

Othello abbreviated

Act 2, Scene 1

Revenge

Situation: In Cyprus, Iago begins his series of revenge steps against Othello when he sees innocent Cassio “take her by the palm,” her being Desdemona. He tells the naïve Roderigo that “Desdemona is directly in love with him.” Iago tells an accepting Roderigo that he needs to “find some occasion to anger Cassio.”

IAGO: Sir, he's rash and very sudden in anger, and perhaps may strike at you. Provoke him that he may, for even out of that will I cause these of Cyprus to riot, who will not be appeased but by the displacement of Cassio. You shall have a shorter journey to your desires by profitably removing the impediment, without the which there were no expectation of our prosperity.

RODERIGO: I will do this, if you can bring it to any opportunity.

IAGO: I warrant thee. Meet me by and by at the citadel.

Roderigo exits.

Iago to himself, No. 2

Even though he's a man I can't endure,
A loving, noble nature hath the Moor,
And I think for Desdemona he's meant
To prove a most dear husband. But partly
Fed by my revenge, nothing shall content
My soul 'til I put him to jealousy
So strong that judgment cannot cure. I will
Slander Cassio. By using my skill
I'll make Cassio look lecherous and
Use language that makes him look coarse, making
The Moor appreciate me, love me, hand
Me rewards, and during, I'll be breaking
His peace and quiet, e'en as he doth bless
Me, even as I lead him to madness.