

OTHELLO / MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING – MALES OVER 30

IAGO (convincing Rodrigo not to kill himself over Desdemona)

Come, be a man! Drown thyself? Drown cats and blind puppies. I have professed me thy friend, and I could never better stead thee than now. Put money in thy purse; follow thou the wars; defeat thy favour with an usurped beard; I say, put money in thy purse. It cannot be that Desdemona should long continue her love to the Moor – put money in thy purse – nor he his to her. It was a violent commencement in her, and thou shalt see an answerable sequestration – put but money in thy purse. She must change for youth; when she is sated with his body, she will find the error of her choice. Therefore put money in thy purse. If sanctimony and a frail vow betwixt an erring barbarian and a super-subtle Venetian be not too hard for my wits and all the tribe of hell, thou shalt enjoy her; therefore make money. A pox of drowning thyself! It is clean out of the way. I have told thee often, and I re-tell thee again and again, I hate the Moor. Let us be conjunctive in our revenge against him. Go, provide thy money. Adieu.

IAGO (making Othello jealous of Cassio)

O, beware, my lord, of jealousy;
It is the green-eyed monster which doth mock
The meat it feeds on. That cuckold lives in bliss
Who, certain of his fate, loves not his wronger;
But, O, what damned minutes tells he o'er
Who dotes, yet doubts – suspects, yet strongly loves!
Look to your wife; observe her well with Cassio.
I know our country disposition well;
In Venice they do let heaven see the pranks
They dare not show their husbands; their best conscience
Is not to leave't undone, but keep't unknown.

BRABANTIO (Desdemona's father, confronting Othello)

O thou foul thief, where hast thou stowed my daughter?
Damned 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,
Whether a maid so tender, fair and happy,
So opposite to marriage that she shunned
The wealthy curlèd darlings of our nation,
Would ever have, to incur a general mock,
Run from her guardage to the sooty bosom
Of such a thing as thou?
Lay hold upon him: if he do resist,
Subdue him at his peril.

DOGBERRY (giving the watchmen instructions on doing their job)

This is your charge: you shall comprehend all vagrom men. You are to bid any man stand, in the prince's name. If he will not stand, then take no note of him, but let him go; and thank God you are rid of a knave. If he will not stand when he is bidden, he is none of the prince's subjects, and you are to meddle with none but the prince's subjects. You shall also make no noise in the streets, for, for the watch to babble and to talk is most tolerable and not to be endured. You were better sleep than talk, for I cannot see how sleeping should offend. If you meet a thief, you may suspect him, by virtue of your office, to be no true man; and, for such kind of men, the less you meddle or make with them, why the more is for your honesty. The most peaceable way for you, if you do take a thief, is to let him show himself what he is and steal out of your company. Well, masters, good night; be vigilant, I beseech you.