

Othello

5.1

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.

RODERIGO (*aside*)

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! 10

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 15
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 20
May unfold me to him±±there stand I in much peril.
No, he must die. But so, I hear him coming.

Enter Cassio

RODERIGO

I know his gait, 'tis he. (*Attacking Cassio*) Villain, thou
diest.

CASSIO

That thrust had been mine enemy indeed,
But that my coat is better than thou know'st. 25
I will make proof of thine.

He stabs Roderigo, who falls

RODERIGO O, I am slain!

Iago wounds Cassio in the leg from behind. Exit Iago

CASSIO *(falling)*

I am maimed for ever. Help, ho, murder, murder!

Enter Othello [above]

OTHELLO

The voice of Cassio. Iago keeps his word.

RODERIGO O, villain that I am!

OTHELLO It is even so. 30

CASSIO O, help, ho! Light, a surgeon!

OTHELLO

'Tis he. O brave Iago, honest and just,
That hast such noble sense of thy friend's wrong±±
Thou teachest me. Minion, your dear lies dead,
And your unblest fate hies. Strumpet, I come. 35
Forth of my heart those charms, thine eyes, are blotted.
Thy bed, lust-stained, shall with lust's blood be spotted.

Exit

Enter Lodovico and Graziano

CASSIO

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

GRAZIANO

'Tis some mischance. The voice is very direful.

CASSIO O, help! 40

LODOVICO Hark.

RODERIGO O wretched villain!

LODOVICO

Two or three groan. 'Tis heavy night.
These may be counterfeits. Let's think't unsafe
To come into the cry without more help. 45

RODERIGO

Nobody come? Then shall I bleed to death.

Enter Iago with a light

LODOVICO Hark.

GRAZIANO

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

IAGO

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

LODOVICO

We do not know.

IAGO Do not you hear a cry? 50
CASSIO
 Here, here. For heaven's sake, help me.
IAGO What's the
 matter?
GRAZIANO (*to Lodovico*)
 This is Othello's ensign, as I take it.
LODOVICO
 The same indeed, a very valiant fellow.
IAGO (*to Cassio*)
 What are you here that cry so grievously?
CASSIO
 Iago±±O, I am spoiled, undone by villains. 55
 Give me some help.
IAGO
 O me, lieutenant, what villains have done this?
CASSIO
 I think that one of them is hereabout
 And cannot make away.
IAGO O treacherous villains!
 (*To Lodovico and Graziano*)
 What are you there? Come in and give some help. 60
RODERIGO O, help me there!
CASSIO That's one of 'em.
IAGO (*stabbing Roderigo*) O murderous slave! O villain!
RODERIGO
 O damned Iago! O inhuman dog!
IAGO
 Kill men i'th' dark? Where be these bloody thieves? 65
 How silent is this town! Ho, murder, murder!
 (*To Lodovico and Graziano*)
 What may you be? Are you of good or evil?
LODOVICO
 As you shall prove us, praise us.
IAGO Signor Lodovico.
LODOVICO He, sir.
IAGO
 I cry you mercy. Here's Cassio hurt by villains. 70
GRAZIANO Cassio?
IAGO How is't, brother?
CASSIO My leg is cut in two.

IAGO Marry, heaven forbid!
Light, gentlemen. I'll bind it with my shirt. 75
Enter Bianca

BIANCA
What is the matter, ho? Who is't that cried?

IAGO
Who is't that cried?

BIANCA O my dear Cassio,
My sweet Cassio, O, Cassio, Cassio!

IAGO
O notable strumpet! Cassio, may you suspect
Who they should be that have thus mangled you? 80

CASSIO No.

GRAZIANO
I am sorry to find you thus. I have been to seek you.

IAGO
Lend me a garter. So. O for a chair,
To bear him easily hence!

BIANCA
Alas, he faints. O, Cassio, Cassio, Cassio! 85

IAGO
Gentlemen all, I do suspect this trash
To be a party in this injury.
Patience a while, good Cassio. Come, come,
Lend me a light. (*Going to Roderigo*) Know we this face
or no?
Alas, my friend, and my dear countryman. 90
Roderigo? No±±yes, sure±±O heaven, Roderigo!

GRAZIANO What, of Venice?

IAGO Even he, sir. Did you know him?

GRAZIANO Know him? Ay.

IAGO
Signor Graziano, I cry your gentle pardon. 95
These bloody accidents must excuse my manners
That so neglected you.

GRAZIANO I am glad to see you.

IAGO
How do you, Cassio? O, a chair, a chair!

GRAZIANO Roderigo.

IAGO
He, he, 'tis he.

Enter attendants with a chair

O, that's well said, the chair!

100

Some good man bear him carefully from hence.

I'll fetch the general's surgeon. *(To Bianca)* For you,
mistress,

Save you your labour. He that lies slain here, Cassio,
Was my dear friend. What malice was between you?

CASSIO

None in the world, nor do I know the man. 105

IAGO *(to Bianca)*

What, look you pale? *(To attendants)* O, bear him out
o'th' air.

(To Lodovico and Graziano)

Stay you, good gentlemen.

*Exeunt attendants with Cassio in the chair
[and with Roderigo's body]*

(To Bianca) Look you pale, mistress?

(To Lodovico and Graziano)

Do you perceive the ghastness of her eye?

(To Bianca) Nay, an you stare we shall hear more
anon.

(To Lodovico and Graziano)

Behold her well; I pray you look upon her. 110

Do you see, gentlemen? Nay, guiltiness

Will speak, though tongues were out of use.

Enter Emilia

EMILIA

Alas, what is the matter? What is the matter,
husband?

IAGO

Cassio hath here been set on in the dark

By Roderigo and fellows that are scaped. 115

He's almost slain, and Roderigo dead.

EMILIA

Alas, good gentleman! Alas, good Cassio!

IAGO

This is the fruits of whoring. Prithee, Emilia,

Go know of Cassio where he supped tonight.

(To Bianca) What, do you shake at that? 120

BIANCA

He supped at my house, but I therefore shake not.

IAGO

O, did he so? I charge you go with me.

EMILIA *(to Bianca)* O, fie upon thee, strumpet!

BIANCA

I am no strumpet, but of life as honest

As you that thus abuse me.

EMILIA

As I? Fough, fie upon thee! 125

IAGO

Kind gentlemen, let's go see poor Cassio dressed.

(To Bianca) 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?

Exit Emilia

(Aside) This is the night 130

That either makes me or fordoes me quite.

Exeunt