

Disjecta membra



Othello is inspired by Cinthio's "The Moorish Captain" (1565) wherein an ensign (flag bearer) lies that his general's new wife is unfaithful, leading the general to murder her.

The Ottoman / Turkish Empire controlled major regions of Europe, Asia, the Middle East, and Africa; wars between Western Europe and the Turks pitted Christian versus Muslim civilizations.

Cyprus is an island "Gateway to the Middle East" blending East-West. Similarly, Shakespeare's *Othello* is likely born in North Africa and raised Muslim, but has immigrated to Venice.

The sovereign country The Most Serene Republic of Venice (697–1797) controlled Cyprus for much of the 16th Century. Venice lost Cyprus after Ottoman invasion in the 1570's; in *Othello*, Shakespeare rewrites history by drowning the Turkish navy in a tempest before they can invade.

Modes of rhetorical persuasion: Ethos (character), Pathos (passion), Logos (logic, word) - Aristotle

"In the beginning was the Word." - John 1:1

"S'blood, but you will not hear me." - Iago, I.i

"Does inadequacy not characterize all that we make use of to perceive and describe the world? Are the signs of language not just as inadequate as images?" - Georges Didi-Huberman

