

OTHELLO – Act I, scene 1 – Iago’s Rant

Below are key phrases uttered by Iago about Othello. These phrases reveal his character and motivation. Choose one of the phrases below that you like, or go back to scene 1 and find another one not listed below that you prefer.

Take the one that you’ve chosen and walk around the room, saying your line out loud and experimenting with various different emotional qualities, vocal ranges and pitches.

You will say your lines as the “outer” voice of Iago while another group will speak Iago’s soliloquy from Act I, scene 3 as the “inner” voice.

I know my price, I am worth no worse a place.
And I, God bless the mark, his Moorship’s ancient.
’Tis the curse of service.
I follow him to serve my turn upon him.
I follow but myself.
Not I for love and duty but seeming so for my peculiar end.
I am not what I am.
I do hate him as I do hell’s pains.
I must show him out a flag and sign of love, which is indeed but sign.