

Othello abbreviated

Act 4, Scene 3

Reflection

Situation: Othello tells Desdemona to get to bed and to dismiss Emilia. He exits, leaving Desdemona and Emilia alone on stage. Desdemona says to Emilia “if I do die before thee, prithee, shroud me in one of those same sheets.”

DESDEMONA: Tell me, Emilia, that there be women do abuse their husbands?

EMILIA: There be some such, no question.

DESDEMONA: Wouldst thou do such a deed for all the world?

EMILIA: The world's a huge thing. It is a great price for a small vice.

DESDEMONA: In troth, I think thou wouldst not.

EMILIA: In troth, I think I should, and undo 't when I had done it. But for the whole world? I should venture purgatory for 't.

DESDEMONA: I do not think there is any such woman.

EMILIA: Yes, a dozen; and as many in addition as would populate the world they played for.

Emilia to Desdemona

If husbands neglect their marriage and to
Others pay more attention than they do
To their wives, or have peevish jealousies,
Restraining us, then it's the husband's fault
If a wife falls. Let's say we fail to please
Them and they cut our ration or assault
Us. We may resent them, and can be more
Forgiving, yet we have aptitude for
Revenge. There's a touch of lust when men court
Us. Is it good when what we want we get?
Have we not passions and desires for sport,
And human weaknesses, as men have? Let
Them use us well. We need to let them know
The ills we do, their ills instruct us so.