

Othello abbreviated

Act 4, Scene 2

Husband to Wife

Situation: By this time Iago has taken hold of Othello's mind. A contingent from Venice arrives in Cyprus "commanding him (Othello) home, appointing Cassio in his government." A stressed-out Othello strikes his wife.

DESDEMONA: My lord, what is your will?

OTHELLO: Let me see your eyes. Look in my face.

DESDEMONA: What doth your speech import? I understand a fury in your words, but not the words.

Othello to Desdemona

**What art thou? The devils themselves should fear
To seize thee; the angels in heaven hear
Thou art false as hell. Had it pleased heaven
To test me with affliction, had it rained
Shames on my head, steeped me in poorness when
Young, denied my utmost hopes, or restrained
Me in bondage, I could have foregone love.
But alas, to make me a figure of
Scorn, my heart here given, I must allow
This fountain to flow or accept life at
Its end and be discarded thence. O thou
Weed, who art so sweet and lovely fair, that
Makes my senses ache and this soul forlorn,
So much I wish thou hadst ne'er been born.**

DESDEMONA: Alas, what ignorant sin have I committed?

OTHELLO: What committed? O thou public commoner. What committed? The moon winks; the bawdy wind that kisses all it meets is hushed within the hollow mine of earth and will not hear 't. What committed?

DESDEMONA: By heaven, you do me wrong!