

Othello abbreviated

Act 1, Scene 3

Daughter to Father

Situation: Brabantio angrily seeks out the Moor who has eloped with his daughter. The Duke of Venice anxiously seeks the missing Moor, wanting him to lead a military force to defend Cyprus where “a Turkish fleet makes for Rhodes.” Othello is located and eloquently defends his and Desdemona’s relationship. Desdemona strongly supports her husband.

DUKE: I think this tale would win my daughter, too.

BRABANTIO: I pray you hear her speak. If she confess that she was half the wooer, destruction on my head if my bad blame light on the man.

Desdemona to Brabantio

My noble father, I am bound to you
For life and education, and they do
Teach me how to respect you. But I here
Perceive a divided duty. I’m your
Daughter, but here’s my husband. Without fear,
My mother showed you so much duty, bore
Me for you, preferring you before her
Father. So I profess, dear father, sir,
The love due the Moor, my lord. Father, I
My soul and fortunes dedicate themselves
To his honor and valiant being. Why
Must I idle and he to war, ourselves
Alone, I deprived of him, growing dim
By his dear absence? Let me go with him.

BRABANTIO: God be with you! I have done. Come hither, Moor. I here give thee that with all my heart I would keep from thee. I have done, my lord.