

Othello is the hero of the play that carries his name as its title. His exceptional abilities qualify him for leading the Venetian army sent to defend the colony of Cyprus against Turkish invasion. They refer to him as an African and attribute to him the derogatory epithets which the name recalls. He allows Iago to fuel his jealousy until he unjustifiably kills his angelic wife. They tend to distance themselves from the black other, who is associated in their imagination with inferiority, immorality and evil. But his gullibility undermines his great prospect of happy love and marriage. He is a black African living in the Italian city-state of Venice. The battlefield proves his intelligence, courage and leadership skills.