

Othello abbreviated

Act 2, Scene 3.2

Deviousness

Situation: Unaware that he was set-up by Iago, Cassio cries out “I have lost my reputation” and “O thou invisible spirit of wine.” Iago boldly continues his slow press forward to ruin Othello, through Cassio and others.

IAGO: Come, come good wine is a good familiar creature, if it be well used. Exclaim no more against it. I'll tell you what you shall do. Our general's wife is now the general. Confess yourself freely to her. Importune her help to put you in your place again. She is of so free, so kind, so apt, so blessed a disposition she holds it a vice in her goodness not to do more than she is requested.

CASSIO: You advise me well. In the morning I will beseech the virtuous Desdemona to undertake for me.

IAGO: You are in the right. Good night, lieutenant.

CASSIO: Good night, honest Iago.

Cassio exits.

Iago to himself, No. 3

What's he, then, that says I play the villain,
When this advice is free and honest, an
Offer to win the Moor again. The Moor's
Soul is so attached to her love that she
May make, unmake, as she likes, as she lures
Him guilelessly to a weakened state, he
Is so attached to her. My counsel lies
For Cassio's good. Whiles this true fool plies
Desdemona to repair his fortune,
And she pleads his cause to the Moor, I'll pour
Rumors in the Moor's ear what's being done;
She shall undo her credit with the Moor.
Thereby, out of her own goodness will fall
In time the net that shall enmesh them all.