE VERY LIPS GIVEN ME UP TO CAPTIVITY AND CHAINED ALL MY HOPES I SHOULD HAVE FOUND IN SOME PLACE OF MY SOUL A DROP OF PATIENCE, BUT TO MAKE ME A FIGURE OF SCORN YET I COULD BEAR THAT TOO, WELL, VERY WELL BUT THERE WHERE I GARNERED UP MY HEART WHERE I EITHER MUST LIVE, OR BEAR NO LIFE THE FOUNTAIN FROM WHICH MY CURRENT RUNS, OR ELSE DRIES UP-TO BE DISCARDED THENCE

OR KEEP IT AS A CISTERN FOR FOUL TOADS

DESDEMONA

I HOPE MY NOBLE LORD ESTEEMS ME HONEST

OTHELLO

O, AY! AS SUMMER FLIES IN SHAMBLES.
O, THOU WEED THAT ART SO LOVELY FAIR

(OTHELLO SLAPS DESDEMONA)

DESDEMONA

I HAVE NOT DESERVED THAT.

(SHE BEGINS TO WEEP)

OTHELLO

O, DEVIL, DEVIL!
IF THAT THE EARTH COULD TEEM WITH WOMAN'S TEARS,
EACH DROP WOULD PROVE A CROCODILE.
OUT OF MY SIGHT!

DESDEMONA

I WILL NOT STAY TO OFFEND YOU

OTHELLO

GET YOU TO BED ON THE INSTANT. I WILL RETURN PRESENTLY. DISMISS
YOUR SERVANT AND WAIT MY PLEASURE.

DESDEMONA

YES, MY GOOD LORD.

(EXIT DESDEMONA)

DAMN THE LEWD MINX. O, DAMN HER! DAMN HER! NOW YOU ARE MY
LIEUTENANT. I WILL DEVISE SOME SWIFT MEANS OF DEATH FOR HER.

I WILL NOT REST TILL A WIDE REVENGE SWALLOW THEM UP; AND FIRST FOR
TOKEN OF YOUR FIDELITY I MAKE YOU MY LIEUTENANT, I EXPECT THAT
CASSIO SHALL BE PUT TO DEATH WITHIN THREE DAYS.

CASSIO

HE SET IAGO ON ME TO KILL ME IN THREE DAYS. THEN THE SLY SNAKE TOLD
THE GENERAL TO HAVE PATIENCE. HIS MIND MIGHT CHANGE ABOUT HIS NEW

WIFE, THEN OTHELLO SAID THAT LIKE THE PONTIC SEA THAT NEVER CHANGES ITS CURRENT TILL IT REACHES THE PREPONTIC AND THE HELLESPONT. EVEN SO HIS BLOODY THOUGHTS WOULD FLOW TILL THEIR DEATHLY CONCLUSION.

OTHELLO

GET ME SOME POISON, IAGO, THIS NIGHT.

IAGO

DO IT NOT WITH POISON; STRANGLE HER INHER BED, EVEN THE BED SHE HATH CONTAMINATED.

(THEY EXIT)

SCENE XIV

(DESDEMONA IS IN HER BEDROOM. FIRST SHE COMMANDS EMILIA AND THEN TALKS TO HER BIRD)

DESDEMONA

EMILIA, PRITHEE TONIGHT LAY ON MY BED MY WEDDING SHEETS, IF I SHOULD DIE BEFORE THEE, SHROUD ME IN ONE OF THOSE SHEETS. REMEMBER, AND CALL MY HUSBAND TO ME.

(TO HER BIRD)

YOU TOO MUST SLEEP, MY LITTLE ONE OR YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO WAKE ME WITH SWEET CHIRPING IN THE MORNING.
MY MOTHER HAD A MAID CALED BARBARY: SHE WAS IN LOVE; HE SHE LOVED PROVED MAD AND DID FORSAKE HER. SHE SANG AN OLD BLUES SONG IT WAS A GOLDEN OLDIE, BUT IT EXPRESSED HER FATE. THE POOR GIRL DIED SINGING IT. I CAN'T GET THAT OLD SONG OUT OF MY HEAD TONIGHT.

(SHE SINGS ALONG TO A SAD RAY CHARLES BALLAD)

LITTLE BIRD, DO YOU THINK THERE ARE WOMEN WHO ABUSE THEIR HUSBANDS?

(THE BIRD NODS YES)

WOULD YOU LEAVE YOUR NEST FOR ANOTHER FINE FEATERED BIRD?

(THE BIRD AGAIN NODS YES)

BY THIS HEAVENLY LIGHT, I NEVER COULD.
GOOD NIGHT, GOOD NIGHT. GOD ME SUCH USES SEND
NOT TO PICK BAD FROM BAD, BUT BY BAD MEND

SCENE XV

CASSIO

WHILE SWEET DESDEMONA WAS SLEEPING. I WAS ATTACKED IN THE DARK BY THAT MURDEROUS IAGO. HE STABBED IN THE SIDE. A CUT WIDE ENOUGH TO OPEN THE PATH TO HEAVEN FOR ME. I THOUGHT I WOULD BLEED TO DEATH, BUT SOME SOLDIERS FOUND ME IN A WIDENING POOL OF MY OWN BLOOD AND RUSHED ME TO A SURGEON. HE STANCHED MY WOUND AND SEWED ME UP. THAT HURT MORE THAN THE CUT ITSELF! MEANWHILE OTHELLO PLANNED HIS LAST VISIT TO HIS WIFE'S CHAMBER.

(OTHELLO SEES DESDEMONA PEACEFULLY SLEEPING)

OTHELLO

SHE MUST DIE, ELSE SHE BETRAY MORE MEN
PUT OUT THE LIGHT AND SO PUT OUT THE LIGHT
IF I QUENCH THEE, THOU FLAMING MINISTER
I CAN AGAIN THY FORMER LIGHT RESTORE,
SHOULD I REPENT ME; BUT ONCE PUT OUT THY LIGHT
THOU CUNNIN'ST PATTERN OF EXCELLING NATURE
I KNOW NOT WHERE IS THAT PROMETHEAN HEAT
THAT CAN THY LIGHT RELUME.

(HE KISSES HER)

A KISS SO SWEET I MUST KISS HER AGAIN

(THIS KISS WAKES UP DESDEMONA)

SHE WAKES

DESDEMONA

WHO'S THERE? OTHELLO?

OTHELLO

HAVE YOU PRAYED TONIGHT, DESDEMONA? I WOULD NOT KILL THY UNPREPARED SPIRIT.

DESDEMONA

TALK YOU OF KILLING? I HOPE YOU WILL NOT KILL ME. AND YET I FEAR YOU.WHY I SHOULD FEAR I KNOW NOT, SINCE GUILTINESS I KNOW NOT, BUT YET I FEEL I FEAR.

OTHELLO

THINK ON THY SINS.

DESDEMONA

KILL ME TOMORROW; LET ME LIVE TONIGHT!

OTHELLO
BEING DONE, THERE IS NO PAUSE

DESDEMONA

BUT WHILE I SAY ONE PRAYER!

OTHELLO

IT IS TOO LATE.

DESDEMONA

O LORD, LORD, LORD!

(OTHELLO SMOTHERS HER. KNOCKING. ENTER EMILIA. SHE RUSHES TO THE BED)

EMILIA

HELP! HELP! SWEET DESDEMONA SPEAK AGAIN.

OTHELLO

SHE'S LIKE A LIAR GONE TO BURNING HELL
T'WAS I THAT KILLED HER.

EMILIA

THE MORE ANGEL HER, AND YOU THE BLACKER DEVIL YOU.

OTHELLO

SHE WAS FALSE AS WATER. SHE WAS A WHORE.

EMILIA

O, SHE WAS HEAVENLY TRUE!

OTHELLO

CASSIO DID TOP HER: ASK YOUR HUSBAND.

EMILIA

IF HE SAID SO, MAY HIS PERNICIOUS SOUL ROT HALF A GRAIN A DAY! HE LIES
TO THE HEART.

OTHELLO

I SAW WITH MY OWN EYES, HER HANDKERCHIEF IN CASSIO'S HAND. SHE DID
GIVE IT THIMAS A TOKEN OF HER LOVE.

EMILIA

O GOD! O HEAVENLY POWERS!

IAGO

HOLD YOUR PEACE AND GET THEE HOME!

EMILIA

O THOU DULL MOOR, THAT HANDKERCHIEF THOU SPEAKST OF
I FOUND AND DID GIVE MY HUSBAND, FOR OFTEN, WITH SOLEMN
EARNESTNESS-MORE THAN BELONGED TO SUCH A TRIFLE-HE EGED OF ME
TO STEAL IT.

IAGO

FILTH, THOU LIEST!

(IAGO STABS EMILIA)

EMILIA

MOOR SHE WAS CHASTE; SHE LOVED THEE CRUEL MOOR.
SO SPEAKING AS I THINK, I DIE.

(EMILIA DIES ON THE BED BY HER DEAD MISTRESS)

OTHELLO

NOW DEAR WIFE. THOU LOOKS SO PALE, AS OUR WEDDING SHEETS.WHEN WE
MEET ON JUDGEMENT DAY THIS LOOK OF THINE WILL HURL MY SOULD FROM
HEAVEN AND FIENDS WILL SNATCH IT. COLD, COLD, MY GIRL.

CASSIO

THAT'S WHEN I CAME IN FROM THE SURGEONS. MY GENERAL, I NEVER GAVE
YOU CAUSE TO DOUBT ME.

OTHELLO

I DO BELIEVE YOU AND ASK FOR YOUR PARDON. A LAST SERVICE FOR YOUR
OTHELLO.

CASSIO

AT YOUR SERVICE, SIR.

OTHELLO

SPEED THIS DEMI- DEMON ON HIS WAY TO HELL. DEVISE SUCH EXQUISITE
TORMENTS THAT THAT EVEN HIS CORPSE MIGHT GROAN ON REMEMBERING
HIS MOMENTS ON THE EARTH.

CASSIO

I SHALL OBEY.

OTHELLO

I HAVE DONE THE STATE SOME SERVICE. I PRAY YOU IN YOUR LETTERS
WHEN YOU SHALL THESE UNLUCKY DEEDS RELATE, CASSIO. THEN MUST YOU
SPEAK OF ONE THAT LOVED NOT WISELY, BUT TOO WELL.

CASSIO

YESSIR!

(CASSIO SALUTES. OTHELLO STABS HIMSELF. HE FALLS BY DESDEMONA)

OTHELLO

I KISSED THEE, ERE I KILLED THEE: NO WAY BUT THIS,
KILLING MYSELF, TO DIE UPON A KISS.

(OTHELLO DIES IN THEIR BED)

GEORGE ISHERWOOD FOR JORIS LEHR, MARCH 14, 2012