



OTHELLO (Act 3 Scene 3) By William Shakespeare

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Please note: some drama schools say they don't like monologues "extracted" from dialogue scenes. We feel this scene is something of an exception, in that Othello is so bound up in his emotions that he simply doesn't listen to what Iago is saying, and his lines – if you simply take a beat to draw breath to "mark" Iago's attempted interruptions – work as a powerful "stand alone" speech.

OTHELLO

Avaunt! be gone! thou hast set me on the rack:
I swear 'tis better to be much abused
Than but to know't a little.

3

(IAGO How now, my lord!)

What sense had I of her stol'n hours of lust?
I saw't not, thought it not, it harm'd not me:
I slept the next night well, was free and merry;
I found not Cassio's kisses on her lips:
He that is robb'd, not wanting what is stol'n,
Let him not know't, and he's not robb'd at all.

9

(IAGO I am sorry to hear this.)

I had been happy, if the general camp,
Pioners and all, had tasted her sweet body,
So I had nothing known. O, now, for ever
Farewell the tranquil mind! Farewell content!
Farewell the plumed troop, and the big wars,
That make ambition virtue! O, farewell!

15

(IAGO Is't possible, my lord?)

Villain, be sure thou prove my love a whore,

Be sure of it; give me the ocular proof:
Or by the worth of man's eternal soul,
Thou hadst been better have been born a dog
Than answer my waked wrath!

20

(IAGO Is't come to this?)

Make me to see't; or, at the least, so prove it,
That the probation bear no hinge nor loop
To hang a doubt on; or woe upon thy life!

23

(IAGO My noble lord,--)

If thou dost slander her and torture me,
Never pray more; abandon all remorse;
On horror's head horrors accumulate;
Do deeds to make heaven weep, all earth amazed;
For nothing canst thou to damnation add
Greater than that.

29

*(IAGO O grace! O heaven forgive me!
Are you a man? have you a soul or sense?)*

By the world,
I think my wife be honest and think she is not;
I think that thou art just and think thou art not.
I'll have some proof. Would I were satisfied!

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