Socratic Seminar #2 – Othello

Act II.3 is a scene of particular importance because many events in the scene will – in true Renaissance fashion – parallel future events (there are counterbalances to significant actions that take place in this scene).

A. Predict: which actions in this scene might have significant parallel actions later in the play? Discuss the basis for your predictions.

B. Because Act II.3 sets up parallels to future events in the play, the scene full of irony and foreshadowing. With this in mind, discuss in which ways Othello’s question, “Are we turned Turks, and to ourselves do that / Which heaven hath forbid the Ottomites?” (II.iii.153–54) is possibly ironic.