

# Othello

## 1.2

*Enter Othello, Iago, and 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,  
Sometime, to do me service. Nine or ten times  
I had thought to've 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 honour  
That, with the little godliness I have,  
I did full hard forbear him. But I pray you, sir, 10  
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 15  
The law, with all his might to enforce it on,  
Will give him cable.

OTHELLO

Let him do his spite.  
My services which I have done the signory  
Shall out-tongue his complaints. 'Tis yet to know±±  
Which, when I know that boasting is an honour, 20  
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 unhouseÁd free condition  
Put into circumscription and confine  
For the seas' worth.

*Enter Cassio and officers, with torches*

But look, what lights come

yond?

**IAGO**

Those are the raiseÁd father and his friends.  
You were best go in.

**OTHELLO**

Not I. I must be found. 30

My parts, my title, and my perfect soul  
Shall manifest me rightly. Is it they?

**IAGO** By Janus, I think no.

**OTHELLO**

The servants of the Duke, and my lieutenant!  
The goodness of the night upon you, friends. 35  
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?

**CASSIO**

Something from Cyprus, as I may divine;  
It is a business of some heat. The galleys 40  
Have sent a dozen sequent messengers  
This very night at one another's heels,  
And many of the consuls, raised and met,  
Are at the Duke's already. You have been hotly called  
for,  
When, being not at your lodging to be found, 45  
The senate sent about three several quests  
To search you out.

**OTHELLO**

'Tis well I am found by you.  
I will but spend a word here in the house  
And go with you.

*Exit*

**CASSIO**

Ensign, what makes he here?

**IAGO**

Faith, he tonight hath boarded a land-carrack. 50  
If it prove lawful prize, he's made for ever.

**CASSIO**

I do not understand.

**IAGO**

He's married.

**CASSIO**

To who?

*Enter Brabantio, Roderigo, and officers, with lights  
and weapons*

**IAGO**

Marry, to±±

*Enter Othello*

(*To Othello*) Come, captain, will you go?

**OTHELLO**

Have with you.

**CASSIO**

Here comes another troop to seek for you. 55

**IAGO**

It is Brabantio. General, be advised.

He comes to bad intent.

**OTHELLO** Holla, stand, there!

**RODERIGO** (*to Brabantio*)

Signor, it is the Moor.

**BRABANZIO** Down with him, thief!

**IAGO** (*drawing his sword*)

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

**OTHELLO**

Keep up your bright swords, for the dew will rust 'em. 60

(*To Brabantio*) Good signor, you shall more command  
with years

Than with your weapons.

**BRABANZIO**

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

Damned as thou art, thou hast enchanted her,  
For I'll refer me to all things of sense, 65

If she in chains of magic were not bound,  
Whether a maid so tender, fair, and happy,  
So opposite to marriage that she shunned  
The wealthy curleÁd darlings of our nation,  
Would ever have, t'incur a general mock, 70  
Run from her guardage to the sooty bosom  
Of such a thing as thou±±to fear, not to delight.

Judge me the world if 'tis not gross in sense  
That thou hast practised on her with foul charms,  
Abused her delicate youth with drugs or minerals 75  
That weakens motion. I'll have't disputed on.

'Tis probable, and palpable to thinking.  
I therefore apprehend and do attach thee  
For an abuser of the world, a practiser

Of arts inhibited and out of warrant. 80  
(*To officers*) Lay hold upon him. If he do resist,  
Subdue him at his peril.

**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 85  
To answer this your charge?

**BRABANZIO** 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,  
Whose messengers are here about my side 90  
Upon some present business of the state  
To bring me to him?

**OFFICER** (*to Brabantio*) 'Tis true, most worthy signor.  
The Duke's in council, and your noble self,  
I am sure, is sent for.

**BRABANZIO** How, the Duke in council?  
In this time of the night? Bring him away. 95  
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. 100  
*Exeunt*