

17/5/23

Iago's Soliloquy

(15)

Q: How does Shakespeare present Iago in this Soliloquy?

Introduction This extract is taken from act 1, scene 3 where Shakespeare powerfully illustrates Iago's duplicitous nature through the soliloquy. Previous to this scene, Iago feels betrayed when Cassio was given a more superior position to him and so has made it his goal to destroy Othello.

Paragraph

①

:Connective

ref. to

writer,

Quotations,

Audience

response,

Zoom in

expand/explain

2 ideas

Firstly, Shakespeare effectively portrays Iago's duplicitous nature when he thrives on the idea that he can manipulate Roderigo to be his 'fool' and also his 'purse'. Iago confessed that he ~~wishes~~ 'hates' the Moor' due to the rumour 'abroad' that he has 'done [his] office'. This shows audiences Iago's insecure and fragile relationship with his wife, here it appears that Iago is dominating but his superiority is being threatened. The verb 'hate' implies there is a tense, hostile feeling between Iago and Othello that cannot be altered. Iago feels emasculated by the betrayal of his 'office' again suggests his frustration and deep rooted distrust towards Othello.

Secondly, Shakespeare creatively makes us infer that Iago is envious of Othello. This is supported as the quote "The better shall my purpose work on him. Cassio is a proper man." This teaches us that Iago wants to demote Othello and elevate himself. This is demonstrated as the word 'him' shows he has little respect for Othello and thinks

he is too superior to say his name. ~~the~~ Iago's envious feelings are presented again with the quote "Cassio's a proper man." The ironic tone subtly tells us that Iago is going to use Cassio to understand Othello more and see his way into his weaknesses to break him down and finally fulfill his dream of ^{degrading} ~~inferioring~~ Othello and becoming the general. The envious tone is also shown as the quote ~~present~~ teaches us that Iago has understood he won't be able to defeat Othello on his own and is insecure about it. Consequently, he uses Cassio to help him in hope to become the General.

Finally, Shakespeare explored the idea of suggesting that Othello lives an easy lifestyle. However, the actions displayed in the earlier stages of the play makes us infer that ~~that~~ he's had a life of ^{craving} ~~craving~~ but freedom. This feeling is ^{highlighted} ~~advantaged~~ as the quote, "The Moor is of a free and open Nature." suggests that he has this freedom. ~~The~~ Shakespeare masterfully degrades Othello by calling him 'The Moor' and then juxtaposes with 'free' and 'open nature'. As the audience we've learnt throughout the play that Othello is at the bottom of the status tree and isn't involved in the hierarchy like his opposition. Shakespeare also emphasises the "hard" and "unclean" lifestyle lived by Othello as he strips him from his identity and fully ~~then~~ dehumanizes him. This is illustrated by the ^{dehumanizing} ~~dehumanizing~~ tone that he has decided to close to Soligoay.

Off with, this is displayed as the
"As assess are," supports the idea of
being a criminal (donkey). This shows the
stoop in Iago's dignity as he only has
a malignant feeling towards Othello due to his
overwhelming envious nature. To conclude this
point, Iago only views Othello with an envious
cloud covering it and produces his true duplicitous
in deorum.

Conclusion In light of the whole extract, perhaps ~~the~~
~~Shakespeare~~ Shakespeare so powerfully depicts Iago's duplicitous
nature to show audiences that a person's true
nature is not always the mask that they wear.
In my opinion, ~~Iago~~ Iago is a duplicitous,
malignant character that fits the tragedy perfectly.