

Shakespeare | Othello

William Shakespeare
Othello, the Moor of Venice

Herausgegeben von Lutz Walther

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DUKE OF VENICE

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10 Cyprus

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LODOVICO, Kinsman of Brabantio

Clown, Servant to Othello

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15 EMILIA, Iago's wife

BIANCA, a Courtesan

Sailor, Messenger, Herald, Officers, Gentlemen, Musicians,
and Attendants

Scene: Act I, Venice; Acts II–V, Cyprus.

1 **Dramatis Personae**: list of characters. | 2 **Moor**: Muslim from North Africa. |
4 **lieutenant** [leftənənt]: *Leutnant*. | 5 **Iago**: short for: (Sp.) Santiago. | **ancient**:
i.e. ensign [ˈɛnsən]: flag-bearer (*Fähnrich*). | 7 **duke**: *Doge* (chief of state in
Venice). | 9 **predecessor**: person who had the same job in the past. |
12 **kinsman**: relative. | 14 **Desdemona** [ˌdezdəˈməʊnə]: (Gr.): δυσδαίμων
(dusdaimon), i.e. unfortunate one. | 16 **courtesan**: *Kurtisane*. | 17 **herald**:
messenger. | 18 **attendant**: servant.

Act I

Scene 1

Venice. A Street.

Enter Iago and Roderigo.

RODERIGO. Tush, never tell me, I take it much unkindly
That thou, Iago, who hast had my purse,
As if the strings were thine, shouldst know of this.

IAGO. 'Sblood, but you will not hear me.

If ever I did dream of such a matter,

5

Abhor me.

RODERIGO.

Thou told'st me, thou didst hold him in thy hate.

IAGO. Despise me if I do not: three great ones of the city,

In personal suit to make me his lieutenant,

Oft capp'd to him, and by the faith of man,

10

I know my price, I am worth no worse a place.

But he, as loving his own pride and purposes,

Evades them, with a bombast circumstance,

Horribly stuff'd with epithets of war:

And in conclusion,

15

Nonsuits my mediators: for "Certes," says he,

1 **tush**: expression of irritation or impatience. | 4 **'Sblood**: damned (short for: God's blood). | 6 **to abhor s.o.**: to hate s.o. | 8 **to despise s.o.**: to have no respect for s.o. | 9 **suit** [su:t]: request. | 10 **oft**: often. | **to cap to s.o.**: to take off one's cap/hat politely. | 13 **to evade s.o.**: to avoid s.o. | **with a bombast circumstance**: with exaggerated behaviour. | 14 **to stuff s.th.**: to fill s.th. | **epithet**: *Fachbegriff, Ausdruck*. | 16 **to nonsuit s.o.**: to reject s.o. | **mediator**: *Fürsprecher(in)*. | **certes**: certainly.

“I have already chosen my officer,”

And what was he?

Forsooth, a great arithmetician,

One Michael Cassio, a Florentine,

20

A fellow almost damn'd in a fair wife,

That never set a squadron in the field,

Nor the division of a battle knows,

More than a spinster, unless the bookish theoric,

Wherein the toged consuls can propose

25

As masterly as he: mere prattle without practice

Is all his soldiership: but he, sir, had the election,

And I, of whom his eyes had seen the proof,

At Rhodes, at Cyprus, and on other grounds,

Christian and heathen, must be lee'd, and calm'd,

30

By debitor and creditor; this counter-caster:

He, in good time, must his lieutenant be,

And I, God bless the mark, his worship's ancient.

RODERIGO.

By heaven I rather would have been his hangman.

IAGO. But there's no remedy, 'tis the curse of service,

35

19 **forsooth**: indeed. | **arithmetician**: mathematicians were highly regarded in the military. | 20 **Florentine**: from Florence (since Venice and Florence were independent states, a Florentine was a foreigner). | 21 **damn'd in a fair wife**: based on the Italian proverb *L'hai tolta bella? Tuo danno* (>you married a beauty? that is your own fault<). | 22/23 **squadron, division**: military units. | 24 **spinster**: here (pej.): unmarried woman. | 25 **toged**: wearing a toga (i. e. not being a military expert). | **to propose**: to debate. | 26 **prattle**: chatter. | 30 **heathen** ['hi:ðn]: *heidnisch*. | **to lee s.th.:** *etwas in den Windschatten stellen*. | 31 **debitor**: person who owes money to s.o. | **creditor**: person to whom s.o. owes money. | **counter-caster**: *Rechentafelschieber, Erbsenzähler*. | 33 **God bless the mark**: God help me. | **his worship's**: *seiner Ehren*. | 34 **hangman**: *Henker*. | 35 **remedy**: help. | **curse**: *Fluch*.

Preferment goes by letter and affection,
 Not by the old gradation, where each second
 Stood heir to the first: now sir, be judge yourself,
 Whether I in any just term am affin'd
 To love the Moor.

RODERIGO. I would not follow him then. 40

IAGO. O, sir, content you.

I follow him to serve my turn upon him:
 We cannot be all masters, nor all masters
 Cannot be truly follow'd. You shall mark
 Many a duteous and knee-crooking knave, 45
 That, doting on his own obsequious bondage,
 Wears out his time much like his master's ass,
 For nought but provender, and when he's old,
 cashier'd,
 Whip me such honest knaves: others there are,
 Who, trimm'd in forms, and visages of duty, 50
 Keep yet their hearts attending on themselves,
 And throwing but shows of service on their lords,
 Do well thrive by 'em, and when they have lin'd
 their coats,

36 **preferment**: promotion. | 37 **gradation**: rank, status. | 38 **heir** [eə]: person who will inherit s.o.'s possessions. | 39 **in any term**: in any way. | **affin'd**: obliged. | 42 **to serve my turn upon him**: *es ihm heimzahlen*. | 44 **to mark s.o.**: to observe s.o. | 45 **duteous**: with a sense of duty. | **knee-crooking knave**: very modest servant. | 46 **to dote on s.o./s.th.**: to love s.o./s.th. | **obsequious bondage**: *unterwürfige Knechtschaft*. | 47 **ass**: donkey. | 48 **nought**: nothing. | **provender**: food for horses. | **to cashier s.o.**: to dismiss s.o. | 49 **to whip s.o.**: *jdn. (aus)peitschen*. | 50 **trimm'd**: trained, experienced. | **visage** ['vɪzɪdʒ]: appearance. | 51 **to attend on o.s.**: to serve o.s. | 53 **to thrive**: to do well. | **to line s.th.** (fig.): (*Innenseite eines Kleidungsstücks*) füttern, here: to provide for o.s.

Do themselves homage, those fellows have some
soul,

And such a one do I profess myself, ... for sir, 55

It is as sure as you are Roderigo,

Were I the Moor, I would not be Iago:

In following him, I follow but myself.

Heaven is my judge, not I for love and duty,

But seeming so, for my peculiar end. 60

For when my outward action does demonstrate

The native act, and figure of my heart,

In complement extern, 'tis not long after,

But I will wear my heart upon my sleeve,

For doves to peck at: I am not what I am. 65

RODERIGO.

What a full fortune does the thicklips owe,

If he can carry 't thus!

IAGO.

Call up her father,

Rouse him, make after him, poison his delight,

Proclaim him in the street, incense her kinsmen,

And though he in a fertile climate dwell, 70

Plague him with flies: though that his joy be joy,

Yet throw such changes of vexation on 't,

As it may lose some colour.

54 **to do s.o. homage** ['hɒmɪdʒ]: to show respect to s.o. | 55 **to profess s.th.:**

sich zu etwas bekennen. | 60 **peculiar end:** private purpose. | 61 **outward:**

äußerlich. | 62 **native:** here: true, natural. | 63 **complement extern:** visible

appearance. | 64 **to wear your heart upon your sleeve:** to speak your mind. |

65 **dove:** pigeon. | **to peck:** to pick. | 66 **fortune:** luck. | **to owe s.th.:** to own

s.th. | 67 **to carry s.th. thus:** here: to be successful. | 68 **to rouse s.o.:** to wake

s.o. up. | 69 **to proclaim s.o.:** here: to call s.o. a traitor. | **to incense s.o.:** to

make s.o. angry. | 70 **to dwell:** to live. | 71 **to plague s.o.:** to annoy s.o. |

72 **vexation:** annoyance.

RODERIGO. Here is her father's house, I'll call aloud.

IAGO. Do, with like timorous accent, and dire yell, 75
As when, by night and negligence, the fire
Is spied in populous cities.

RODERIGO. What ho! Brabantio, Signior Brabantio, ho!

IAGO.

Awake! what ho, Brabantio! thieves, thieves, thieves!
Look to your house, your daughter, and your bags. 80
Thieves, thieves!
(*Brabantio at a window.*)

BRABANTIO.

What is the reason of this terrible summons?
What is the matter there?

RODERIGO. Signior, is all your family within?

IAGO. Are all doors lock'd?

BRABANTIO. Why, wherefore ask you this? 85

IAGO. Zounds, sir, you are robb'd, for shame put on your
gown,
Your heart is burst, you have lost half your soul;
Even now, very now, an old black ram
Is tupping your white ewe; arise, arise,
Awake the snorting citizens with the bell, 90
Or else the devil will make a grandsire of you,
Arise I say.

BRABANTIO. What, have you lost your wits?

75 **timorous**: fearful. | **dire**: terrible. | **yell**: shout. | 76 **negligence**: carelessness. | 77 **to spy s.th.**: to discover s.th. | **populous**: populated. | 82 **summons**: call (to appear). | 86 **zounds**: damned (short for: by God's wounds). | **for shame**: *pfui*. | **gown** [gaʊn]: dress. | 88 **ram**: male sheep. | 89 **to tup s.o.**: *jdn. bespringen, decken*. | **ewe** [juː]: female sheep. | 90 **to snort**: to snore. | 91 **grandsire**: grandfather. | 92 **wits** (pl.): mind.

RODERIGO. Most reverend signior, do you know my voice?

BRABANTIO. Not I, what are you?

RODERIGO. My name is Roderigo.

BRABANTIO. The worse welcome; 95

I have charg'd thee, not to haunt about my doors;

In honest plainness thou hast heard me say

My daughter is not for thee; and now in madness,

Being full of supper, and distempering draughts,

Upon malicious bravery, dost thou come

100

To start my quiet?

RODERIGO. Sir, sir, sir, –

BRABANTIO. But thou must needs be sure

My spirit and my place have in them power,

To make this bitter to thee.

RODERIGO. Patience, good sir.

BRABANTIO.

What, tell'st thou me of robbing? this is Venice,

105

My house is not a grange.

RODERIGO. Most grave Brabantio,

In simple and pure soul I come to you.

IAGO. Zounds, sir, you are one of those that will not serve

God, if the devil bid you. Because we come to do you

service, you think we are ruffians, you'll have [110] your

daughter cover'd with a Barbary horse; you'll have your

93 **reverend**: respectable. | 96 **to charge**: here: to command. | **to haunt**: here: to hang around. | 97 **in plainness**: openly, clearly. | 99 **distempering draught**: intoxicating drink. | 100 **malicious**: evil, bad. | **bravery**: great courage. | 101 **to start s.th.:** to disturb s.th. | 102 **must needs**: must absolutely. | 106 **grange**: isolated country house. | **grave**: serious, here: respectable. | 109 **to bid s.o.:** to order, to command s.o. | 110 **ruffian**: person who likes to fight. | 111 **to cover s.o.:** *hier: jdn. bespringen, decken.* | **Barbary**: Berber...

nephews neigh to you; you'll have coursers for cousins,
and gennets for Germans.

BRABANTIO. What profane wretch art thou?

IAGO. I am one, sir, that comes to tell you, your daughter, [115]
and the Moor, are now making the beast with two backs.

BRABANTIO. Thou art a villain.

IAGO. You are a senator.

BRABANTIO.

This thou shalt answer, I know thee, Roderigo. 120

RODERIGO. Sir, I will answer anything. But I beseech you,

If't be your pleasure, and most wise consent,
(As partly I find it is) that your fair daughter,
At this odd-even and dull watch o' the night,
Transported with no worse nor better guard, 125
But with a knave of common hire, a gondolier,
To the gross clasps of a lascivious Moor:

If this be known to you, and your allowance,
We then have done you bold and saucy wrongs.
But if you know not this, my manners tell me, 130
We have your wrong rebuke. Do not believe
That from the sense of all civility,
I thus would play and trifle with your reverence.
Your daughter (if you have not given her leave,

112 **nephew**: here: grandson. | **to neigh** [ner]: sound made by horses. |

courser: a fast horse. | 113 **gennet**: a small Spanish riding horse. | **German**:
close relative. | **profane**: ungodly. | 114/118 **wretch**, **villain**: bad guy. |

117 **to make the beast with two backs** (fig.): to have sex. | 121 **to beseech**
s.o.: to beg s.o. | 122 **consent**: approval. | 124 **odd-even**: neither night nor
morning. | **watch**: guard. | 126 **hire**: *Anmietung*. | 127 **gross** [grəʊs]: rude. |

clasp: *Umarmung*. | **lascivious**: lustful. | 128 **allowance**: permission. |
129 **saucy**: *dreist*, *frech*. | 131 **rebuke**: *Tadel*. | 132 **civility**: decent behaviour. |
133 **to trifle with s.th.**: to treat s.th. without respect. | 134 **leave**: permission.

I say again), hath made a **gross** revolt, 135
 Tying her duty, beauty, wit, and fortunes,
 In an **extravagant** and **wheeling** stranger,
 Of here, and every where: straight satisfy yourself.
 If she be in her **chamber**, or your house,
 Let loose on me the justice of the state 140
 For this **delusion**.

BRABANTIO. Strike on the **tinder**, ho!
 Give me a **taper**, call up all my people:
 This accident is not unlike my dream,
 Belief of it **oppresses** me already:
 Light I say, light!
 (*Exit above.*)

IAGO. Farewell, for I must leave you: 145
 It seems not **meet**, nor **wholesome** to my place,
 To be **produc'd**, as if I stay I shall,
 Against the Moor, for I do know the state,
 However this may **gall** him with some **check**,
 Cannot with safety **cast** him, for he's **embark'd**, 150
 With such **loud** reason, to the Cyprus wars,
 Which even now **stands in act**, that, for their souls,
 Another of his **fathom** they have not
 To lead their business, in which regard,
 Though I do hate him, as I do hell's pains, 155

135 **gross**: here: disgusting. | 137 **extravagant**: wandering. | **wheeling**: restless. | 139 **chamber**: room. | 141 **delusion**: deception. | **tinder**: dry wood for lighting a fire. | 142 **taper**: candle. | 144 **to oppress s.o.**: *jdn. bedrücken, belasten*. | 146 **meet**: correct, acceptable. | **wholesome**: healthy. | 147 **to produce s.o.**: here: to call s.o. as a witness. | 149 **to gall s.o.**: to annoy s.o. | **check**: *Tadel*. | 150 **to cast s.o.**: to dismiss s.o. | **to embark**: to go on a ship. | 151 **loud**: urgent. | 152 **to stand in act**: to be in preparation. | 153 **fathom**: *Faden (nautische Maßeinheit)*, here: abilities.

RODERIGO. I have, sir.

BRABANTIO. Call up my brother: O that you had had her!

Some one way, some another; do you know

Where we may apprehend her, and the Moor?

RODERIGO. I think I can discover him, if you please 180

To get good guard, and go along with me.

BRABANTIO. Pray lead me on, at every house I'll call,

I may command at most: get weapons, ho!

And raise some special officers of night:

On, good Roderigo, I'll deserve your pains. 185

(Exeunt.)

Scene 2

Before the Sagittar.

Enter Othello, Iago, and attendants with torches.

IAGO. Though in the trade of war I have slain men,

Yet do I hold it very stuff of conscience

To do no contriv'd murder; I lack iniquity

Sometimes to do me service: nine or ten times

I had thought to have yerk'd him here, under the ribs.

OTHELLO. 'Tis better as it is.

IAGO. 6
Nay, but he prated,

And spoke such scurvy and provoking terms

179 **to apprehend s.o.:** to catch s.o. | 182 **pray:** please. | 185 **to deserve s.o.'s**

pains: to reward s.o.'s efforts. | [Regie] **exeunt** (Lat.): they leave (the stage). |

1 **slain:** pp. of to slay (to kill). | 3 **contriv'd:** intentional. | **iniquity:** badness. |

5 **to yerk s.o.:** to stab s.o. (with a knife). | 6 **nay:** no. | **to prate:** to chat. |

7 **scurvy:** insulting. | **provoking:** challenging.

Against your honour,
 That with the little **godliness** I have,
 I did full hard **forbear** him: but I pray, sir, 10
 Are you **fast** married? For be sure of this,
 That the **magnifico** is much belov'd,
 And hath in his effect a voice potential
 As **double** as the duke's; he will divorce you,
 Or put upon you what **restraint**, and **grievance**, 15
 That law (with all his **might** to **enforce** it on)
 Will give him **cable**.

OTHELLO. Let him do his **spite**;
 My services, which I have done the **signiory**,
 Shall **out-tongue** his complaints; 'tis yet to know –
 Which, when I know that **boasting** is an honour, 20
 I shall **provulgate** – I fetch my life and being
 From men of royal **siege**, and my **demerits**
 May speak **unbonneted** to as proud a fortune
 As this that I have reach'd; for know, Iago,
 But that I love the gentle Desdemona, 25
 I would not my unhoused free condition
 Put into **circumscription** and **confine**
 For the sea's worth. But look what lights come
 yonder.

9 **godliness**: fear of God. | 10 **to forbear s.o.**: to pardon s.o. | 11 **fast** (adv.): firmly. | 12 **magnifico** (It.): Venetian title. | 14 **double**: powerful. | 15 **restraint**: limitation. | **grievance**: suffering. | 16 **might**: power. | **to enforce s.th.**: *etwas durchsetzen, vollstrecken*. | 17 **cable** (fig.): here: freedom. | **spite**: aggression, wickedness. | 18 **signiory** ['si:njəri]: Senate of Venice. | 19 **to out-tongue s.o.**: to speak more loudly than s.o. | 20 **to boast**: to show off. | 21 **to provulgate s.th.**: to make s.th. known. | 22 **siege**: here: status, origin. | **demerits** (pl.): merits (*Verdienste*). | 23 **unbonneted**: openly, without fake modesty. | 27 **circumscription**: limitation. | **confine**: restriction.

IAGO. These are the raised father and his friends,
 You were best go in.

OTHELLO. Not I, I must be found: 30
 My parts, my title, and my perfect soul,
 Shall manifest me rightly: is it they?

IAGO. By Janus I think no.
(Enter Cassio, with Officers, and torches.)

OTHELLO. The servants of the duke, and my lieutenant.
 The goodness of the night upon you, friends! 35
 What is the news?

CASSIO. The duke does greet you, general,
 And he requires your haste post-haste
 appearance,
 Even on the instant.

OTHELLO. What's the matter, think you?

CASSIO. Something from Cyprus, as I may divine;
 It is a business of some heat, the galleys 40
 Have sent a dozen sequent messengers
 This very night, at one another's heels:
 And many of the consuls, rais'd and met,
 Are at the duke's already; you have been hotly
 call'd for,
 When, being not at your lodging to be found, 45
 The senate sent about three several quests
 To search you out.

31 **parts:** here: talents. | **title:** legal right. | 32 **to manifest s.th.:** to represent s.th. | 33 **Janus** ['dʒeɪnəs]: Roman God with two faces, one looking forward, one looking backward. | 37 **haste post-haste:** as quickly as possible. | 38 **on the instant:** immediately. | 39 **to divine s.th.:** to assume s.th. | 40 **heat:** urgency. | **galley** ['gæli]: *Galeere*. | 41 **sequent:** following each other. | 45 **lodging:** house, flat. | 46 **several:** separate. | **quest:** search party.

OTHELLO. 'Tis well I am found by you:
I will but spend a word here in the house,
And go with you.
(Exit.)

CASSIO. Ancient, what makes he here?

IAGO. Faith, he to-night hath boarded a land carrack: 50

If it prove lawful prize, he's made for ever.

CASSIO. I do not understand.

IAGO. He's married.

CASSIO. To who?

(Enter Othello.)

IAGO. Marry to ... Come, captain, will you go?

OTHELLO. Ha' with you.

CASSIO. Here comes another troop to seek for you.

(Enter Brabantio, Roderigo, and others with lights and weapons.)

IAGO. It is Brabantio, general, be advis'd, 55

He comes to bad intent.

OTHELLO. Holla, stand there!

RODERIGO. Signior, it is the Moor.

BRABANTIO. Down with him, thief!

(They draw on both sides.)

IAGO. You, Roderigo, come sir, I am for you.

OTHELLO.

Keep up your bright swords, for the dew will rust 'em;

Good signior, you shall more command with years 60

Than with your weapons.

50 **faith**: here: indeed. | **to board**: to go on (a ship). | **carrack** ['kærək]: treasure ship. | 51 **prize**: hier: Beute. | 53 **Marry**: by the Virgin Mary. | 54 **troop**: group of soldiers. | 55 **to advise s.o.**: to inform s.o. | 56 **to**: with. | **intent**: intention. | [Regie] **to draw**: to pull out one's sword. | 59 **dew**: Tau. | **to rust**: rosten.

BRABANTIO. O thou foul thief, where hast thou stow'd my daughter?

Damn'd as thou art, thou hast enchanted her,
For I'll refer me to all things of sense,
(If she in chains of magic were not bound) 65
Whether a maid, so tender, fair, and happy,
So opposite to marriage, that she shunn'd
The wealthy curled darlings of our nation,
Would ever have (to incur a general mock)
Run from her guardage to the sooty bosom 70
Of such a thing as thou? to fear, not to delight.
Judge me the world, if 'tis not gross in sense,
That thou hast practis'd on her with foul charms,
Abus'd her delicate youth, with drugs or minerals,
That weakens motion: I'll have 't disputed on; 75
'Tis probable, and palpable to thinking.
I therefore apprehend and do attach thee,
For an abuser of the world, a practiser
Of arts inhibited, and out of warrant;
Lay hold upon him, if he do resist, 80
Subdue him at his peril.

OTHELLO. Hold your hands,
Both you of my inclining and the rest:

62 **foul**: dirty, evil. | **to stow s.o./s.th.**: here: to hide s.o./s.th. | 63 **to enchant s.o.**: *jdn. verzaubern*. | 65 **bound**: pp. of to bind: to keep, to hold. | 67 **to shun s.o.**: to refuse s.o. | 68 **curled**: *lockig*. | 69 **to incur s.th.**: to cause, to attract s.th. | **mock**: *Spott*. | 70 **guardage**: protection. | **sooty**: *rußig*. | **bosom**: breast. | 72 **gross in sense**: self-evident. | 74 **minerals** (pl.): here: poison. | 75 **disputed on**: debated in court, investigated. | 76 **palpable**: obvious. | 77 **to attach s.o.**: to arrest s.o. | 78 **abuser**: deceiver. | 79 **inhibited**: prohibited. | **warrant**: permission. | 81 **to subdue s.th.**: to control s.th. | **peril**: risk. | 82 **of my inclining**: on my side.

Were it my cue to fight, I should have known it,
Without a prompter; where will you that I go,
And answer this your charge?

BRABANTIO. To prison, till fit time 85
Of law, and course of direct session,
Call thee to answer.

OTHELLO. What if I do obey?
How may the duke be therewith satisfied,
Whose messengers are here about my side,
Upon some present business of the state, 90
To bear me to him?

OFFICER. 'Tis true, most worthy signior,
The duke's in council, and your noble self,
I am sure is sent for.

BRABANTIO. How? the duke in council?
In this time of the night? Bring him away;
Mine's not an idle cause, the duke himself, 95
Or any of my brothers of the state,
Cannot but feel this wrong, as 'twere their own.
For if such actions may have passage free,
Bond-slaves, and pagans, shall our statesmen be.
(*Exeunt.*)

83 **cue:** *Stichwort*. | 84 **prompter:** *Souffleur*. | 85 **charge:** accusation. | 86 **course of direct session:** until the law is observed. | 91 **to bear s.o.:** to carry s.o. |
92 **council:** meeting of the city rulers. | 95 **idle:** unimportant. | **cause:** case. |
96 **brother of the state:** member of the senate. | 99 **bond-slave:** slave. |
pagan: heathen.

Scene 3

A Council Chamber.

Enter Duke and Senators, set at a table with lights and Attendants.

DUKE. There is no composition in these news,
That gives them credit.

FIRST SENATOR. Indeed they are disproportion'd;
My letters say, a hundred and seven galleys.

DUKE. And mine a hundred and forty.

SECOND SENATOR. And mine two hundred:
But though they jump not on a just account,
(As in these cases, where they aim reports,
'Tis oft with difference,) yet do they all confirm
A Turkish fleet, and bearing up to Cyprus.

DUKE. Nay, it is possible enough to judgement:
I do not so secure me to the error,
But the main articles I do approve
In fearful sense.

SAILOR (*within*). What ho! what ho! what ho!

OFFICER. A messenger from the galleys.
(*Enter Sailor.*)

DUKE. Now, the business?

SAILOR. The Turkish preparation makes for Rhodes,

1 **composition**: Zusammenhang. | 2 **credit**: Glaubwürdigkeit. | **disproportion'd**: badly balanced. | 5 **jump not on a just account**: do not say an exact number. | 6 **to aim reports**: to estimate. | 8 **fleet**: group of military ships. | **to bear up to s.th.**: to approach s.th. | 10 **to secure o.s. to s.th.**: to rely on s.th. | 11 **main articles** (pl.): the most important. | **to approve**: here: to notice.

So was I bid report here, to the state, 15
By Signior Angelo.

DUKE. How say you by this change?

FIRST SENATOR. This cannot be
By no assay of reason ... 'tis a pageant,
To keep us in false gaze: when we consider
The importancy of Cyprus to the Turk; 20
And let ourselves again but understand,
That as it more concerns the Turk than Rhodes,
So may he with more facile question bear it,
For that it stands not in such warlike brace,
But altogether lacks the abilities 25
That Rhodes is dress'd in. If we make thought of this,
We must not think the Turk is so unskilful
To leave that latest, which concerns him first,
Neglecting an attempt of ease, and gain,
To wake and wage a danger profitless. 30

DUKE. Nay, in all confidence, he's not for Rhodes.

OFFICER. Here is more news.

(Enter a Messenger.)

MESSENGER. The Ottomites, reverend and gracious,
Steering with due course, toward the isle of Rhodes,
Have there injointed with an after fleet – 35

FIRST SENATOR.

Ay, so I thought; how many, as you guess?

17 **by**: about. | 18 **assay**: test. | **pageant** ['pædʒənt]: show. | 19 **in false gaze**: in the wrong direction. | 23 **facile**: easy. | **question**: effort. |
24 **brace**: defence. | 26 **to be dressed in s.th.**: here: to be equipped with s.th. |
27 **unskilful**: without talent. | 30 **to wage s.th.**: to risk s.th. | 33 **Ottomite**:
Osmane (Türke). | **gracious**: *gnädig*. | 34 **to steer**: here: to travel. |
due: straight. | 35 **to injoin**: to unite. | 36 **ay**: yes.

MESSANGER. Of thirty sail, and now they do re-stem
Their backward course, bearing with frank appearance
Their purposes towards Cyprus: Signior Montano,
Your trusty and most valiant servitor, 40
With his free duty recommends you thus,
And prays you to believe him.

DUKE. 'Tis certain then for Cyprus;
Marcus Luccicos is not here in town?

FIRST SENATOR. He's now in Florence. 45

DUKE. Write from us to him; post-post-haste dispatch.

FIRST SENATOR.

Here comes Brabantio and the valiant Moor.
(*Enter Brabantio, Othello, Cassio, Iago, Roderigo, and Officers.*)

DUKE. Valiant Othello, we must straight employ you,
Against the general enemy Ottoman;
(*To Brabantio.*)

I did not see you; welcome, gentle signior, 50
We lack'd your counsel and your help to-night.

BRABANTIO. So did I yours: good your grace, pardon me,
Neither my place, nor ought I heard of business,
Hath rais'd me from my bed, nor doth the general care
Take any hold of me, for my particular grief 55
Is of so flood-gate and o'erbearing nature,
That it engluts and swallows other sorrows,
And it is still itself.

37 **to re-stem:** to turn around. | 40 **valiant:** brave. | **servitor:** servant. |
41 **to recommend s.o.:** here: to inform s.o. | 46 **to dispatch:** to hurry up. |
48 **straight** (adv.): immediately. | 50 **gentle:** noble. | 51 **counsel:** advice. |
52 **your grace:** *Euer Gnaden*. | 53 **ought:** something. | 56 **flood-gate:** overflow-
ing. | **o'erbearing:** overwhelming. | 57 **to englut s.th.:** to swallow s.th.

DUKE. Why, what's the matter?

BRABANTIO. My daughter, O my daughter!

ALL. Dead?

BRABANTIO. Ay, to me:

She is abus'd, stol'n from me and corrupted,
By spells and medicines, bought of mountebanks,
For nature so preposterously to err,
(Being not deficient, blind, or lame of sense,)
Sans witchcraft could not.

DUKE. Whoe'er he be, that in this foul proceeding
Hath thus beguil'd your daughter of herself,
And you of her, the bloody book of law
You shall yourself read, in the bitter letter,
After its own sense, though our proper son
Stood in your action.

BRABANTIO. Humbly I thank your grace;
Here is the man, this Moor, whom now it seems
Your special mandate, for the state-affairs,
Hath hither brought.

ALL. We are very sorry for 't.

DUKE (*to Othello*).

What in your own part can you say to this?

BRABANTIO. Nothing, but this is so.

OTHELLO. Most potent, grave, and reverend signiors,
My very noble and approv'd good masters:

60 **corrupted**: gone bad. | 61 **mountebank**: charlatan. | 62 **preposterously**:
ridiculously, terribly. | **to err**: to be mistaken. | 63 **deficient**: badly made. |
lame: weak. | 64 **sans** (Fr.): without. | **witchcraft**: *Hexerei*. | 65 **proceeding**:
Verfahren. | 66 **to beguile s.o.**: to trick s.o. | 70 **to stand in s.o.'s action**: to be
accused by s.o. | **humbly** (adv.): *demütig*. | 72 **mandate**: order, command. |
76 **potent**: powerful. | 77 **approv'd**: worthy.