

watch. [*Exeunt some Gentlemen.*]
 IAGO [*Detains MONTANO.*] You see this fellow that is gone before:
 He's a soldier fit to stand by Caesar
 And give direction. And do but see his vice:
 'Tis to his virtue a just equinox, 115
 The one as long as th' other. 'Tis pity of him;
 I fear the trust Othello puts him in
 On some odd time of his infirmity
 Will shake this island.
 MONTANO But is he often thus?
 IAGO 'Tis evermore his prologue to his sleep. 120
 He'll watch the horologe a double set
 If drink rock not his cradle.
 MONTANO It were well 125
 The general were put in mind of it.
 Perhaps he sees it not, or his good nature
 Prizes the virtue that appears in Cassio
 And looks not on his evils. Is not this true?
Enter RODERIGO.
 IAGO [*Aside.*] How now, Roderigo?
 I pray you after the lieutenant—go! *Exit RODERIGO.*
 MONTANO And 'tis great pity that the noble Moor 130
 Should hazard such a place as his own second
 With one of an ingraft infirmity.
 It were an honest action to say so
 To the Moor.
 IAGO Not I, for this fair island.
 I do love Cassio well and would do much
 To cure him of this evil. But hark, what noise? 135
Enter CASSIO pursuing RODERIGO.
 CASSIO Zounds, you rogue! you rascal!
 MONTANO What's the matter, lieutenant?
 CASSIO A knave teach me my duty? I'll beat the knave into a
 twiggen bottle.

115. just equinox: exact counterpart (like day and night at the equinox).
 117. I fear . . . him in: "The construction makes the pronoun *him* ambiguous in refer-
 ence": if to Cassio, "trust" = position of authority; if to Othello, "trust" = "the state of
 confidence Othello puts himself in" (Ross). See 1.3.387-88 and note.
 119. shake this island: produce general mayhem.
 121. watch . . . double set: stay up for two rounds of the clock—twenty-four hours.
 130. second: deputy, lieutenant.
 131. ingraft: "grown to be part of him" as "a shoot becomes part of the plant to which it
 is grafted" (Mowat and Werstine).
 139. twiggen: wicker-covered; Cassio will leave a grid of welts on Roderigo.

RODERIGO Beat me? 140
 CASSIO Dost thou prate, rogue? [*Attacks RODERIGO.*]
 MONTANO Nay, good lieutenant! I pray you, sir, hold your hand.
 CASSIO Let me go, sir, or I'll knock you o'er the mazzard.
 MONTANO Come, come; you're drunk!
 CASSIO Drunk? [*CASSIO and MONTANO fight.*] 145
 IAGO [*Aside to RODERIGO.*] Away, I say! Go out and cry a mutiny.
[*Exit RODERIGO.*]
 Nay, good lieutenant! God's will, gentlemen!
 Help ho! Lieutenant! Sir Montano!
 Help, masters! Here's a goodly watch indeed! *A bell rung.*
 Who's that which rings the bell? Diablo, ho! 150
 The town will rise. God's will, lieutenant, hold!
 You'll be ashamed forever.
Enter OTHELLO and Attendants.
 OTHELLO What is the matter here?
 MONTANO Zounds, I bleed still; I am hurt to th' death. [*Attacks*
CASSIO.]
 He dies.
 OTHELLO Hold, for your lives! 155
 IAGO Hold, ho! Lieutenant—sir—Montano—gentlemen!
 Have you forgot all place of sense and duty?
 Hold! The general speaks to you. Hold, for shame!
 OTHELLO Why, how now, ho? From whence ariseth this?
 Are we turned Turks? and to ourselves do that 160
 Which heaven hath forbid the Ottomites?
 For Christian shame, put by this barbarous brawl!
 He that stirs next, to carve for his own rage,
 Holds his soul light; he dies upon his motion.
 Silence that dreadful bell—it frights the isle 165
 From her propriety. What is the matter, masters?
 Honest Iago, that looks dead with grieving,
 Speak. Who began this? On thy love, I charge thee.

143. mazzard: head.
 150. the bell: Roderigo has sounded the alarm, as Iago commanded. Diablo: devil.
 160. turned Turks: the proverbial anxiety of reverting to the savagery of infidels (see
 2.1.114 and note).
 160-61. to . . . Ottomites: i.e., doing to ourselves what God prevented the Turks from
 doing to us; may allude to the widespread self-criticism of the time that Muslims were better
 unified than Christians.
 163. carve for his own rage: feed his own anger.
 164. Holds . . . light: is indifferent to the prospect of damnation.
 166. propriety: true or appropriately peaceful condition.