

ACT V

SCENE I. Cyprus. A street.

Enter IAGO and RODERIGO

IAGO

Here, stand behind this wall; straight will he come. Wear thy good rapier bare, and put it home, Quick. I'll be at thy elbow:

RODERIGO

Be near at hand; I may miscarry in it.

IAGO

Be bold, and take thy stand.

[Iago leaves and hides nearby in the dark. Roderigo prepares to attack Cassio]

RODERIGO

'Tis but a man gone. Forth, my sword. He dies.

IAGO *[whispering to himself]*

I have rubbed this young quat almost to the sense, and he grows angry. Now, whether he kill Cassio, or Cassio him, or each do kill the other, every way makes my gain. Live Roderigo, he calls me to a restitution large of gold and jewels that I got from him as gifts to Desdemona. If Cassio do remain, the Moor may unfold me to him; there stand I in much peril: No, he must die. But so: I hear him coming.

Enter CASSIO

RODERIGO

'Tis he. Cassio. Villain, thou diest!

Makes a pass at CASSIO

CASSIO

That thrust had been mine enemy indeed. But it fails. Now I will make proof of thine.

Draws, and wounds RODERIGO

RODERIGO

O, I am slain!

[IAGO from behind sneaks in and wounds CASSIO in the leg, and exits]

CASSIO

I am maimed!. Help! murder! murder!

[He falls]

[Enter LODOVICO and GRATIANO]

GRATIANO

'Tis some mischance. The cry is very direful.

LODOVICO

Two or three groan Let us think it unsafe to come in to the cry without more help.

RODERIGO

Nobody come? Then shall I bleed to death.

LODOVICO

Hark!

[Re-enter IAGO, with a light]

GRATIANO

Here's one comes in his shirt, with light and weapons.

IAGO

Who's there? Whose noise is this that ones on murder?

LODOVICO

We do not know.

IAGO

Did not you hear a cry?

CASSIO

Here, here! for heaven's sake, help me!

IAGO

What's the matter?

GRATIANO

This is Othello's ancient, as I take it.

LODOVICO

The same indeed; a very valiant fellow.

IAGO

What are you here that cry so grievously?

CASSIO

Iago? O, I am undone by villains! Give me some help.

IAGO

O me, lieutenant! what villains have done this?

CASSIO

I think that one of them is hereabout, and cannot make away.

IAGO

[To LODOVICO and GRATIANO]

Come in, and give some help.

RODERIGO

O, help me here!

CASSIO

That's one of them.

IAGO

O murderous slave! O villain! *[IAGO Stabs RODERIGO]*

RODERIGO

O damned Iago! O inhuman dog!

IAGO

What may you be? are you of good or evil?

LODOVICO

As you shall prove us, praise us.

IAGO

Signior Lodovico?

LODOVICO

He, sir.

IAGO

I cry you mercy. Here's Cassio hurt by villains.

GRATIANO

Cassio!

IAGO

How is it, brother!

CASSIO

My leg is cut in two.

IAGO

Light, gentlemen; I'll bind the wound with my shirt. How do you, Cassio? O, a chair, a chair!

[A chair brought in]

GRATIANO

Some good man bear him carefully from hence; I'll fetch the general's surgeon.
Cassio: what malice was between you and this dead man?

CASSIO

None in the world; nor do I know the man.

[CASSIO and RODERIGO are borne off]

EMILIA

Alas, what's the matter? what's the matter, husband?

IAGO

Cassio hath here been set on in the dark by this Roderigo. Cassio's almost slain, and Roderigo is dead.

EMILIA

Alas, good gentleman! alas, good Cassio!

IAGO

This is the fruit of whoring. Prithee, Emilia, Go know of Cassio where he supped tonight.

IAGO

Kind gentlemen, let's go see poor Cassio's wounds dressed. Emilia run you to the citadel and tell my lord Othello what hath happened.

Aside to himself

This is the night that either makes me or fordoes me quite.

Exits

SCENE II.

A bedchamber in the castle: DESDEMONA in bed asleep;

A light burning.

Enter OTHELLO

OTHELLO

It is the cause, it is the cause, my soul. Let me not name it to you, you chaste stars!
It is the cause. Yet I'll not shed her blood; Nor scar that whiter skin of hers than snow,
And smooth as monumental alabaster. Yet she must die, else she'll betray more men.

Put out the light, and then put out the light: If I quench thee, thou flaming minister,
I can again thy former light restore, Should I repent me: but once put out thy light,
Thou cunningest pattern of excelling nature, I know not where is that Promethean heat
That can thy light relume. When I have pluck'd the rose, I cannot give it vital growth
again. It must needs wither: I'll smell it on the tree.

Kissing her

Ah balmy breath, that dost almost persuade justice to break her sword! One more, one more. Be thus when thou art dead, and I will kill thee and love thee after. One more, and this the last. So sweet was ne'er so fatal. I must weep, But they are cruel tears: this sorrow's heavenly; It strikes where it doth love.

She wakes.

DESDEMONA

Who's there? Othello?

OTHELLO

Ay. Desdemona.

DESDEMONA

Will you come to bed, my lord?

OTHELLO

Have you prayed tonight, Desdemona?

DESDEMONA

Ay, my lord.

OTHELLO

If you bethink yourself of any crime unreconciled as yet to heaven and grace, solicit for it straight.

DESDEMONA

Alas, my lord, what do you mean by that?

OTHELLO

Well, do it, and be brief; I will walk by: I would not kill thy unprepared spirit; No, heaven defend. I would not kill thy soul.

DESDEMONA

Talk you of killing?

OTHELLO

Ay, I do.

DESDEMONA

Then heaven have mercy on me!

OTHELLO

Amen, with all my heart.

DESDEMONA

If you say so, I hope you will not kill me. And yet I fear you.

OTHELLO

Think on thy sins.

DESDEMONA

They are loves I bear to you.

OTHELLO

Ay, and for that thou diest.

DESDEMONA

That death's unnatural that kills for loving.

OTHELLO

Peace, and be still!

DESDEMONA

What's the matter?

OTHELLO

That handkerchief which I so loved and gave thee: Thou gavest to Cassio.

DESDEMONA

No, by my life and soul! Send for the man, and ask him.

OTHELLO

Sweet soul, take heed. Take heed of perjury; thou art on thy deathbed. Therefore confess freely of thy sin. Thou art to die.

DESDEMONA

Then Lord have mercy on me!

OTHELLO

I say, amen.

DESDEMONA

And have you mercy too! I never did offend you in my life; never loved Cassio but with such general warranty of heaven as I might love a friend. I never gave him token.

OTHELLO

By heaven, I saw my handkerchief in's hand. O perjured woman I saw the handkerchief!

DESDEMONA

He found it then. I never gave it him: send for him hither; let him confess a truth.

OTHELLO

He hath confessed.

DESDEMONA

What, my lord?

OTHELLO

That he hath used thee.

DESDEMONA

How? unlawfully?

OTHELLO

Ay.

DESDEMONA

He will not say so!

OTHELLO

No, his mouth is stopped; honest Iago hath taken order for it.

DESDEMONA

O! my fear interprets: what, is he dead? Alas! he is betrayed and I undone.

OTHELLO

Out, strumpet! weepst thou for him to my face?

DESDEMONA

O, banish me, my lord, but kill me not!

OTHELLO

Down, strumpet!

DESDEMONA

Kill me to-morrow: let me live to-night!

OTHELLO

Nay, if you strive--

DESDEMONA

But half an hour while I say one prayer!

OTHELLO

It is too late. *[Othello smothers Desdemona to death]*

EMILIA

[Arrives at the door]

My lord... My lord!

OTHELLO

What noise is this?

EMILIA

What, my lord, my lord!

OTHELLO

Who's there?

EMILIA

O, good my lord, I would speak a word with you!

OTHELLO

Yes: 'tis Emilia. 'Tis like she comes to speak of Cassio's death -- If she come in, she'll sure speak to my wife: My wife! My wife! What wife? I have no wife! O heavy hour!

EMILIA

[At the door]

I do beseech you that I may speak with you.

OTHELLO

O, come in, Emilia. *[Unlocks the door. Enter EMILIA]*
What's the matter with thee now?

EMILIA

O, my good lord, yonder's foul murders done! Cassio, my lord, hath killed a young Venetian called Roderigo.

OTHELLO

Roderigo killed! And Cassio killed!

EMILIA

No, Cassio is not killed.

OTHELLO

Not Cassio killed! Then murder's out of tune, and sweet revenge grows harsh.

EMILIA

Alas, what cry is that?

OTHELLO

That! What?

EMILIA

Out, and alas! that was my lady's voice. Help! O lady, speak again! Sweet Desdemona! O sweet mistress, speak! O, who hath done this deed?

OTHELLO

She's gone to burning hell: It was I that killed her.

EMILIA

O, the more angel she. And you the blacker devil!

OTHELLO

She turned to folly, and she was a whore.

EMILIA

Thou dost belie her, and thou art a devil.

OTHELLO

She was false as water.

EMILIA

Thou art rash as fire, to say that she was false: O, she was heavenly true!

OTHELLO

Cassio did top her; ask thy husband else. Thy husband knew it all.

EMILIA

My husband!

OTHELLO

Thy husband.

EMILIA

That she was false to wedlock?

OTHELLO

Ay, with Cassio.

EMILIA

My husband!

OTHELLO

Ay, 'twas he that told me first: an honest man he is, and hates the slime that sticks on filthy deeds.

EMILIA

My husband!

OTHELLO

What needs this iteration, woman? I say thy husband.

EMILIA

My husband say that she was false!

OTHELLO

He, woman; I say thy husband: dost understand the word? My friend, thy husband, honest, honest Iago.

EMILIA

If he say so, may his pernicious soul rot half a grain a day! He lies to the heart:

OTHELLO

Ha!

[OTHELLO threatens EMILIA with a blade]

EMILIA

Do thy worst: This deed of thine is no more worthy heaven than thou wast worthy her.

OTHELLO

Peace, you were best.

EMILIA

Thou hast not half that power to do me harm as I have to be hurt. O gull! O dolt!
As ignorant as dirt! thou hast done a deed- I care not for thy sword; I'll make thee known,
Though I lost twenty lives! Help! The Moor hath killed my mistress! Murder! murder!

[Enter MONTANO, GRATIANO, IAGO, and others]

MONTANO

What is the matter? How now, general!

EMILIA

Oh, are you come, Iago? you have done well - that men must lay their murders on your neck.

GRATIANO

What is the matter?

EMILIA

Disprove this villain, Iago, if thou be'st a man. He says thou told'st him that his wife was false. I know thou didst not, thou art not such a villain. Speak, for my heart is full.

IAGO

I told him what I thought, and told no more than what he found himself was apt and true.

EMILIA

But did you ever tell him she was false?

IAGO

I did.

EMILIA

You told a lie, an odious, damned lie; upon my soul, a lie, a wicked lie. She false with Cassio! Did you say with Cassio?

IAGO

With Cassio, mistress. Go to, charm your tongue.

EMILIA

I will not charm my tongue; I am bound to speak: my mistress here lies murdered in her bed! And your reports have set the murder on.

OTHELLO

Nay, stare not, masters: it is true, indeed.

EMILIA

Villany, villany, villany! I think upon't, I think: I smell it! O villany!

IAGO

What, are you mad? I charge you, get you home.

EMILIA

Good gentlemen, let me have leave to speak: 'Tis proper I obey him, but not now. Perchance, Iago, I will never go home.

[OTHELLO falls on the bed]

EMILIA

Nay, lay thee down and roar; for thou hast killed the sweetest innocent That ever did lift up eye.

OTHELLO *[Rising]*

O, she was foul! Iago knows that she with Cassio hath the act of shame a thousand times committed; Cassio confessed it. And she did gratify his amorous works with that recognizance and pledge of love which I first gave her; I saw it in his hand. It was a handkerchief, an antique token my father gave my mother.

EMILIA

O heaven! O heavenly powers!

IAGO

Come, hold your peace.

EMILIA

'Twill out, 'twill out: I peace! No, I will speak!

IAGO

Be wise, and get you home.

EMILIA

I will not.

[IAGO threatens to stab EMILIA]

GRATIANO

Your sword upon a woman?

EMILIA

O thou dull Moor! that handkerchief thou speak'st of I found by fortune and did give my husband, for often, with a solemn earnestness, he begged of me to steal it.

IAGO

Villanous whore!

EMILIA

She give it Cassio! no, alas! I found it and I did give it to my husband.

IAGO

Filth, thou liest!

EMILIA

By heaven, I do not, I do not, gentlemen.

OTHELLO

Are there no stones in heaven but what serve for the thunder? Villain!

[OTHELLO runs at IAGO. IAGO, from behind, stabs EMILIA, and runs away.]

GRATIANO

The woman falls; sure, he hath killed his wife.

EMILIA

Ay. O, lay me by my mistress' side. Moor, she was chaste; she loved thee, cruel Moor. So speaking as I think, I die.

GRATIANO

This Iago has run and gone, but his wife's killed.

MONTANO

'Tis a notorious villain. Take you this weapon,
Which I have here recover'd from the Moor:
Come, guard the door without; let him not pass,
I'll after that same villain,

[Exit MONTANO and GRATIANO – after the fleeing Iago]

OTHELLO

Desdemona's cold, cold, my girl! Even like thy chastity. Whip me, ye devils, From the possession of this heavenly sight! Wash me in hellish gulfs of liquid fire! O Desdemona! Desdemona! dead!

[Enter LODOVICO. MONTANO, CASSIO carried in a chair, and Officers with IAGO, prisoner]

LODOVICO

Where is this rash and most unfortunate man?

OTHELLO

That's he that was Othello: here I am.

LODOVICO

Where is that viper Iago? Bring the villain forth.

OTHELLO

I look down towards his feet; but that's a fable. If that thou best a devil, I cannot kill thee.

[Stabs and Wounds IAGO]

IAGO

I bleed, sir; but not killed.

OTHELLO

I am not sorry neither: I'd have thee live; for, in my sense, 'tis happiness to die.

LODOVICO

This wretch hath part confessed his villany: Othello, did you and he consent in Cassio's death?

OTHELLO

Ay.

CASSIO

Dear general, I never gave you cause.

OTHELLO

I do believe it, and I ask your pardon. Will you, I pray, demand that devil why he hath thus ensnared my soul and body?

IAGO

Demand me nothing: what you know, you know. From this time forth I never will speak word.

OTHELLO

Well, thou dost best.

LODOVICO

Most heathenish and most gross!

OTHELLO

How came you, Cassio, by that handkerchief that was my wife's?

CASSIO

I found it in my chamber:

OTHELLO

O fool! I. fool!

LODOVICO

Enough. Othello, you must forsake this room, and go with us. Your power and your command is taken off, and Cassio rules in Cyprus. For this slave Iago - bring him away.

OTHELLO

Soft you; a word or two before you go. I have done Venice some service, and they know it. Listen me. I pray you, in your letters, when you shall these unlucky deeds relate, Speak of me as I am; nothing extenuate. Nor set down aught in malice: then must you speak Of one that loved not wisely but too well; Of one not easily jealous, but being wrought perplexed in the extreme. Set you down this: In a warring city once, where a malignant and a turbaned Turk beat a Venetian and traduced the state, I took by the throat the circumcised dog, And smote him, thus.

Stabs himself

LODOVICO

O bloody day!

OTHELLO *[To Desdemona]*

I kiss'd thee ere I kill'd thee: no way but this; Killing myself, to die upon a kiss.

[Falls on the bed, and dies]

CASSIO

This did I fear, but thought he had no weapon; for he was great of heart.

LODOVICO

[To IAGO]

O Spartan dog! Look on the tragic loading of this bed: this is thy work: the object poisons sight.

To you, lord governor, remains the censure of this hellish villain. The time, the place, the torture: O, enforce it! Myself will straight aboard: and to the state this heavy act with heavy heart relate.

The End