

## Othello abbreviated

Act 3, Scene 3

### Ruthlessness

**Situation:** Enduring a barrage of cunning double-talk delivered by Iago, a gullible and confused Othello says “I think my wife be honest and think she is not.” A disillusioned Othello confronts Iago directly, telling him “I’ll have some proof.”

IAGO: I see you are eaten up with passion. I do repent me that I put it to you. You would be satisfied?  
OTHELLO: Would? Nay, and I will. Give me a living reason she’s disloyal.

#### Iago to Othello, No. 3

If circumstances that lead directly  
To the truth give you satisfaction, thee  
Might have ‘t. Some men are so loose with their  
Souls that affairs are muttered in their sleep.  
I stayed recently with Cassio, where,  
Troubled with a raging tooth that did keep  
Me from sleep, I heard him say, “O my sweet  
Desdemona, be wary, let us meet  
Secretly and hide our loves.” “Sweet creature,”  
He says. He even grabbed for me and cried,  
“Cursed fate that gave thee to the Moor.” Sir,  
Be patient. She may have nothing to hide.  
This may not be what at first it doth seem,  
For do note this was but Cassio’s dream.

OTHELLO: O monstrous! Monstrous!

IAGO: Nay, this was but his dream.

OTHELLO: But this denoted a foregone conclusion. I’ll tear her all to pieces.

IAGO: Nay, be wise. Tell me but this: have you not sometimes seen a handkerchief spotted with strawberries in your wife’s hand?

OTHELLO: I gave her such a one. ‘Twas my first gift.

IAGO: I know not that; but such a handkerchief did I today see Cassio wipe his beard with.