

# [Introduction a great storyteller and a trained soldier, iago takes hold of desdem...](https://assignbuster.com/introduction-a-great-storyteller-and-a-trained-soldier-iago-takes-hold-of-desdemonas-hand-before-the/)

## Introduction

Throughout the world, a dark, primal aspect of humanity is not hard to find. It is silent, usually never more than a whisper until it is too late, and can be as dangerous as poison.

It is jealousy. Jealousy can destroy friendships, relationships, and even alliances. William Shakespeare undoubtedly knew the significance of this ugly part of human nature when writing his play Othello.

Throughout the story he is commonlyknown as, and commonly called, “ Honest Iago.” He evensays of himself, “ I am an honest man…

.” Act II, Scene III, Line 245 Trust is a very powerful emotion that is easilyabused. Othello, “ holds him well;/The better shall Iago’spurpose work on him.

” pg. 1244, Line 362 Iago is amaster of abuse in this case turning people’s trust in him intotools to forward his own goals. His “ med’cine works! Thuscredulous fools are caught..

..” pg.

1284, Line 44 Iagoslowly poisons people’s thoughts, creating ideas in theirheads without implicating himself. “ And what’s he then thatsays I play the villain, when this advice is free I give, andhonest,” Act II, Scene III, Line 299 says Iago, the masterof deception. And thus, people rarely stop to consider thepossibility that old Iago could be deceiving them ormanipulating them, after all, he is “ Honest Iago.” Iago makesa fool out of Roderigo. In fact, the play starts out with Iagohaving already taken advantage of him.

Roderigo remarks,” That thou, Iago, who hast had my purse as if the stringswere thine.” Act I, Scene I, Line 2 Throughout the play, Iago leads Roderigo by the collar professing that he “ hate(s)the Moor” Act I, Scene III, Line 344 and telling Roderigoto “ make money” Act I, Scene III, Line 339 so that he cangive gifts to Desdemona to win her over. During the wholeplay however, Iago is just taking those gifts that Roderigointends for Desdemona and keeps them for himself. Roderigo eventually starts to question Iago’s honesty, saying” I think it is scurvy, and begin to find myself fopped in it.” Act IV, Scene II, Line 189 When faced with thisaccusation, Iago simply offers that killing Cassio will aid hiscause and Roderigo blindly falls for it, hook, line, and sinker.” I have no great devotion to the deed, and yet he has givenme satisfying reason,” Act V, Scene I, Line 8 says the foolRoderigo.

And with this deed, Roderigo is lead to his deathby the hands of none other than, “ Honest Iago.” Cassio, likeRoderigo, follows Iago blindly, thinking the whole time thatIago is trying to help him. And during this whole time, Iago isplanning the demise of Cassio, his supposed friend. On thenight of Cassio’s watch, Iago convinces him to take anotherdrink, knowing very well that it will make him very drunk. Cassio just follows along, though he says, “ I’ll do’t, but itdislikes me.” Act II, Scene III, Line 37 Iago is able tomake him defy his own reasoning to take another drink! Crafty, is this Iago. When Roderigo follows through with theplan Iago has set on him, Cassio is made to look like anirresponsible fool, resulting in his termination as lieutenant.

After this incident, Iago sets another of his plans in motionby telling Cassio to beg Desdemona to help his cause, saying, “ she holds it a vice in her goodness not to do morethan she is requested.” Act II, Scene III, Line 287 Andthus, Cassio is set on a dark path which leads to trouble andmischief. Yet, Cassio follows it blindly telling Iago, “ Youadvise me well.” Act II, Scene III, Line 292 With this, Cassio is eventually led into a trap where Roderigo maimshim, and all that time, Iago – his friend – is behind it all. Lowly Iago, is capable of anything – not even Othello is safefrom this villain. Othello holds Iago to be his close friend andadvisor.

He believes Iago to be a person, “ of exceedinghonesty, who knows all qualities, with learned spirit ofhuman dealings.” Act III, Scene III, Line 257 Yes, he doesknow all about human dealings, but no he is not honest. Heuses the trust Othello puts in him to turn Othello eventuallyinto a jealous man, looking everywhere