

Focus Question: How does Shakespeare convey devotion through Cassio and Desdemona's words and actions?

There are always one or more themes in books or plays, that teaches the audience or the characters a lesson. William Shakespeare conveys many themes in his play, The Tragedy of Othello: The Moor. There were many ways Shakespeare showed devotion, especially through Cassio and Desdemona's words and actions. Both Cassio and Desdemona had their own and unique ways that demonstrates their devotion towards Othello.

It is evident that Cassio cares a lot about Othello. He says, "O let the heavens Give him defense against the elements, For I have lost him on a dangerous sea." (2.1.49-51). This shows how much Cassio truly cares about Othello. By calling the heavens to keep Othello safe, Cassio is indirectly praying for him, hoping God will help Othello overcome all the obstacles he might have to face in the water, and hopefully to his destination safely.

Cassio evidently honors Othello. When he brings the musicians to play in front of Othello and Desdemona's balcony, he is honoring Othello. Cassio got drunk the day before, and while he was drunk, he struck Montano, injuring him and Roderigo. Othello was outraged and "strips Cassio of his lieutenantancy." Cassio just lost his reputation, and is willing to do anything to get his lieutenantancy back, so he started off by having musicians

play in his balcony. This truly shows how sorry he was for his actions and wants to go back to working for Othello.

Desdemona is very dedicated to Othello, her husband. "But here's my husband. And so much duty as my mother showed to you, preferring you before her father, so much I challenge that I may profess, Due to the Moor my lord." This shows how much Desdemona is dedicated to Othello. By going against her own father, just to be with the one man she truly loves shows great devotion and dedication.

Another act that shows how much Desdemona truly cares about Othello is that she has decided to look past all the differences in society, and looks at Othello for the person he truly is. She says, "That I did love the Moor to live with him, my downright violence or storm and fortune, May trumpet the world. My hearts subdued Even to the very quality of my lord, I saw Othello's visage in his mind, And to his honors and his valiant parts." [1.3.283-288] Desdemona is saying that she loves the Moor for who he is, and she honors his qualities. To her, it doesn't matter what color he is, as long as she likes the personality, and in this case, she loves him. Her actions and words show how much she loves Othello.

Both Cassio and Desdemona were very devoted to Othello in their special ways. Cassio truly cared about Othello, and did anything he was told, which shows how dedicated Cassio is to his job and to Othello. Desdemona loves Othello, for she went through the differences in society, and even went against her own father, to be with the one she truly loves. To go past such things, shows how much she really loves Othello. Both Cassio and Desdemona were probably the two most devoted people to Othello

throughout the whole play.