

Othello: Interpreting Similes

Directions: For each of the similes (a comparison of unlike things using “like” or “as”) below, write an interpretation in modern language.

Original Simile	Act, Scene, and Character	Interpretation
<i>“Thou, Iago, who hast had my purse / As if the strings were thine”</i>	Act I, Scene I; Roderigo p.3	
<i>“food...as luscious as locusts, shall / be...as bitter as colocintida”</i>	Act I, Scene 3; Iago p. 24	
<i>“men...will as tenderly be led by the nose / As asses are”</i>	Act I, Scene 3; Iago p. 26	
<i>“the thought whereof / Doth like a poisonous mineral gnaw my innards”</i> [“inwards” in your book]	Act II, Scene 1; Iago p. 37	
<i>“He’ll be as full of quarrel and offence / As my young mistress’ dog”</i>	Act II, Scene 3; Iago p. 39	
<i>“punishment more in policy...as one would / beat his offenceless dog to affright an imperious lion”</i>	Act II, Scene 3; Iago p. 46	
<i>“She’s framed as fruitful / As the free elements”</i>	Act II, Scene 3; Iago p. 48	
<i>“close as oak”</i>	Act III, Scene 3; Iago p. 59	
<i>“Dangerous conceits...Burn like the mines of sulphur”</i>	Act III, Scene 3; Iago p. 63	