

Brief Questions in Othello

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- **What was the source of Othello?**

Ans:

Cinthio's tale, "The Moor of Venice."

- **Who is Roderigo?**

Ans:

A rich Venetian and Iago's foolish dupe.

- **Who is Cassio?**

Ans:

A professional soldier, Othello's lieutenant.

- **Why and how does Roderigo wake Brabantio?**

Ans:

On Iago's orders, he shouts at night.

- **What message does Roderigo give Brabantio?**

Ans:

Desdemona has eloped with Othello.

- **What is Iago's treachery against Roderigo?**

Ans:

He deceives Roderigo and reports lies.

- **How is Othello received by the Duke?**

Ans:

The Duke welcomes him and seeks his help.

- **What complaints does Brabantio make to the Duke?**

Ans:

He says Othello used witchcraft to marry.

- **What stories did Othello tell at Brabantio's house?**

Ans

: Adventures, battles, slavery, and strange lands.

- **How did Desdemona react to those stories?**

Ans:

She wept, admired him, and loved him.

- **How does Othello explain his "witchcraft"?**

Ans:

Love, not magic, won Desdemona's heart.

- **Why does Desdemona beg to go to Cyprus?**

Ans:

She wants to be with her husband.

- **Why does Roderigo intend to commit suicide?**

Ans:

He failed to win Desdemona's love.

- **What advice does Iago give Roderigo?**

Ans:

Disguise, gather money, and follow to Cyprus.

- **What intrigue does Iago plan against Othello?**

Ans:

Poison Othello's mind against Cassio.

- **How does Iago twist Cassio's courtesy?**

Ans:

He calls hand-holding proof of love.

- **What ill-advice does Iago give Roderigo?**

Ans:

Start a fight with Cassio at night.

- **Why is Montano wounded by Cassio?**

Ans:

He stops drunk Cassio; Cassio wounds him.

- **How will Iago entrap Cassio, Desdemona, Othello?**

Ans:

He recasts help as love to spark jealousy.

- **When does Desdemona offer the handkerchief?**

Ans:

When Othello complains of a headache.

- **How does the handkerchief fall?**

Ans:

Othello angrily throws it to ground.

- **What is special about the handkerchief?**

Ans:

Strawberries embroidered; Othello's first gift.

- **Who picks up the handkerchief?**

Ans:

Emilia finds and picks it up.

- **How does Iago use the handkerchief?**

Ans:

He plants it in Cassio's room.

- **How does Othello become sure of guilt?**

Ans:

He sees the handkerchief with Cassio.

- **Why do Lodovico and Gratiano come?**

Ans:

They recall Othello and appoint Cassio.

- **Why does Othello slap Desdemona?**

Ans:

He misreads her joy for Cassio.

- **What is Desdemona's reaction to accusation?**

Ans:

She is shocked and speechless.

- **What is Desdemona's irony of fate?**

Ans

: She begs help from Iago, her enemy.

- **How is Roderigo killed, and by whom?**

Ans:

Cassio wounds him; Iago kills him.

- **How is Desdemona killed by Othello?**

Ans:

He smothers her on the bed.

- **Who reveals Iago's wickedness?**

Ans:

Emilia exposes the plot and handkerchief.

- **How does Emilia die?**

Ans:

Iago stabs her; she dies.

- **How does Othello die?**

Ans:

He stabs himself beside Desdemona.

- **What is Iago's ultimate fate?**

Ans:

He is arrested for torture and judgment.

- **When and where does the play open?**

Ans:

Late night, a Venetian street near Brabantio's.

- **Why is Cassio grief-stricken?**

Ans:

He lost rank and reputation.

- **What is "Othello-syndrome"?**

Ans

: Pathological jealousy in love.

- **What was the original title of Othello?**

Ans:

The Tragedie of Othello, the Moore of Venice.

- **What is Othello's tragic flaw?**

Ans:

He trusts too easily and grows jealous.

- **Why did Othello go to Cyprus?**

Ans:

To defend it from the Turks.

- **How did Desdemona fall in love?**

Ans:

She loved his brave life stories.

- **Who is called “a woman of the world”?**

Ans:

Emilia is called worldly and practical.

- **Why does Roderigo intend to commit suicide?**

Ans:

He despairs of Desdemona's love.

- **Why did Iago envy Othello?**

Ans:

Othello's success and Cassio's promotion.

- **How does Iago obtain the handkerchief?**

Ans:

He snatches it from Emilia's hand.