

Othello

3.1

Enter Cassio with Musicians

CASSIO

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

Music. Enter Clown

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

MUSICIAN How, sir, how? 5

CLOWN Are these, I pray you, wind instruments?

MUSICIAN Ay, marry are they, sir.

CLOWN O, thereby hangs a tail.

MUSICIAN Whereby hangs a tale, sir?

CLOWN Marry, sir, by many a wind instrument that I 10
know. But masters, here's money for you, and the
general so likes your music that he desires you, for
love's sake, to make no more noise with it.

MUSICIAN Well, sir, we will not.

CLOWN If you have any music that may not be heard, 15
to't again; but, as they say, to hear music the general
does not greatly care.

MUSICIAN We ha' none such, sir.

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

Exeunt Musicians

CASSIO Dost thou hear, my honest friend?

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

CASSIO Prithee, keep up thy quillets. There's a poor piece
of gold for thee. If the gentlewoman that attends the
general's wife be stirring, tell her there's one Cassio 25
entreats her a little favour of speech. Wilt thou do this?

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

CASSIO

Do, good my friend.

Exit Clown

Enter Iago

In happy time, Iago.

IAGO

You ha' not been abed, then.

CASSIO

Why, no. The day had broke 30

Before we parted. I ha' made bold, Iago,
To send in to your wife. My suit to her
Is that she will to virtuous Desdemona
Procure me some access.

IAGO

I'll send her to you presently, 35
And I'll devise a mean to draw the Moor
Out of the way, that your converse and business
May be more free.

CASSIO

I humbly thank you for't.

Exit Iago

I never knew a Florentine more kind and honest.

Enter Emilia

EMILIA

Good morrow, good lieutenant. I am sorry 40
For your displeasure, but all will sure be well.
The general and his wife are talking of it,
And she speaks for you stoutly. The Moor replies
That he you hurt is of great fame in Cyprus,
And great affinity, and that in wholesome wisdom 45
He might not but refuse you. But he protests he loves
you,
And needs no other suitor but his likings
To take the saf'st occasion by the front
To bring you in again.

CASSIO

Yet I beseech you,

If you think fit, or that it may be done, 50
Give me advantage of some brief discourse
With Desdemona alone.

EMILIA

Pray you come in.

I will bestow you where you shall have time
To speak your bosom freely.

CASSIO

I am much bound to you.

Exeunt