

Alexis
English 3
Mr. Bristol
January 8, 2006

Othello Essay

Relationships are one of the many things everyone experiences in their life. Whether it is a relationship of love or hate, it causes us to do actions. Some we may regret or wish to happen again. One type of relationship is friendship. The beautiful thing about a friendship is that it allows you to have someone you can always talk and rely on. These characteristics are defined as "trust". Trust is what can never be certain and in this case, be the same.

The Tragedy of Othello written by William Shakespeare is a novel full of love, hatred, and jealousy. Though all these expressions are kept secret, it is the magic of friendship, which allows it to be expressed. The major character in the novel is Othello. Othello is an African American and general of the Venetian army. Aside from his "day job", Othello is married to a woman named Desdemona. Desdemona is considered a very beautiful woman. "For know, Iago, but that I love the gentle Desdemona, I would not my unhoused free condition..." (Act I, Scene II, Lines 27-28) Desdemona's characteristics are admired so dearly by Othello that even his servant silently falls in love with her. We are introduced to this servant named Iago.

Iago is a man who does not achieve much and wishes he does. Things he desires are Desdemona's love and Othello's duties as general of Venice. "Were I the Moor I would not be Iago. In following him, I follow but myself. Heaven is my judge, not I for love and duty..." (Act I, Scene I, Lines 63-65) It is his desires that would continually urge him to receive it until the point where he decides to plan a scheme.

“I’ll pour this pestilence into his ear: That she reveals him for her body’s lust... So will I turn her virtue into pitch, and out of her own goodness make the net, that shall enmesh them all.” (Act 2 Scene 3 Lines 376-384) As Iago gathers his ideas and generalizes his basic plan, he soon learns that there are tools necessary to achieve his mission. He cannot achieve any of his goals without gaining the ever repeated theme, someone else’s trust.

As we all know, when in need of help, we always go to a friend or relative. And that is exactly what Iago does. He soon begins to establish relationships with Othello, Roderigo, who is a man in love with Desdemona also, and Venetian Lieutenant Michael Cassio.

Time begins to expire and friendships begin to increase. These friendships increase so highly that its peak, anyone of these men would believe anything Iago opionates about or says. For example, after a major event in the novel, in which Michael Cassio was dismissed from his duties for a stabbing, he seeks to Iago for advice on what he should do. When Othello is in need of advice relating to political or personal matters, he seeks Iago’s advice. When Roderigo desires Desdemona so dearly and needs advice on how to earn it, he seeks Iago. These events rightfully earned Iago’s nickname, “O Honest Iago...” However, little do they all know that “Honest Iago”, is using their trust for an advantage, to get what he desire.

Desdemona herself had a relationship. Desdemona would often seek advice and comfort during these hard times, from her dear friend and waitress, Emilia. Emilia always accompanied Desdemona. Thus the two’s trust increased and so did the level of their friendship. Desdemona would always speak to Emilia of her secrets and experiences

honestly. If this relationship would never occur, the novel would not be named the tragedy of Othello because the truth would have never been revealed. Without the truth being notified, the morals are not acknowledged and the true definition of a tragedy is major events concluding to a disaster with misfortune and more importantly, regret.

Friendship was one of the more frequent appearing themes in the novel. Without Friendship, Roderigo would've never paid Iago money to gain Desdemona's love. Without Friendship, Michael Cassio would've never become drunk and do something he would later regret. Without Friendship, Othello would've never been "silently poisoned" with lies, enough to kill his wife. Without all these events, this play would've never been considered a "tragedy." More importantly, without Friendship, Emilia would've never known the truth, causing everyone to learn it, and declare these events indeed a tragedy.