

Iago and Othello in Shakespeare's Othello

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Introduction

With the tale of love, betrayal and jealousy, Shakespeare has plotted Othello from the collection of tales of the Italian writer Giovanni Giraldis. The tales have different kinds of love, which include marriage. Literary critics have observed that Shakespeare included various ideas in his play that are directly linked to the stories written by Giraldis. The Tragedy of Othello was written in the year 1603. The drama is based on the Moorish captain who was written by the Cinthio in 1565. The play revolves around the two primary characters. Othello, who was a general in the Moorish army, and his clever ensign Iago. The play includes different themes like revenge, betrayal and racism. Various literary films, dramas and operas have adopted the play. Professional communities still perform the play in their theatres.

Discussion

The play belongs to Othello. However, the Iago has also played a significant role. The character has the most substantial dialogue in the play. He also represents the archetypal villain. From the start of the play, Iago is portrayed as the villain. He was also brilliant and easily overruled the other characters. He manipulates the others while controlling the actions of characters and traps them in his net of lies. Other characters consider him honest while he, under cover of honesty, expands his control over their role and activities. In the same way, by playing with the weaknesses of other characters, he gets close to them and achieves his desired goals (Alkholi, 419). Many critics, including Harold Bloom, have focused their attention on the role of Iago and supported the ideas about his role as the villain. The literary critics of the twentieth century have focused more on Othello.

Various characteristics are associated with the character of the Iago. He is the main antagonist of the play. He played the standard bearer of Othello. His wife, Emilia, was the attendant of the wife of Othello. Iago's most important personality trait is his hatred of Othello. He dislikes the hero of the play. He often devises a number of plans to destroy the hero. He gradually and by plan told Othello that his wife had an affair with Michael Cassio, who was the lieutenant of Othello. The role of the Iago was considered as it was first played by Robert Armin in the previous plays Shakespeare. The Armin played the typically intelligent and smart role. The character of the Iago is merely the ensign.

Shakespeare closely follows the tale of the Cinthio while composing the play Othello. In that story, the ensign suffers from the wanton lust for the wife of Moors. Iago is somehow related to that character who has a lust for power and self-purpose. Iago fought for Othello and became his close and trusted advisor. At the beginning of the play, Iago was unfairly promoted to the rank of lieutenant. He

successfully plots to demote Cassio in the eyes of Othello. While doing this, he brings Othello's downfall. His friend Roderigo also helps him in plotting with the hope that after the end of Othello's rule, he might get the affection of Desdemona, the wife of the hero. After removing Cassio from the scene, he began his work to believe that his wife has a certain unfair relationship with Cassio. Lago's character goes through a number of plans that are meant to gain power and rule over other aspects.

The Machiavellian art and the tactics implied by the Lago are successful as the other characters of the play trust and consider him a truthful person. He mostly shows noble action that compels his companions to believe in his honesty (Geng, 281). Othello kills his wife by Lago's dominant scheme. However, his wife unfolded his treachery, to which he immediately kills her in a rage. Critics have different views over the representation of Lago's character by Shakespeare. The writers discuss the complexity of Lago, which shows that he played a treacherous and faithful role at the same time. Western critics portray the character as a psychopath. Some of the writers are of the view that his fear compelled Lago, and it was not his malice for deceiving the hero of the play.

In our daily lives, we have been driven by certain evil forces that were attached to the Lago. Being human beings, we have certain lust and greed in our will and intellect. However, the most critical point is that there are very few people who are selfless in this world. Shakespeare, in this regard, has tried to portray the inner instinct of humans, which sometimes makes them worse than the beast. We have friends, peers, and faithful followers. We also encounter a certain unbearable situation when seeing that our most loyal friend, like Brutus in King Lear, becomes an enemies just to fulfil his lust for power or a particular goal. In the same way, the character of Othello is highly impressive to the readers, but it also loses its glory when trapped by the close aide Lago.

Othello was brave and a competent general of the Moorish with the background of the Venetian (Rajeswaran, 47). He was technically trapped by the military officer and his close friend. After killing his wife on the charge of adultery, he was unable to face the truth that was revealed by the wife of Lago. He instantly kills himself. The Lago then proceeded for the charge of treason and killing of his wife.

Conclusion

Concluding the discussion on the play Othello and the character of the Lago, we have the idea that jealousy, betrayal and love are the primary motives in our lives. In our practical experience, we also face certain jealous, treacherous and loved people. The lust unveiled in the character of Lago reveals that man could be worse than beasts when he left the fundamental principles of humanity. Despite the complexities of the figures, Shakespeare successfully unfolded the real picture of human society. Studies continue to elaborate on the different themes of the play.

Works Cited

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