

Othello

4.2

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 'em.

5

OTHELLO What, did they never whisper?

EMILIA Never, my lord.

OTHELLO Nor send you out o'th' way?

EMILIA Never.

OTHELLO

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

EMILIA Never, my lord.

OTHELLO That's strange.

EMILIA

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

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

Remove your thought; it doth abuse your bosom.

15

If any wretch ha' put this in your head,

Let heaven requite it with the serpent's curse,

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

There's no man happy; the purest of their wives

Is foul as slander.

OTHELLO Bid her come hither. Go. 20

Exit Emilia

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 ha' seen her do't.

Enter Desdemona and Emilia

DESDEMONA

My lord, what is your will?

OTHELLO

Pray you, chuck, come hither. 25

DESDEMONA

What is your pleasure?

OTHELLO Let me see your eyes.

Look in my face.

DESDEMONA What horrible fancy's this?

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

Leave procreants alone, and shut the door, 30

Cough or cry `Hem' if anybody come.

Your mystery, your mystery±±nay, dispatch.

Exit Emilia

DESDEMONA

Upon my knees, what doth your speech import?

I understand a fury in your words,

But not the words.

OTHELLO Why, what art thou? 35

DESDEMONA

Your wife, my lord, your true and loyal wife.

OTHELLO Come, swear it, damn thyself,

Lest, being like one of heaven, the devils themselves

Should fear to seize thee. Therefore be double-damned:

Swear thou art honest.

DESDEMONA Heaven doth truly know it. 40

OTHELLO

Heaven truly knows that thou art false as hell.

DESDEMONA

To whom, my lord? With whom? How am I false?

OTHELLO (*weeping*)

Ah, Desdemon, away, away, away!

DESDEMONA

Alas, the heavy day! Why do you weep?

Am I the motive of these tears, my lord? 45

If haply you my father do suspect

An instrument of this your calling back,

Lay not your blame on me. If you have lost him,

I have lost him too.

OTHELLO Had it pleased God

To try me with affliction; had He rained 50

All kind of sores and shames on my bare head,

Steeped me in poverty to the very lips,

Given to captivity me and my utmost hopes,

I should have found in some place of my soul

A drop of patience. But, alas, to make me 55
The fixeÁd figure for the time of scorn
To point his slow and moving finger at±±
Yet could I bear that too, well, very well.
But there where I have garnered up my heart,
Where either I must live or bear no life, 60
The fountain from the which my current runs
Or else dries up±±to be discarded thence,
Or keep it as a cistern for foul toads
To knot and gender in! Turn thy complexion there,
Patience, thou young and rose-lipped cherubin, 65
Ay, here look grim as hell.

DESDEMONA

I hope my noble lord esteems me honest.

OTHELLO

O, ay±±as summer flies are in the shambles,
That quicken even with blowing. O thou weed,
Who art so lovely fair, and smell'st so sweet, 70
That the sense aches at thee±±would thou hadst ne'er
been born!

DESDEMONA

Alas, what ignorant sin have I committed?

OTHELLO

Was this fair paper, this most goodly book,
Made to write `whore' upon? What committed?
Committed? O thou public commoner, 75
I should make very forges of my cheeks,
That would to cinders burn up modesty,
Did I but speak thy deeds. What committed?
Heaven stops the nose at it, and the moon winks;
The bawdy wind, that kisses all it meets, 80
Is hushed within the hollow mine of earth
And will not hear't. What committed?

DESDEMONA By heaven, you do me wrong.

OTHELLO Are not you a strumpet?

DESDEMONA No, as I am a Christian. 85

If to preserve this vessel for my lord
From any other foul unlawful touch
Be not to be a strumpet, I am none.

OTHELLO

What, not a whore?

DESDEMONA No, as I shall be saved.

OTHELLO Is't possible? 90

DESDEMONA O heaven forgive us!

OTHELLO I cry you mercy then.

I took you for that cunning whore of Venice

That married with Othello. (*Calling*) You, mistress,

That have the office opposite to Saint Peter 95

And keeps the gate of hell,

Enter Emilia

you, you, ay,

you.

We ha' done our course. (*Giving money*) There's
money for your pains.

I pray you, turn the key and keep our counsel.

Exit

EMILIA

Alas, what does this gentleman conceive?

How do you, madam? How do you, my good lady? 100

DESDEMONA Faith, half asleep.

EMILIA

Good madam, what's the matter with my lord?

DESDEMONA

With who?

EMILIA Why, with my lord, madam.

DESDEMONA

Who is thy lord?

EMILIA He that is yours, sweet lady.

DESDEMONA

I ha' none. Do not talk to me, Emilia. 105

I cannot weep, nor answers have I none

But what should go by water. Prithee tonight

Lay on my bed my wedding sheets, remember.

And call thy husband hither.

EMILIA Here's a change indeed.

Exit

DESDEMONA

'Tis meet I should be used so, very meet. 110

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.

115

He might ha' chid me so, for, in good faith,

I am a child to chiding.

IAGO

What is the matter, lady?

EMILIA

Alas, Iago, my lord hath so bewhored her,

Thrown such despite and heavy terms upon her,

That true hearts cannot bear it.

120

DESDEMONA Am I that name, Iago?

IAGO What name, fair lady?

DESDEMONA

Such as she said my lord did say I was.

EMILIA

He called her whore. A beggar in his drink

Could not have laid such terms upon his callet.

125

IAGO Why did he so?

DESDEMONA

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

IAGO

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

EMILIA

Hath she forsook so many noble matches,

Her father and her country and her friends,

130

To be called whore? Would it not make one weep?

DESDEMONA

It is my wretched fortune.

IAGO

Beshrew him for't.

How comes this trick upon him?

DESDEMONA

Nay, heaven doth know.

EMILIA

I will be hanged if some eternal villain,

Some busy and insinuating rogue,

135

Some cogging, cozening slave, to get some office,

Have not devised this slander. I will be hanged else.

IAGO

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

DESDEMONA

If any such there be, heaven pardon him.

EMILIA

A halter pardon him, and hell gnaw his bones! 140
Why should he call her whore? Who keeps her
company?

What place, what time, what form, what likelihood?
The Moor's abused by some most villainous knave,
Some base, notorious knave, some scurvy fellow.
O heaven, that such companions thou'dst unfold, 145
And put in every honest hand a whip
To lash the rascals naked through the world,
Even from the east to th' west!

IAGO

Speak within door.

EMILIA

O, fie upon them. Some such squire he was
That turned your wit the seamy side without, 150
And made you to suspect me with the Moor.

IAGO

You are a fool. Go to.

DESDEMONA

O God, Iago,
What shall I do to win my lord again?
Good friend, go to him; for by this light of heaven,
I know not how I lost him.

She kneels

Here I kneel.

155

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, 160
And ever will±±though he do shake me off
To beggarly divorcement±±love him dearly,
Comfort forswear me. Unkindness may do much,
And his unkindness may defeat my life,
But never taint my love.

[She rises]

I cannot say `whore'.

165

It does abhor me now I speak the word.

To do the act that might the addition earn,
Not the world's mass of vanity could make me.

IAGO

I pray you, be content. 'Tis but his humour.
The business of the state does him offence, 170
And he does chide with you.

DESDEMONA If 'twere no other!

IAGO It is but so, I warrant.

Flourish within

Hark how these instruments summon you to supper.
The messengers of Venice stays the meat. 175
Go in, and weep not. All things shall be well.

Exeunt Desdemona and Emilia

Enter Roderigo

How now, Roderigo?

RODERIGO

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

IAGO What in the contrary?

RODERIGO Every day thou daff'st me with some device, 180
Iago, and rather, as it seems to me now, keep'st from
me all conveniency than suppliest me with the least
advantage of hope. I will indeed no longer endure it,
nor am I yet persuaded to put up in peace what already
I have foolishly suffered. 185

IAGO Will you hear me, Roderigo?

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

IAGO You charge me most unjustly.

RODERIGO With naught but truth. I have wasted myself 190
out of my means. The jewels you have had from me
to deliver Desdemona would half have corrupted a
votarist. You have told me she hath received 'em, and
returned me expectations and comforts of sudden
respect and acquaintance, but I find none. 195

IAGO Well, go to, very well.

RODERIGO `Very well', `go to'! I cannot go to, man, nor
'tis not very well. Nay, I think it is scurvy, and begin
to find myself fopped in it.

IAGO Very well. 200

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. 205

IAGO You have said now.

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

IAGO Why, now I see there's mettle in thee, and even
from this instant do build on thee a better opinion than 210
ever before. Give me thy hand, Roderigo. Thou hast
taken against me a most just exception, but yet I protest
I have dealt most directly in thy affair.

RODERIGO It hath not appeared.

IAGO I grant, indeed, it hath not appeared, and your 215
suspicion is not without wit and judgement. But,
Roderigo, if thou hast that in thee indeed which I have
greater reason to believe now than ever±±I mean
purpose, courage, and valour±±this night show it. If
thou the next night following enjoy not Desdemona, 220
take me from this world with treachery, and devise
engines for my life.

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

IAGO Sir, there is especial commission come from Venice 225
to depute Cassio in Othello's place.

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

IAGO O no, he goes into Mauritania, and takes away with
him the fair Desdemona, unless his abode be lingered 230
here by some accident, wherein none can be so
determinate as the removing of Cassio.

RODERIGO How do you mean `removing' of him?

IAGO Why, by making him incapable of Othello's place±±
knocking out his brains. 235

RODERIGO And that you would have me to do.

IAGO Ay, if you dare do yourself a profit and a right. He
sups tonight with a harlotry, and thither will I go to
him. He knows not yet of his honourable fortune. If
you will watch his going thence, which I will fashion 240
to fall out between twelve and one, you may take him

at your pleasure. I will be near, to second your attempt,
and he shall fall between us. Come, stand not amazed
at it, but go along with me. I will show you such a
necessity in his death that you shall think yourself 245
bound to put it on him. It is now high supper-time,
and the night grows to waste. About it.

RODERIGO I will hear further reason for this.

IAGO And you shall be satisfied.

Exeunt