

Introduction a great
storyteller and a
trained soldier, iago
takes hold of
desdem...



**ASSIGN
BUSTER**

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 commonly known as, and commonly called, "Honest Iago." He even says of himself, "I am an honest man..."

.. Act II, Scene III, Line 245 Trust is a very powerful emotion that is easily abused. Othello, "holds him well; The better shall Iago's purpose work on him."

.. pg. 1244, Line 362 Iago is a master of abuse in this case turning people's trust in him into tools to forward his own goals. His "medicine works! Thus credulous fools are caught.."

.. pg.

1284, Line 44 Iago slowly poisons people's thoughts, creating ideas in their heads without implicating himself. "And what's he then that says I play the villain, when this advice is free I give, and honest," Act II, Scene III, Line 299 says Iago, the master of deception. And thus, people rarely stop to consider the possibility that old Iago could be deceiving them or manipulating

them, after all, he is “Honest Iago.” Iago makes a fool out of Roderigo. In fact, the play starts out with Iago having already taken advantage of him.

Roderigo remarks, “That thou, Iago, who hast had my purse as if the strings were 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 Roderigo to “make money” Act I, Scene III, Line 339 so that he can give gifts to Desdemona to win her over. During the whole play however, Iago is just taking those gifts that Roderigo intends 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 this accusation, Iago simply offers that killing Cassio will aid his cause and Roderigo blindly falls for it, hook, line, and sinker. “I have no great devotion to the deed, and yet he has given me satisfying reason,” Act V, Scene I, Line 8 says the fool Roderigo.

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

After this incident, Iago sets another of his plans in motion by telling Cassio to beg Desdemona to help his cause, saying, "she holds it a vice in her goodness not to do more than she is requested." Act II, Scene III, Line 287

And thus, Cassio is set on a dark path which leads to trouble and mischief. Yet, Cassio follows it blindly telling Iago, "You advise me well." Act II, Scene III, Line 292

With this, Cassio is eventually led into a trap where Roderigo maims him, and all that time, Iago - his friend - is behind it all. Lowly Iago, is capable of anything - not even Othello is safe from this villain. Othello holds Iago to be his close friend and advisor.

He believes Iago to be a person, "of exceeding honesty, who knows all qualities, with learned spirit of human dealings." Act III, Scene III, Line 257

Yes, he does know all about human dealings, but no he is not honest. He uses the trust Othello puts in him to turn Othello eventually into a jealous man, looking everywhere