

## Othello abbreviated

Act 3, Scene 3

### Reflection

**Situation:** When Othello complains of a headache, Desdemona places a small handkerchief on his forehead that then falls to the floor, Emilia picking it up. The handkerchief “that the Moor first gave to Desdemona” is grabbed by Iago from his wife. He tells her “do not admit to knowing about it.”

IAGO: I will in Cassio’s lodging lose this napkin and let him find it. Trifles light as air are to the jealous confirmations strong as proofs of holy writ.

Othello enters.

OTHELLO: Ha, ha, false to me?

IAGO: Why, how now, general? No more of that!

OTHELLO: Be gone!

### Othello to Iago

**Thou hast set me on the rack, Iago.  
‘Tis better to be much scorned than to know  
A little. If he be robbed, not wanting  
What is stolen, knows it not, then he’s not  
Robbed at all. I’ve had this happy feeling,  
But now farewell my tranquil mind. You’ve sought  
To discontent me. Give me ocular  
Proof, or, I swear, thou hadst been better  
Hath thou been born a dog than face my waked  
Wrath. Make me see ‘t, or prove there’s no hinge  
Of doubt, for these horrors accumulate  
Horror. Be sure of it, or you may cringe  
Frightfully, for death’s the best that will be  
If thou hast slandered her and tortured me.**

IAGO: Is ‘t possible, my lord? Is ‘t come to this? O grace! O heaven forgive me! Are you a man? Have you a soul or sense? O wretched fool. O monstrous world! To be direct and honest is not safe. I thank you for this profit, and from hence I’ll love no friend, since love breeds such offense.

OTHELLO: Nay, stay. Thou shouldst be honest.

IAGO: I should be wise; for honesty’s a fool and loses that it works for.