

Othello abbreviated

Act 5, Scene 2

Pride

Situation: A dispirited Othello, saying “’tis happiness to die,” recognizes that he has been foolishly duped by Iago time after time. He pleads with Lodovico to let the Venetians know that he wants to be remembered for among other reasons as “one that loved not wisely.”

OTHELLO: O, thou pernicious wretch. How came you, Cassio, by that handkerchief that was my wife’s?

CASSIO: I found it in my chamber. And he himself confessed it but even now.

OTHELLO: O fool, fool, fool!

LODOVICO TO OTHELLO: You must forsake this room and go with us. Your power and your command is taken off, and Cassio rules in Cyprus.

OTHELLO: A word or two before you go. I have done the state some service, and they know ‘t.

Othello to Lodovico

In your letters I pray you speak of me
As I am when you shall these unlucky
Deeds relate. Lessen not my guilt nor set
Me down as seeking harm. But you must speak
Of one who loved most unwisely, who let
His heart love too well; of one who did seek
Peace; of one who became jealous, being
Made extremely perplexed; of one throwing
Away a pearl, bright as the brightest day
And richer still. Set down all of this an’
Say besides, that once in Syria a
Turbaned Turk badly beat a Venetian,
And by the throat I seized him who did hiss
Like a vile serpent and struck him like this.

Othello stabs himself and dies.

CASSIO: This did I fear, but thought he had no weapon, for he was great of heart.