

Othello abbreviated

Act 3, Scene 4

Reflection

Situation: A misguided Othello replaces Cassio as his lieutenant with Iago and immediately challenges Iago, challenging him to kill Cassio. Othello quickly moves on to challenge his wife to “fetch me the handkerchief,” the “handkerchief spotted with strawberries.”

IAGO TO CASSIO: There is no other way; 'tis she must do 't. Go and importune her.

DESDEMONA: Good Cassio, what's the news with you?

CASSIO: Madam, my former suit. I do beseech you that you your virtuous means I may again exit.

DESDEMONA: Alas, thrice-gentle Cassio, my advocacy is not now in tune.

IAGO: Is my lord angry?

EMILIA: He went hence but now, and certainly in strange unquietness.

IAGO: Can he be angry? I will go meet him. There's matter in 't indeed if he be angry.

DESDEMONA: I prithee do so.

He exits.

Desdemona to Emilia and Cassio

Something, sure, either from Venice or some
Earlier undisclosed matter, has come
To him in Cyprus and muddied his clear
Spirit. It is in such situation
That men's natures let small things interfere
With their great concerns. For with them, if one
Finger aches, it often leads to a sense
Of pain in healthful body members. Whence
Do we think men gods? Curse me, Emilia,
For arraigning unkindness that he be
Falsely indicted. Heaven, let not the
Cause be a jealous whim concerning me.
Jealousy being a monster, let's find
A way to keep it from Othello's mind.

EMILIA: Lady, amen.

DESDEMONA: I will go seek him. Cassio, walk hereabout. If I do find him fit, I'll move your suit and seek to effect it to my uttermost.

CASSIO: I humbly thank your Ladyship.