

## **Act 2 Scene 1-**

In Cyprus, Othello's arrival is awaited anxiously, although the Turkish fleet is no longer a threat. Cassio's ship has docked and then Desdemona arrives, accompanied by Iago. He makes many jokes about female virtue and vices. This scene highlights Desdemona's innocence. She is then reunited with Othello and Roderigo is enraged by their show of affection. In the final soliloquy of the scene, Iago admits that he loves Desdemona and that he is jealous of Othello. He tells the audience of his plan and how he will use Cassio to get to the Moor.

### **Language of the Scene-**

Iago uses metaphor "wild-cats in your kitchen...housewives (prostitutes) in your bed." (2,1:109-111) to make crude comments about the virtue of women, and directs this towards Desdemona. However, he does so in a joking manner. Desdemona thinks he is being funny, however, as the audience know of his true nature they realize the attack on virtue is how he will bring Othello down. This dramatic irony foreshadows how he will destroy Othello. ( He does this after he makes a crude comment about his wife, Emilia to Cassio. "Sir, would she give you so much of her lips As of her tongue she oft bestows on me" (2,1:100-102)

Shakespeare also uses asides and soliloquy in this scene to further the dramatic irony, especially the final soliloquy in the scene by Iago in which he outlines (not only to himself, but to the audience) the plan to get to Othello- through Cassio.

## **Act 2 Scene 2**

A Herald announces that Othello has commanded a night of feasting to celebrate his wedding night.

## Act 2 Scene 3.

Cassio has a fatal flaw- he can't handle his drink. Iago deliberately gets Cassio drunk as the first step in his plan to get Othello. Roderigo provokes Cassio into a brawl, stage-managed by Iago during which Montano, the Governor of Cyprus is injured. Othello is forced to leave his wedding bed. Knowing Othello's honest nature, Iago set this up so as Cassio would be dismissed from his post and he would be promoted. The second part of Iago's plan is revealed when he comforts Cassio, who is distraught due to his actions, and counsels him to seek Desdemona to plead to Othello on his behalf. In his soliloquy on lines 326-352, he tells how this innocent relationship will arouse Othello's jealousy. He then assures Roderigo that the plan is underway.

### Language

Iago again shows his deceitful nature (the motif of Janus- two faced) in the line-  
"I had rather have this tongue cut from my mouth  
Than it should do offence to Michael Cassio" (215-216)

Iago's soliloquy from line 326-352 is known as his 'Divinity of Hell' soliloquy.

Trust is a major theme explore in this scene through language. Initially Othello refers to Cassio as Michael, but after the brawl he refers to him as Cassio. Whereas he continues to refer to Iago as "Honest Iago" (161)

When Iago and Cassio talk in this scene it is in prose- everyday common language. Why?