

## SCENE III.

*The hall of the duke's palace*

**First Senator**

By the look on this here Messenger's face,  
I'd say the news isn't good, your Grace.

**DUKE**

He looks like he has seen a ghost!

**Second Senator**

Come over here and tell our host.

**Messenger**

To Cyprus now do sail the Turks  
To rob the isle of all its perks.

**Third Senator**

That's just what we did not too long...

**First Senator**

*[Interrupting]* Ancient history, long and gone!

**DUKE**

How many boats? How many men?

**Second Senator**

They've got a lot.

**Third Senator**

You can say that again!

Ships alone there's one hundred and four.

**Second Messenger**

And they've stopped at Rhodes to pick up more!

**First Senator**

We need to send our bravest man.

**Third Senator**

If anyone can beat them, Othello can!

**DUKE**

Did you call the mighty Moor?

**First Messenger**

We did your grace; he's at the door.

**DUKE**

Well don't just stand there. Let him in!

*[OTHELLO, IAGO, BRABANTIO, and CASSIO enter.]*

Now there's a man who's born to win!

I guess you heard about our plight?

You must set sail this very night.

Brabantio, what are you doing here?

**Third Senator**

Have you come to volunteer?

**BRABANTIO**

Good lord, your Grace, that's quite absurd.

I've come to have an urgent word  
About my daughter..

**DUKE**

Is she dead?

**BRABANTIO**

No, no, my Lord she's gone and fled  
Into a soldier's hairy arms.  
Who must have used some magic charms  
Cos the man she's with, to make it clear,  
Is none other than Othello here!

**OTHELLO**

It is no magic trick, your Grace.  
She fell in love with my handsome face.  
I may not be the smoothest talker  
But I'm good enough for this man's daughter!

**BRABANTIO**

You brought him here for another reason,  
But stealing women here is treason!

**OTHELLO**

I stole her heart, that much is true.  
But I didn't win her over you.  
Your relationship will not go south.

**DUKE**

Let's hear it from the horse's mouth.

*[DESDEMONA enters.]*

**DESDEMONA**

I know that in Venice the law demands  
A girl to follow her father's commands.

*[Pointing at OTHELLO]* But I've loved this man from the  
very start

And have married him with my head and heart.

*[to BRABANTIO]* My mum she left her dad for you,  
And now you must let me go too!

**BRABANTIO**

It looks as though I've failed you, child,  
By being far too meek and mild

*[Aside]* A lesson here to take from me:  
Keep your daughters under lock and key!

**DUKE**

Cheer up, old man, the bird has flown.  
But with tears of grief you'll stay alone.  
Just be a little more like me  
And take your losses philosophically.

**BRABANTIO**

Like you have done with Cyprus?

**DUKE**

Oh don't be so ridiculous!  
That's a loss of a different hue.  
And the reason I sent for you *[points to OTHELLO]*  
I know this is a passion killer  
But you need to get hold of your tiller.  
Hold off your matrimonial perks  
And sail to beat those pesky Turks.

**OTHELLO**

As always, your Grace, I will do your bidding.

**DESDEMONA**

Sail off to war? You've got to be kidding!

**DUKE**

You can take her too, but please leave soon.

**DESDEMONA**

You promised me a honeymoon!

**OTHELLO**

You'll get one in Cyprus; that should be enough.

Good Iago will help you pack your stuff.

**Second Senator**

*[To BRABANTIO]* No kinder heart, no squarer jaw,  
He'll make the perfect son-in-law.

**DUKE**

We'll leave you now, I'll rest my head.

I have a busy day ahead.

Good night, brave Moor, and Dessie too.

**BRABANTIO**

*[to OTHELLO]* She lied to me and she'll lie to you!

*[Exeunt BRABANTIO, DUKE, CASSIO, and the Senators.]*

**OTHELLO**

You are the apple of my eye.

We have an hour before we fly.

So go with Iago and pack your kit.<sup>9</sup>  
And join me in a little bit!

**DESDEMONA**

Well it's better than being left on the shelf...

*[Exeunt OTHELLO and DESDEMONA]*

**RODERIGO**

I'm going, too, to kill myself.  
The girl I love is now his wife.

**IAGO**

But that's no reason to take your life.  
That fighting man will give her the blues  
So you must be prepared to jump in his shoes.  
Believe me, my friend, we'll ruin that man.

**RODERIGO**

I'm a fool to trust you but I don't have a plan.

**IAGO**

Sell everything and take the cash.  
To get that girl; we'll need a stash  
And when she's yours, we'll all be elated  
To see Othello humiliated.

**RODERIGO**

You alone shall guide my hand.  
I'll leave right now to sell my land  
And put together all the cash that I can.

---

9 British idiom for clothes.

**IAGO**

And tomorrow at my place, we'll continue the plan.

*[Exit RODERIGO]*

A fool and his money so easily parted.

That is the reason our 'friendship' got started.

That and to use him to ruin Othello.

Some say the Moor's a real charming fellow,

But he slept with my wife. Well, that is one notion.

But he certainly overlooked me for promotion.

I hate the bloke...but he likes me,

And when plotting revenge, that's the key!

I'll say his favourite, Cassio, looks

Like he's trying to get into Dessie's 'good books'.

Othello will believe me alright.

He has faith in me, which is such a delight.

With Cassio gone, I'll inherit his post,

And Othello's marriage will be as good as toast.

You are all my witnesses,

And now all my accomplices!