

**OTHELLO**

Excellent wretch! Perdition catch my soul,  
But I do love thee! and when I love thee not,  
Chaos is come again.

**IAGO**

My noble lord--

**OTHELLO**

What dost thou say, Iago?

**IAGO**

Did Michael Cassio, when you woo'd my lady, Know of your love?

**OTHELLO**

He did, from first to last: why dost thou ask?

**IAGO**

But for a satisfaction of my thought; No further harm.

**OTHELLO**

Why of thy thought, Iago?

**IAGO**

I did not think he had been acquainted with her.

**OTHELLO**

O, yes; and went between us very oft.

**IAGO**

Indeed!

**OTHELLO**

Indeed! ay, indeed: discern'st thou aught in that?  
Is he not honest?

**IAGO**

Honest, my lord!

**OTHELLO**

Honest! ay, honest.

**IAGO**

My lord, for aught I know.

**OTHELLO**

What dost thou think?

**IAGO**

Think, my lord!

**OTHELLO**

Think, my lord!

By heaven, he echoes me,

As if there were some monster in his thought

Too hideous to be shown. Thou dost mean something:

I heard thee say even now, thou likedst not that,

When Cassio left my wife: what didst not like?

And when I told thee he was of my counsel

In my whole course of wooing, thou criedst 'Indeed!'

And didst contract and purse thy brow together,

As if thou then hadst shut up in thy brain

Some horrible conceit: if thou dost love me,

Show me thy thought.

**IAGO**

My lord, you know I love you.

**OTHELLO**

I think thou dost;

And, for I know thou'rt full of love and honesty,

And weigh'st thy words before thou givest them breath,

Therefore these stops of thine fright me the more:

For such things in a false disloyal knave

Are tricks of custom, but in a man that's just

They are close delations, working from the heart

That passion cannot rule.

**IAGO**

For Michael Cassio, I dare be sworn I think that he is honest.

**OTHELLO**

I think so too.

**IAGO**

Men should be what they seem;

Or those that be not, would they might seem none!

**OTHELLO**

Certain, men should be what they seem.

**IAGO**

Why, then, I think Cassio's an honest man.