needs explanation. Then, if space allows, we rephrase in our own words the difficult passage, and add at the end synonyms for individual words in the passage. When scholars have been unable to determine the meaning of a word or phrase, we acknowledge the uncertainty. Biblical quotations are from the Geneva Bible (1560), with spelling modernized.

# THE MERCHANT OF VENICE



Venice. From Giacomo Franco, Habiti d'huomeni . . . (1609).

# Characters in the Play

PORTIA, an heiress of Belmont
NERISSA, her waiting-gentlewoman
BALTHAZAR
STEPHANO

Servants to Portia

Prince of MOROCCO
Prince of ARRAGON

suitors to Portia

ANTONIO, a merchant of Venice
BASSANIO, a Venetian gentleman, suitor to Portia
SOLANIO
SALARINO
GRATIANO
LORENZO
LEONARDO, servant to Bassanio

SHYLOCK, a Jewish moneylender in Venice
JESSICA, his daughter
TUBAL, another Jewish moneylender
LANCELET GOBBO, servant to Shylock and later to
Bassanio
OLD GOBBO, Lancelet's father

SALERIO, a messenger from Venice Jailer Duke of Venice

Magnificoes of Venice Servants Attendants and followers Messenger Musicians

THE
MERCHANT
OF
VENICE

ACT 1

- 1.1 Antonio, a Venetian merchant, has invested all his wealth in trading expeditions. Bassanio, his friend and kinsman, asks him for money to go to Belmont, where Bassanio hopes to marry the heiress Portia. Antonio gives Bassanio permission to borrow the money on Antonio's credit.
  - 1. sooth: truth
  - 5. I am to learn: i.e., I do not know
  - 6. want-wit: fool
  - 7. ado: difficulty, trouble
- 9. argosies: large merchant ships; portly: fatbellied; stately
  - 10. signiors: Venetian nobleman; flood: water
- 11. **pageants:** floats in street processions; elaborately decorated barges
- 12. **overpeer:** look down on; **petty traffickers:** i.e., smaller ships
  - 13. do them reverence: curtsy or bow to them
  - 14. they: i.e., the argosies
- 15. **venture**: commercial enterprise involving risk (specifically, for Antonio, his ships, and their cargoes of **spices** [line 34] and **silks** [line 35]); **forth**: abroad
  - 16. The better part: most; affections: feelings
  - 17. still: always
  - 19. Piring: peering; roads: places to anchor

### rACT 17

### Scene 17

Enter Antonio, Salarino, and Solanio.

ANTONIO	
In sooth I know not why I am so sad.	
It wearies me, you say it wearies you.	
But how I caught it, found it, or came by it,	
What stuff 'tis made of, whereof it is born,	
I am to learn.	5
And such a want-wit sadness makes of me	
That I have much ado to know myself.	
SALARINO	
Your mind is tossing on the ocean,	
There where your argosies with portly sail	
(Like signiors and rich burghers on the flood,	10
Or, as it were, the pageants of the sea)	
Do overpeer the petty traffickers	
That curtsy to them, do them reverence,	
As they fly by them with their woven wings.	
SOLANIO	
Believe me, sir, had I such venture forth,	15
The better part of my affections would	
Be with my hopes abroad. I should be still	
Plucking the grass to know where sits the wind,	
Piring in maps for ports and piers and roads;	
And every object that might make me fear	 20

23. wind: i.e., breath

24. blow me to an ague: give me chills and fever

27. flats: shoals

28. **wealthy Andrew:** a ship with a rich cargo, like the Spanish ship *San Andres* (or *Andrew*) captured by the English at Cadiz in 1596

29. Vailing: lowering

32. bethink me straight: think immediately

36-37. but even now ... worth nothing: i.e., one minute worth a lot, the next minute worth nothing

39. thing bechanced: possibility

43. **bottom:** i.e., ship, as in the proverb "Venture **not** all **in one bottom**" (literally, lower part of ship's hull)

52-53. **two-headed Janus:** the Roman god with two faces looking in opposite directions (See picture, below.)



Janus. (1.1.53)
From Andrea Alciati, Emblemata . . . (1583)

# The Merchant of Venice

ACT 1. SC. 1

Misfortune to my ventures, out of doubt	
Would make me sad.	
SALARINO My wind cooling my broth	
Would blow me to an ague when I thought	
What harm a wind too great might do at sea.	25
I should not see the sandy hourglass run	
But I should think of shallows and of flats,	
And see my wealthy Andrew \[ \text{docked} \] in sand,	
Vailing her high top lower than her ribs	7
To kiss her burial. Should I go to church	30
And see the holy edifice of stone	
And not bethink me straight of dangerous rocks,	
Which, touching but my gentle vessel's side,	
Would scatter all her spices on the stream,	
Enrobe the roaring waters with my silks,	35
And, in a word, but even now worth this	
And now worth nothing? Shall I have the thought	
To think on this, and shall I lack the thought	
That such a thing bechanced would make me sad?	
But tell not me: I know Antonio	40
Is sad to think upon his merchandise.	~
ANTONIO	
Believe me, no. I thank my fortune for it,	
My ventures are not in one bottom trusted,	
Nor to one place; nor is my whole estate	
Upon the fortune of this present year:	45
Therefore my merchandise makes me not sad.	-
SOLANIO	
Why then you are in love.	
ANTONIO Fie, fie!	
SOLANIO	
Not in love neither? Then let us say you are sad	100
Because you are not merry; and 'twere as easy	50
For you to laugh and leap, and say you are merry	
Because you are not sad. Now, by two-headed	
Tanus	

57. **other:** i.e., others; **vinegar aspect:** sour face (accent **aspect** on second syllable)

59. Nestor: the wise old Greek councillor

60. **kinsman:** This is the only place in the play that such a family relationship is mentioned.

71. **grow exceeding strange:** i.e., are becoming complete strangers

72. **We'll make...on yours:** i.e., we'll find time for you whenever you are available

78. have . . . upon: i.e., pay too much attention to



A merchant of Venice. From Jean de Glen, Des habits, moeurs ... (1601).

Some that will evermore peep through their eyes 55 And laugh like parrots at a bagpiper. And other of such vinegar aspect That they'll not show their teeth in way of smile Though Nestor swear the jest be laughable. Enter Bassanio, Lorenzo, and Gratiano. Here comes Bassanio, your most noble kinsman. Gratiano, and Lorenzo. Fare you well. We leave you now with better company. SALARINO I would have stayed till I had made you merry, If worthier friends had not prevented me. ANTONIO Your worth is very dear in my regard. I take it your own business calls on you, And you embrace th' occasion to depart. SALARINO Good morrow, my good lords. BASSANIO Good signiors both, when shall we laugh? Say, when? 70 You grow exceeding strange. Must it be so? SALARINO We'll make our leisures to attend on yours. Salarino and Solanio exit. LORENZO My Lord Bassanio, since you have found Antonio. We two will leave you. But at dinner time I pray you have in mind where we must meet. 75 BASSANIO I will not fail you. GRATIANO You look not well. Signior Antonio.

You have too much respect upon the world.

The Merchant of Venice

Nature hath framed strange fellows in her time:

ACT 1, SC. 1

81. hold: i.e., regard, value

85. **old wrinkles:** i.e., (1) **wrinkles** that come with age; (2) many **wrinkles**, from laughing

87. mortifying: self-denying; life-destroying

89. his...alabaster: the tomb sculpture of his grandfather

90-91. **creep...peevish:** contract **jaundice** through bad temper (**Jaundice** was believed to result from an excess of bile, which made one **peevish**.)

94. **cream and mantle:** i.e., acquire a fixed expression (literally, become covered in scum)

95. stillness: silence; entertain: adopt

96. opinion: reputation

97. conceit: thought

98. As who should: i.e., as if he would

103-5. would...fools: i.e., would surely be called fools (According to Matthew 5.22, "Whoso-ever shall say [to his brother], 'Thou fool,' shall be in danger of hellfire.")

107. melancholy bait: i.e., bait of melancholy

108. gudgeon: a fish said to swallow anything

112. dumb: silent

They lose it that do buy it with much care.	
Believe me, you are marvelously changed.	80
ANTONIO	
I hold the world but as the world, Gratiano,	
A stage where every man must play a part,	
And mine a sad one.	
GRATIANO Let me play the fool.	
With mirth and laughter let old wrinkles come,	85
And let my liver rather heat with wine	
Than my heart cool with mortifying groans.	
Why should a man whose blood is warm within	
Sit like his grandsire cut in alabaster?	
Sleep when he wakes? And creep into the jaundice	90
By being peevish? I tell thee what, Antonio	
(I love thee, and 'tis my love that speaks):	
There are a sort of men whose visages	
Do cream and mantle like a standing pond	
And do a willful stillness entertain	95
With purpose to be dressed in an opinion	
Of wisdom, gravity, profound conceit,	
As who should say "I am Sir Oracle,	
And when I ope my lips, let no dog bark."	
O my Antonio, I do know of these	100
That therefore only are reputed wise	
For saying nothing, when, I am very sure,	
If they should speak, would almost damn those ears	
Which, hearing them, would call their brothers	
fools.	105
I'll tell thee more of this another time.	100
But fish not with this melancholy bait	
For this fool gudgeon, this opinion.—	
Come, good Lorenzo.—Fare you well a while.	
I'll end my exhortation after dinner.	110
LORENZO	,110
Well, we will leave you then till dinner time.	
wen, we will leave you then thi diffier time.	

I must be one of these same dumb wise men,

For Gratiano never lets me speak.

117	۲.	for	this	gear:	because	of	this	speech	1
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- 119. **neat's:** ox's; **maid not vendible:** a woman who cannot be sold on the marriage market
  - 120. that: i.e., Gratiano's speech
- 124. shall: must; ere: before
- 126. the same: i.e., the one
- 130. disabled: i.e., depleted
- 131–32. By something...grant continuance: i.e., by displaying a rather more grand style of life than my modest means would allow me to continue
- 133–34. **make moan...rate:** complain about being forced to cut back on this great expenditure
- 135. come...debts: discharge with honor the large debts
  - 136. **time:** i.e., past
  - 137. gaged: obliged (to pay)
- 139. from . . . warranty: i.e., your love gives me authorization
  - 140. unburden: i.e., reveal

GRATIANO	
Well, keep me company but two years more,	
Thou shalt not know the sound of thine own	115
tongue.	
ANTONIO	
Fare you well. I'll grow a talker for this gear.	
GRATIANO	
Thanks, i' faith, for silence is only commendable	
In a neat's tongue dried and a maid not vendible.	
Gratiano and Lorenzo exit.	
ANTONIO Is that anything now?	120
BASSANIO Gratiano speaks an infinite deal of nothing,	
more than any man in all Venice. His reasons are as	
two grains of wheat hid in two bushels of chaff: you	
shall seek all day ere you find them, and when you	
have them, they are not worth the search.	125
ANTONIO	
Well, tell me now what lady is the same	
To whom you swore a secret pilgrimage,	
That you today promised to tell me of?	
BASSANIO	
Tis not unknown to you, Antonio,	
How much I have disabled mine estate	130
By something showing a more swelling port	
Than my faint means would grant continuance.	
Nor do I now make moan to be abridged	
From such a noble rate. But my chief care	1
Is to come fairly off from the great debts	135
Wherein my time, something too prodigal,	
Hath left me gaged. To you, Antonio,	
I owe the most in money and in love,	
And from your love I have a warranty	-40
To unburden all my plots and purposes	140
How to get clear of all the debts I owe.	
ANTONIO	
I pray you, good Bassanio, let me know it;	

147. sha 148. his i.e., the san 151. pro 155. sel 157–58. 158. latt 160. spe 161. To to go so inc 162. out 163. ma doubting th 167. pre 168. rich 170. Son 172–73.	oof: experience or Or ter hazar end but to wind about to of doub king que that I would be to of the Rond of the Rond der of the Rond der of the state.	i.e., and t and tience fsame fsame ii.e., o argu t: cert estion ld do ready i.e., wh forman i To ortia: nan ste cons	, same either cond when with the circular of every for (Into have erly, or i.e., The Interest of the conduction of the c	r; the	or time time stant utte g I coch precite o less rical	stance ially rmost ould for êt) d rich worth Porti	e: i.e., or you es than a was
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And if it stand, as you yourself still do. Within the eye of honor, be assured My purse, my person, my extremest means 145 Lie all unlocked to your occasions. BASSANIO In my school days, when I had lost one shaft, I shot his fellow of the selfsame flight The selfsame way with more advised watch To find the other forth; and by adventuring both 150 I oft found both. I urge this childhood proof Because what follows is pure innocence. I owe you much, and, like a willful youth. That which I owe is lost. But if you please To shoot another arrow that self way 155 Which you did shoot the first. I do not doubt. As I will watch the aim, or to find both Or bring your latter hazard back again, And thankfully rest debtor for the first. ANTONIO You know me well, and herein spend but time 160 To wind about my love with circumstance: And out of doubt you do me now more wrong In making question of my uttermost Than if you had made waste of all I have. Then do but say to me what I should do 165 That in your knowledge may by me be done, And I am prest unto it. Therefore speak. BASSANIO In Belmont is a lady richly left. And she is fair, and, fairer than that word. Of wondrous virtues. Sometimes from her eyes 170 I did receive fair speechless messages. Her name is Portia, nothing undervalued To Cato's daughter, Brutus' Portia. Nor is the wide world ignorant of her worth. For the four winds blow in from every coast 175

The Merchant of Venice

ACT 1, SC. 1

178. Colchos' strond: the shore of Colchis on the Black Sea, where, in Greek mythology, Jason and the Argonauts went in quest of the Golden Fleece

180-81. means...one of them: i.e., the wealth to stand on equal footing with one of Portia's suitors

182. presages me: forecasts to me; thrift: success

183. questionless: unquestionably

185. commodity: goods, i.e., collateral

188. racked: strained

189. furnish thee to: equip you to journey to

190. presently: immediately

191-92. I...sake: i.e., I have no doubt that I will get it either on my credit as a merchant or from friends

1.2 At Portia's estate of Belmont, Portia and Nerissa talk over Portia's frustration at being unable to choose her own husband. According to her father's will, she may marry only the man who chooses correctly among three small chests made of gold, silver, and lead. Portia likes none of the suitors who have so far arrived. A messenger enters to announce the coming of a new suitor, the Prince of Morocco.

1. By my troth: a mild oath

5. aught: anything

6. surfeit . . . much: fall ill through overeating

7. mean: small, inconsiderable

7-8. to be seated in the mean: i.e., to be located in the middle between excess and want

8. Superfluity: excess

(continued)

18

Renownèd suitors, and her sunny locks Hang on her temples like a golden fleece. Which makes her seat of Belmont Colchos' strond. And many Jasons come in quest of her. O my Antonio, had I but the means 180 To hold a rival place with one of them. I have a mind presages me such thrift That I should questionless be fortunate! ANTONIO Thou know'st that all my fortunes are at sea: Neither have I money nor commodity 185 To raise a present sum. Therefore go forth: Try what my credit can in Venice do: That shall be racked even to the uttermost To furnish thee to Belmont to fair Portia. Go presently inquire, and so will I, 190 Where money is, and I no question make To have it of my trust, or for my sake. They exit.

# 「Scene 27

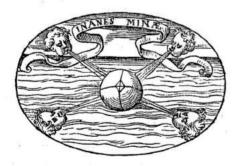
Enter Portia with her waiting woman Nerissa.

PORTIA By my troth, Nerissa, my little body is aweary of this great world.

NERISSA You would be, sweet madam, if your miseries were in the same abundance as your good fortunes are. And yet, for aught I see, they are as sick that surfeit with too much as they that starve with nothing. It is no mean happiness, therefore, to be seated in the mean. Superfluity comes sooner by white hairs, but competency lives longer.

PORTIA Good sentences, and well pronounced. NERISSA They would be better if well followed.

- 8-9. **comes...hairs:** i.e., acquires **white hairs** more quickly
- 9. competency: sufficiency
- 10. sentences: sayings (Latin sententiae); pronounced: delivered
  - 14. divine: clergyman
  - 18. blood: i.e., emotions, feelings
  - 20. meshes: nets, snares
- 21. in the fashion: i.e., of the sort
- 30. whereof: i.e., whereby; who: whoever; his: i.e., your father's
- 36. overname them: say their names over
- 38. level at: aim at: guess
- 41-42. appropriation: addition
- 42. good parts: achievements
- 44. played false: i.e., committed adultery; smith: blacksmith
  - 45. County: count
- 46. as who should say: i.e., as much as to say
- 47. An: i.e., if; choose: do as you please



"The four winds." (1.1.175)
From Giulio Capaccio, Delle imprese trattato . . . (1592).

PORTIA If to do were as easy as to know what were good to do, chapels had been churches, and poor men's cottages princes' palaces. It is a good divine that follows his own instructions. I can easier teach twenty what were good to be done than to be one of the twenty to follow mine own teaching. The brain may devise laws for the blood, but a hot temper leaps o'er a cold decree: such a hare is madness the youth, to skip o'er the meshes of good counsel the cripple. But this reasoning is not in the fashion to choose me a husband. O, me, the word "choose"! I may neither choose who I would nor refuse who I dislike. So is the will of a living daughter curbed by the will of a dead father. Is it not hard, Nerissa, that I cannot choose one, nor refuse none?

NERISSA Your father was ever virtuous, and holy men at their death have good inspirations. Therefore the lottery that he hath devised in these three chests of gold, silver, and lead, whereof who chooses his meaning chooses you, will no doubt never be chosen by any rightly but one who you shall rightly love. But what warmth is there in your affection towards any of these princely suitors that are already come?

PORTIA I pray thee, overname them, and as thou namest them, I will describe them, and according to my description level at my affection.

NERISSA First, there is the Neapolitan prince.

PORTIA Ay, that's a colt indeed, for he doth nothing but talk of his horse, and he makes it a great appropriation to his own good parts that he can shoe him himself. I am much afeard my lady his mother played false with a smith.

NERISSA Then is there the County Palatine.

PORTIA He doth nothing but frown, as who should say "An you will not have me, choose." He hears

55

49. **weeping philosopher:** Heraclitus of Ephesus, who wept at people's consuming desire for riches

51. death's-head: skull

54. How say you by: i.e., what do you say about

61. throstle: thrush; straight: immediately; a-cap'ring: dancing

64-65. to madness: madly

70-71. come . . . swear: i.e., bear witness

71-72. have ... English: i.e., speak little English

72. **proper man's picture:** i.e., the **picture** of an ideal man

73. **dumb show:** i.e., someone who does not speak (literally, a part of a play presented without speech)

74. suited: dressed; doublet: jacket

75. round hose: wide breeches

80-82. he borrowed...able: i.e., he let the Englishman slap his ear and, instead of defending himself, swore that he'd pay him back later

82-83. **became...another:** perhaps, guaranteed that the Scot would pay back **the Englishman** and promised to add his own blow as well; or, perhaps, let **the Englishman** slap his ear as well, promising to retaliate

merry tales and smiles not. I fear he will prove the weeping philosopher when he grows old, being so full of unmannerly sadness in his youth. I had rather be married to a death's-head with a bone in his mouth than to either of these. God defend me from these two!

NERISSA How say you by the French lord, Monsieur Le

PORTIA God made him, and therefore let him pass for a man. In truth, I know it is a sin to be a mocker, but he!—why, he hath a horse better than the Neapolitan's, a better bad habit of frowning than the Count Palatine. He is every man in no man. If a throstle sing, he falls straight a-cap'ring. He will fence with his own shadow. If I should marry him, I should marry twenty husbands! If he would despise me, I would forgive him, for if he love me to madness, I shall never requite him.

NERISSA What say you then to Falconbridge, the young

baron of England?

PORTIA You know I say nothing to him, for he understands not me, nor I him. He hath neither Latin, French, nor Italian; and you will come into the court and swear that I have a poor pennyworth in the English. He is a proper man's picture, but alas, who can converse with a dumb show? How oddly he is suited! I think he bought his doublet in Italy, his round hose in France, his bonnet in Germany, and his behavior everywhere.

NERISSA What think you of the Scottish lord, his

neighbor?

PORTIA That he hath a neighborly charity in him, for he borrowed a box of the ear of the Englishman, and swore he would pay him again when he was able. I think the Frenchman became his surety and sealed under for another.

fair lady.

90. make shift: i.e., find a way

93. **casket:** small ornamental chest for holding jewels and other valuables

96. deep: i.e., tall; contrary: wrong

104. by some other sort: i.e., in some other way

105. imposition: order, command

106. **Sibylla:** the Sibyl of Cumae, to whom Apollo granted as many years of life as there are grains in a handful of sand

107. Diana: goddess of chastity (See picture, below.)



Diana. (1.2.107, 5.1.7)
From Robert Whitcombe, Janua divorum . . . (1678).

NERISSA How like you the young German, the Duke of Saxony's nephew? PORTIA Very vilely in the morning, when he is sober. and most vilely in the afternoon, when he is drunk. When he is best he is a little worse than a man, and when he is worst he is little better than a beast. An the worst fall that ever fell, I hope I shall make shift 90 to go without him. NERISSA If he should offer to choose, and choose the right casket, you should refuse to perform your father's will if you should refuse to accept him. PORTIA Therefore, for fear of the worst, I pray thee set 95 a deep glass of Rhenish wine on the contrary casket, for if the devil be within and that temptation without, I know he will choose it. I will do anything, Nerissa, ere I will be married to a sponge. NERISSA You need not fear, lady, the having any of 100 these lords. They have acquainted me with their determinations, which is indeed to return to their home and to trouble you with no more suit, unless vou may be won by some other sort than your father's imposition depending on the caskets. PORTIA If I live to be as old as Sibylla, I will die as chaste as Diana unless I be obtained by the manner of my father's will. I am glad this parcel of wooers are so reasonable, for there is not one among them but I dote on his very absence. And I pray God 110 grant them a fair departure! NERISSA Do you not remember, lady, in your father's time, a Venetian, a scholar and a soldier, that came hither in company of the Marquess of Montferrat? PORTIA Yes, yes, it was Bassanio—as I think so was he 115 called. NERISSA True, madam. He, of all the men that ever my foolish eyes looked upon, was the best deserving a

129. condition: character

131. shrive me: grant me absolution

132. Sirrah: a term of address to a male social inferior

1.3 In Venice Bassanio goes to Shylock, a Jewish moneylender, to borrow, in Antonio's name, 3,000 ducats. Shylock hates Antonio but agrees to lend the money provided that Antonio sign a bond to yield a pound of his own flesh if he is unable to repay the loan on time. Shylock insists that the bond is a kind of joke, a "merry bond." Bassanio distrusts Shylock, but Antonio, confident of the success of his trading expeditions, agrees to sign the bond.

1. ducats: Venetian gold coins

5. bound: i.e., obligated by a legal bond to repay

7. May you stead: can you help; pleasure: gratify

PORTIA I remember him well, and I remember him 120 worthy of thy praise.

# Enter a Servingman.

How now, what news?

SERVINGMAN The four strangers seek for you, madam, to take their leave. And there is a forerunner come from a fifth, the Prince of Morocco, who brings 125 word the Prince his master will be here tonight.

PORTIA If I could bid the fifth welcome with so good heart as I can bid the other four farewell, I should be glad of his approach. If he have the condition of a saint and the complexion of a devil, I had rather 130 he should shrive me than wive me.

Come, Nerissa. To Servingman. Sirrah, go before.—Whiles we shut the gate upon one wooer, another knocks at the door.

They exit.

10

# 「Scene 37

# Enter Bassanio with Shylock the Jew.

SHYLOCK Three thousand ducats, well.

BASSANIO Ay, sir, for three months.

SHYLOCK For three months, well.

BASSANIO For the which, as I told you, Antonio shall be bound.

SHYLOCK Antonio shall become bound, well.

BASSANIO May you stead me? Will you pleasure me? Shall I know your answer?

SHYLOCK Three thousand ducats for three months, and Antonio bound.

BASSANIO Your answer to that?

SHYLOCK Antonio is a good man.

BASSANIO Have you heard any imputation to the contrary?

17. sufficient: i.e., as a guarantee or security; in supposition: uncertain

19. Rialto: the Exchange, where merchants gathered

21. squandered: scattered (perhaps imprudently)

28. assured: satisfied (Shylock, in the following line, uses assured to mean "financially guaranteed.")

33-35. the habitation...into: The gospels (Matthew 8.28-32, Mark 5.1-13, and Luke 8.27-33) describe Christ (your prophet the Nazarite) driving devils out of madmen and into a herd of swine.

41. publican: collector of Roman taxes and enemy of the Jews (In Luke 18.9-14, Jesus tells of a publican whose humility justified him in God's eves.)

42. for: because

43. low simplicity: humble foolishness

44. gratis: without interest

45. usance: interest

46. catch him . . . the hip: have him at my mercy (The term comes from wrestling. See picture, page 164.)

SHYLOCK Ho, no, no, no, no! My meaning in saving he 15 is a good man is to have you understand me that he is sufficient. Yet his means are in supposition: he hath an argosy bound to Tripolis, another to the Indies. I understand, moreover, upon the Rialto, he hath a third at Mexico, a fourth for England, and 20 other ventures he hath squandered abroad. But ships are but boards, sailors but men; there be land rats and water rats, water thieves and land thieves-I mean pirates-and then there is the peril of waters, winds, and rocks. The man is, 25 notwithstanding, sufficient. Three thousand ducats. I think I may take his bond.

BASSANIO Be assured you may.

SHYLOCK I will be assured I may. And that I may be assured, I will bethink me. May I speak with 30 Antonio?

BASSANIO If it please you to dine with us.

SHYLOCK Yes, to smell pork! To eat of the habitation which your prophet the Nazarite conjured the devil into! I will buy with you, sell with you, talk 35 with you, walk with you, and so following; but I will not eat with you, drink with you, nor pray with you.-What news on the Rialto?-Who is he comes here?

### Enter Antonio.

BASSANIO This is Signior Antonio. SHYLOCK, [aside] How like a fawning publican he looks! I hate him for he is a Christian, But more for that in low simplicity He lends out money gratis and brings down The rate of usance here with us in Venice. If I can catch him once upon the hip.

I will feed fat the ancient grudge I bear him.

50. thrift: profit, gains

54. **debating...store:** i.e., considering how much ready cash I have

59. soft: i.e., wait a minute

60. Rest you fair: a polite greeting

62. Your Worship . . . mouths: i.e., we were just now speaking of you

64. excess: i.e., interest

65. ripe wants: i.e., urgent needs

66-67. Is he yet possessed: i.e., does he yet know

68. would: i.e., wish to have

76. Methoughts: it seemed to me

77. Upon advantage: i.e., with interest

78. I do never use it: i.e., that is not my practice 79–98. When Jacob...steal it not: Shylock tells the story (found in Genesis 30.25–43) of Jacob, who, serving Laban for seven years in order to win Laban's daughter Rachel, contracted with Laban to take as wages only the multicolored lambs born that year. When the ewes were in heat, Jacob drove into the ground before them branches with the bark peeled partway back (multicolored branches) which the ewes would see as the rams covered them. It was believed that offspring resembled whatever the mother saw at conception. Jacob thereby acquired a great flock.

He hates our sacred nation, and he rails, Even there where merchants most do congregate, On me, my bargains, and my well-won thrift, 50 Which he calls "interest." Cursèd be my tribe If I forgive him! Shylock, do you hear? BASSANIO SHYLOCK I am debating of my present store, And, by the near guess of my memory, 55 I cannot instantly raise up the gross Of full three thousand ducats. What of that? Tubal, a wealthy Hebrew of my tribe, Will furnish me. But soft, how many months Do you desire? To Antonio. Rest you fair, good signior! Your Worship was the last man in our mouths. ANTONIO Shylock, albeit I neither lend nor borrow By taking nor by giving of excess, Yet, to supply the ripe wants of my friend, I'll break a custom. To Bassanio. Is he yet possessed How much you would? Ay, ay, three thousand SHYLOCK 70 ducats. ANTONIO And for three months. SHYLOCK I had forgot—three months. To Bassanio. You told me so .-Well then, your bond. And let me see-but hear 75 Methoughts you said you neither lend nor borrow Upon advantage. I do never use it. ANTONIO SHYLOCK When Jacob grazed his Uncle Laban's sheep— This Jacob from our holy Abram was 80

(As his wise mother wrought in his behalf)

81. wrought: managed (Genesis 27 describes how Rebecca, Jacob's mother, tricked her husband, Isaac, into making Jacob his heir.)

82. **third possessor:** Jacob inherited from Isaac, who had inherited from Abraham.

85. Mark: i.e., listen to

86. compromised: agreed

87. eanlings: lambs; pied: parti-colored

88. fall as Jacob's hire: become Jacob's wages; rank: i.e., in heat

92. **pilled me:** peeled (The **me** is the ethical dative, which serves only to mark Shylock's speech as informal.)

93. in the doing...kind: i.e., while the sheep were copulating (To "do one's kind" was to perform the sexual function.)

94. fulsome: lustful

95. eaning: lambing

96. Fall: i.e., drop, give birth to

98. **thrift:** profit

99–101. This was a venture...hand of heaven: Antonio argues that Jacob was like a merchant venturing for profit with heaven's aid rather than (as Shylock had suggested) a usurer breeding interest.

102. Was this...good?: i.e., was the story of Jacob and Laban brought in to justify taking interest?

The third possessor; ay, he was the third— ANTONIO And what of him? Did he take interest? SHYLOCK No, not take interest, not, as you would say, Directly "interest." Mark what Jacob did. 85 When Laban and himself were compromised That all the eanlings which were streaked and pied Should fall as Jacob's hire, the ewes being rank In end of autumn turned to the rams. And when the work of generation was 90 Between these woolly breeders in the act. The skillful shepherd pilled me certain wands, And in the doing of the deed of kind He stuck them up before the fulsome ewes, Who then conceiving did in eaning time Fall parti-colored lambs, and those were Jacob's. This was a way to thrive, and he was blest; And thrift is blessing if men steal it not. ANTONIO This was a venture, sir, that Jacob served for, A thing not in his power to bring to pass, 100 But swaved and fashioned by the hand of heaven. Was this inserted to make interest good? Or is your gold and silver ewes and rams? SHYLOCK I cannot tell: I make it breed as fast. But note me, signior-105 ANTONIO, [aside to Bassanio] Mark you this, Bassanio, The devil can cite Scripture for his purpose! An evil soul producing holy witness Is like a villain with a smiling cheek, A goodly apple rotten at the heart. 110 O, what a goodly outside falsehood hath!

115. beholding to you: i.e., in your debt

117. rated: berated, scolded

118. moneys: i.e., money, sums of money

119. Still: always

120. suff'rance: (1) forbearance; (2) suffering

122. **spet:** spit or spat; **gaberdine:** loose outer robe (See picture, below.)

123. use: (1) lending with interest; (2) using

125. Go to: an expression of impatience

127. void your rheum: i.e., spit

128. foot: i.e., kick

129. suit: i.e., what you seek

133. bondman's key: slave's tone of voice



A Jewish merchant.
From Pietro Bertelli, *Diversarum nationum*habitus . . . (1594–96).

SHYLOCK Three thousand ducats. 'Tis a good round sum. Three months from twelve, then let me see, the rate-ANTONIO Well, Shylock, shall we be beholding to you? 115 SHYLOCK Signior Antonio, many a time and oft In the Rialto you have rated me About my moneys and my usances. Still have I borne it with a patient shrug (For suff'rance is the badge of all our tribe). 120 You call me misbeliever, cutthroat dog. And spet upon my Jewish gaberdine, And all for use of that which is mine own. Well then, it now appears you need my help. Go to, then. You come to me and you say 125 "Shylock, we would have moneys"—you say so, You, that did void your rheum upon my beard, And foot me as you spurn a stranger cur Over your threshold. Moneys is your suit. What should I say to you? Should I not say 130 "Hath a dog money? Is it possible A cur can lend three thousand ducats?" Or Shall I bend low, and in a bondman's key, With bated breath and whisp'ring humbleness, Say this: "Fair sir, you spet on me on Wednesday 135 last: You spurned me such a day; another time You called me 'dog'; and for these courtesies I'll lend you thus much moneys"? ANTONIO I am as like to call thee so again. 140 To spet on thee again, to spurn thee, too. If thou wilt lend this money, lend it not As to thy friends, for when did friendship take

145–47. lend...penalty: These lines are reminiscent of the biblical "Unto a stranger [i.e., foreigner] thou mayest lend upon usury, but thou shalt not lend upon usury unto thy brother." Who: i.e., from whom break: i.e., becomes bankrupt

151. wants: needs; doit: jot

154. were: i.e., would be (if it were done)

156–57. **seal...bond:** i.e., have the **bond** authorized with a seal **single bond:** a bond without conditions

161. nominated for: named as; equal: exact

164. Content: agreed

167. dwell: remain; necessity: neediness

173. teaches . . . suspect: teach them to suspect

175. break his day: i.e., fail to repay me on the appointed day

A breed for barren metal of his friend?	
But lend it rather to thine enemy,	145
Who, if he break, thou mayst with better face	
Exact the penalty.	
SHYLOCK Why, look you how you storm!	
I would be friends with you and have your love,	
Forget the shames that you have stained me with,	150
Supply your present wants, and take no doit	
Of usance for my moneys, and you'll not hear me!	
This is kind I offer.	
BASSANIO This were kindness!	
SHYLOCK This kindness will I show.	155
Go with me to a notary, seal me there	(3/3/5)
Your single bond; and in a merry sport,	
If you repay me not on such a day,	
In such a place, such sum or sums as are	7067
Expressed in the condition, let the forfeit	160
Be nominated for an equal pound	
Of your fair flesh, to be cut off and taken	
In what part of your body pleaseth me.	
ANTONIO	
Content, in faith. I'll seal to such a bond,	
And say there is much kindness in the Jew.	165
BASSANIO	
You shall not seal to such a bond for me!	
I'll rather dwell in my necessity.	
ANTONIO	
Why, fear not, man, I will not forfeit it!	
Within these two months—that's a month before	
This bond expires—I do expect return	170
Of thrice three times the value of this bond.	
SHYLOCK	
O father Abram, what these Christians are,	
Whose own hard dealings teaches them suspect	
The thoughts of others! Pray you tell me this:	
If he should break his day, what should I gain	175

178. estimable: valuable

181. so: i.e., fine

187. fearful: unreliable

188. unthrifty knave: careless servant

190. Hie thee: i.e., hurry



A usurer. (3.1.47)
From John Blaxton, *The English vsurer* . . . (1634).

By the exaction of the forfeiture? A pound of man's flesh taken from a man Is not so estimable, profitable neither, As flesh of muttons, beefs, or goats. I say, To buy his favor I extend this friendship. 180 If he will take it, so. If not, adieu; And for my love I pray you wrong me not. ANTONIO Yes, Shylock, I will seal unto this bond. SHYLOCK Then meet me forthwith at the notary's. Give him direction for this merry bond, 185 And I will go and purse the ducats straight, See to my house left in the fearful guard Of an unthrifty knave, and presently I'll be with you. Hie thee, gentle Jew. ANTONIO 190 「Shylock Texits.

The Hebrew will turn Christian; he grows kind.

BASSANIO

I like not fair terms and a villain's mind.

Come on, in this there can be no dismay; My ships come home a month before the day.

They exit.

THE
MERCHANT
OF
VENICE

ACT 2

- **2.1** At Belmont the Prince of Morocco greets Portia, who tells him the terms of the contest: if he chooses the wrong chest, he must never again seek to marry. He accepts these terms.
- 0 SD. **tawny:** brown; **accordingly:** i.e., costumed and made up in the same way as **Morocco** 
  - 1. Mislike me not: do not dislike me
- 2. **shadowed...sun:** dark uniform of those who attend on the bright **sun**
- 3. **near bred:** (1) brought up close by; (2) closely related
  - 4. fairest: lightest complexioned
- 5. **Phoebus:** the god of the sun (See picture, page 74.)
  - 6. make incision: i.e., cut ourselves
  - 7. reddest: Red blood signified courage.
  - 8. aspect: face
  - 9. feared: terrified
- 14. **nice direction:** (1) precise guidance; (2) fastidious choice
- 15. **lott'ry of my destiny:** i.e., the test that will determine my fate
  - 17. scanted: restricted
- 18. **hedged...wit:** bound me through his wisdom
  - 19. who: to whoever

\_\_\_\_

FACT 27

### Scene 17

Enter the Prince of Morocco, a tawny Moor all in white, and three or four followers accordingly, with Portia, Nerissa, and their train.

### MOROCCO

Mislike me not for my complexion,
The shadowed livery of the burnished sun,
To whom I am a neighbor and near bred.
Bring me the fairest creature northward born,
Where Phoebus' fire scarce thaws the icicles,
And let us make incision for your love
To prove whose blood is reddest, his or mine.
I tell thee, lady, this aspect of mine
Hath feared the valiant; by my love I swear
The best regarded virgins of our clime
Have loved it too. I would not change this hue
Except to steal your thoughts, my gentle queen.
PORTIA

In terms of choice I am not solely led
By nice direction of a maiden's eyes;
Besides, the lott'ry of my destiny
Bars me the right of voluntary choosing.
But if my father had not scanted me
And hedged me by his wit to yield myself
His wife who wins me by that means I told you,

15

20. stood as fair: i.e., (1) looked as fair to me; (2) had as good a chance

26. Sophy: Persian ruler

27. three fields: i.e., three times on the battlefield; Sultan Solyman: i.e., Suleiman the Magnificent (See picture, page 128.)

28. o'erstare: i.e., outstare

33. Hercules and Lychas: Hercules, the greatest of Greek mythological heroes, and his servant Lychas (See picture of Hercules, page 76.)

34. Which: i.e., to determine which; greater: i.e.,

higher in points

36. Alcides: Hercules

37. blind Fortune: The goddess Fortuna is pictured as blind or blindfolded because her choice of whom to favor seems arbitrary or whimsical. (See pictures, pages 116 and 176.)

44. be advised: take careful thought

45. Nor will not: i.e., if I choose wrongly, I will never propose marriage to anyone

Yourself, renowned prince, then stood as fair	20
As any comer I have looked on yet	
For my affection.	
MOROCCO Even for that I thank you.	
Therefore I pray you lead me to the caskets	
To try my fortune. By this scimitar	25
That slew the Sophy and a Persian prince,	
That won three fields of Sultan Solyman,	
I would o'erstare the sternest eyes that look,	
Outbrave the heart most daring on the earth,	
Pluck the young sucking cubs from the she-bear,	30
Yea, mock the lion when he roars for prey,	
To win thee, lady. But, alas the while!	
If Hercules and Lychas play at dice	
Which is the better man, the greater throw	
May turn by fortune from the weaker hand;	35
So is Alcides beaten by his page,	
And so may I, blind Fortune leading me,	
Miss that which one unworthier may attain,	
And die with grieving.	
PORTIA You must take your chance	40
And either not attempt to choose at all	
Or swear before you choose, if you choose wrong	
Never to speak to lady afterward	
In way of marriage. Therefore be advised.	
MOROCCO	
Nor will not. Come, bring me unto my chance.	45
	43
First, forward to the temple. After dinner	
Your hazard shall be made.	
- 10 1	
MOROCCO Good fortune then, To make me blest—or cursed'st among men!	
They exit.	
They exii.	

2.2 In Venice Shylock's servant, Lancelet Gobbo. debates whether he should find a new master. Lancelet's father comes in search of him and asks Bassanio to take Lancelet into his service. Bassanio agrees to become Lancelet's master. Bassanio also agrees to allow Gratiano to accompany him to Belmont, provided that Gratiano behave properly in public.

0 SD. Lancelet. Editors almost always change this name to "Lancelot," but it appears as "Lancelet" or "Launcelet" throughout the First Quarto and the First Folio. Since "lancelet" was a word, meaning "lancet" or "small lance" (a small weapon or manat-arms), we see no reason to change the name. Clown: actor playing the comic role

1-31. Certainly...run: Lancelet imagines himself the hero of a morality play, urged by "the fiend" to break his contract and run away from his master, and warned by his conscience that such an act would be dishonest and dishonorable.

10. courageous: eager; pack: i.e., leave; Fia: i.e., via (Italian for "away")

13-14. neck...heart: a comic personification in which the conscience hangs on the heart's neck

17-18. smack...taste: suggestive of sexual appetite

23. God bless the mark: i.e., excuse me for using such language

25. saving ... reverence: i.e., begging your pardon

(continued)

### 「Scene 27

Enter \[ Lancelet Gobbo \] the Clown, alone.

LANCELET Certainly my conscience will serve me to run from this Jew my master. The fiend is at mine elbow and tempts me, saying to me "Gobbo, Lancelet Gobbo, good Lancelet," or "good Gobbo," or "good Lancelet Gobbo, use your legs, take 5 the start, run away." My conscience says "No. Take heed, honest Lancelet, take heed, honest Gobbo," or, as aforesaid, "honest Lancelet Gobbo, do not run: scorn running with thy heels." Well, the most courageous fiend bids me pack. "Fia!" says the 10 fiend. "Away!" says the fiend. "For the heavens, rouse up a brave mind," says the fiend, "and run!" Well, my conscience, hanging about the neck of my heart, says very wisely to me "My honest friend Lancelet, being an honest man's son"—or rather, 15 an honest woman's son, for indeed my father did something smack, something grow to-he had a kind of taste-well, my conscience says "Lancelet, budge not." "Budge," says the fiend. "Budge not," says my conscience. "Conscience," say I, "you 20 counsel well." "Fiend," say I, "you counsel well." To be ruled by my conscience, I should stay with the Jew my master, who (God bless the mark) is a kind of devil: and to run away from the Jew, I should be ruled by the fiend, who (saving your reverence) is 25 the devil himself. Certainly the Jew is the very devil incarnation, and, in my conscience, my conscience is but a kind of hard conscience to offer to counsel me to stay with the Jew. The fiend gives the more friendly counsel. I will run, fiend. My heels are at 30 your commandment. I will run.

Enter old Gobbo with a basket.

27. incarnation: i.e., incarnate (The unintentional use of the wrong word is a form of humor now called malapropism; it occurs frequently in Lancelet's speeches.)

35. sandblind: half-blind

35-36. high gravel-blind: between half-blind (sandblind) and fully blind (stone blind)

36. confusions: i.e., conclusions (To "try conclu-

sions" is to experiment.)

39-42. Possibly Lancelet turns his father around in a complete circle so that the father is facing the door to Shylock's house.

41. marry: i.e., indeed

42. indirectly: i.e., directly

43. Be God's sonties: by God's saints

46-63. Master: This is a term of respect usually reserved for gentlemen and thus inappropriate for Lancelet. Throughout this exchange, old Gobbo insists that his son is not "Master Lancelet" but simply "Lancelet," "a poor man's son."

47. raise the waters: perhaps, provoke his tears;

or, stir things up

51. well to live: likely to live a long time

- 54. Your ... sir: a polite phrase to ask that a title not be used
  - 55. ergo: Latin for "therefore"

57. an 't: i.e., if it

59. father: a courteous form of address

60-61. Fates . . . Sisters Three: The Greek Fates. or Destinies, were three goddesses, Clotho, Lachesis, and Atropos; they supposedly controlled a person's span of life. (See picture, page 50.)

66-67. hovel-post: post supporting a shed

GOBBO Master young man, you, I pray you, which is the way to Master Jew's? LANCELET, [aside] O heavens, this is my true begotten father, who being more than sandblind, high gravelblind, knows me not. I will try confusions with him. GOBBO Master young gentleman, I pray you, which is the way to Master Jew's? LANCELET Turn up on your right hand at the next turning, but at the next turning of all on your left; 40 marry, at the very next turning, turn of no hand, but turn down indirectly to the Jew's house. GOBBO Be God's sonties, 'twill be a hard way to hit. Can you tell me whether one Lancelet, that dwells with him, dwell with him or no? LANCELET Talk you of young Master Lancelet? [Aside.] Mark me now, now will I raise the waters.—Talk you of young Master Lancelet? GOBBO No master, sir, but a poor man's son. His father, though I say 't, is an honest exceeding poor 50 man and, God be thanked, well to live. LANCELET Well, let his father be what he will, we talk of young Master Lancelet. GOBBO Your Worship's friend, and Lancelet, sir. LANCELET But I pray you, ergo, old man, ergo, I be- 55 seech you, talk you of young Master Lancelet? GOBBO Of Lancelet, an 't please your mastership. LANCELET Ergo. Master Lancelet. Talk not of Master Lancelet, father, for the young gentleman, according to Fates and Destinies, and such odd sayings, the 60 Sisters Three, and such branches of learning, is indeed deceased, or, as you would say in plain terms, gone to heaven. GOBBO Marry, God forbid! The boy was the very staff of my age, my very prop.

LANCELET, [aside] Do I look like a cudgel or a hovelpost, a staff or a prop?—Do you know me, father?

74-75. It is...his own child: inversion of the proverb "It is a wise child that knows his own father"

77–78. **Truth...hid long:** proverbs

88. man: servant

92. Lord...be: i.e., may the Lord be worshiped; what a beard: Onstage, the old man often grasps Lancelet's long hair as Lancelet faces away from him.

94. fill-horse: a horse that pulls between shafts

97. hair of: i.e., hair in; have of: i.e., have on

103. set up my rest: i.e., decided



"The Sisters Three." (2.2.60-61) From Vincenzo Cartari, Imagines deorum . . . (1581).

GOBBO Alack the day, I know you not, young gentleman. But I pray you tell me, is my boy, God rest his soul, alive or dead? LANCELET Do you not know me, father? GOBBO Alack, sir. I am sandblind. I know you not. LANCELET Nay, indeed, if you had your eyes, you might fail of the knowing me. It is a wise father that knows his own child. Well, old man, I will tell you 75 news of your son. THe kneels. Give me your blessing. Truth will come to light, murder cannot be hid long-a man's son may, but in the end, truth will out. GOBBO Pray you, sir, stand up! I am sure you are not 80 Lancelet my boy. LANCELET Pray you, let's have no more fooling about it, but give me your blessing. I am Lancelet, your boy that was, your son that is, your child that shall 85 GOBBO I cannot think you are my son. LANCELET I know not what I shall think of that: but I am Lancelet, the Jew's man, and I am sure Margery your wife is my mother. GOBBO Her name is Margery, indeed. I'll be sworn if 90 thou be Lancelet, thou art mine own flesh and blood. Lord worshiped might He be, what a beard hast thou got! Thou hast got more hair on thy chin than Dobbin my fill-horse has on his tail. LANCELET, [standing up] It should seem, then, that 95 Dobbin's tail grows backward. I am sure he had more hair of his tail than I have of my face when I

「last saw him. GOBBO Lord, how art thou changed! How dost thou and thy master agree? I have brought him a present. 100 How 'gree you now?

LANCELET Well, well. But for mine own part, as I have set up my rest to run away, so I will not rest till I

120

125

135

105. halter: noose to hang him

106. tell: count

108. Give me: i.e., give

109. liveries: uniforms

115-16. put...making: i.e., get the uniforms made

116. desire: request, invite

117. anon: right now

120. Gramercy: thank you; aught: i.e., anything

124. infection: i.e., affection, desire

128–29. **saving your Worship's reverence:** i.e., begging your Lordship's pardon

129. scarce cater-cousins: hardly good friends

132. frutify: i.e., fructify (malapropism for, perhaps, notify)

136. impertinent: i.e., pertinent

have run some ground. My master's a very Jew. Give him a present! Give him a halter. I am 105 famished in his service. You may tell every finger I have with my ribs. Father, I am glad you are come! Give me your present to one Master Bassanio, who indeed gives rare new liveries. If I serve not him, I will run as far as God has any ground. O rare 110 fortune, here comes the man! To him, father, for I am a Jew if I serve the Jew any longer.

Enter Bassanio with \( \text{Leonardo and} \) a follower or two.

BASSANIO, \( \text{to an Attendant} \) You may do so, but let it be so hasted that supper be ready at the farthest by five of the clock. See these letters delivered, put the liveries to making, and desire Gratiano to come anon to my lodging.

\[ \text{The Attendant exits.} \]

LANCELET To him, father.

GOBBO, To Bassanio God bless your Worship.

BASSANIO Gramercy. Wouldst thou aught with me?

GOBBO Here's my son, sir, a poor boy-

LANCELET Not a poor boy, sir, but the rich Jew's man, that would, sir, as my father shall specify—

GOBBO He hath a great infection, sir, as one would say,

LANCELET Indeed, the short and the long is, I serve the Jew, and have a desire, as my father shall specify—

GOBBO His master and he (saving your Worship's

reverence) are scarce cater-cousins-

LANCELET To be brief, the very truth is that the Jew, 130 having done me wrong, doth cause me, as my father being, I hope, an old man, shall frutify unto you—

GOBBO I have here a dish of doves that I would bestow upon your Worship, and my suit is—

LANCELET In very brief, the suit is impertinent to myself, as your Worship shall know by this honest

142. defect: i.e., perhaps, effect or purpose

145. preferred: i.e., recommended: preferment: advancement

148. old proverb: namely, "The grace of God is enough": parted: divided

152. **inquire:** seek

154. guarded: braided or ornamented

155. service: position as a servant

157. table: palm of the hand (See picture, below.)

159. go to: expression of impatience; line of life: a line used by palmists (Lancelet begins reading his palm.)

161-62. simple coming-in: humble beginning

163-64. to...featherbed: a reference perhaps to the danger of marriage or of a sexual encounter

164. scapes: transgressions

164-65. Fortune: i.e., the goddess Fortuna (See note to 2.1.37.)

165. for this gear: for this business

167. twinkling: instant (twinkling of an eye)



The "table" of the hand. (2.2.157) From Johannes ab Indagine, The book of palmestry . . . (1666).

old man, and though I say it, though old man yet poor man, my father-BASSANIO One speak for both. What would you? 140 LANCELET Serve vou. sir. GOBBO That is the very defect of the matter, sir. BASSANIO, Tto Lancelet I know thee well. Thou hast obtained thy suit. Shylock thy master spoke with me this day, And hath preferred thee, if it be preferment 145 To leave a rich Jew's service, to become The follower of so poor a gentleman. LANCELET The old proverb is very well parted between my master Shylock and you, sir: you have "the grace of God," sir, and he hath "enough." 150 Thou speak'st it well.—Go, father, with thy son.— Take leave of thy old master, and inquire My lodging out, \( \tau\_{\text{o}} \) an Attendant, \( \text{Give him a livery} \) More guarded than his fellows'. See it done. 「Attendant exits. Bassanio and Leonardo talk apart. 7 LANCELET Father, in. I cannot get a service, no! I have 155 ne'er a tongue in my head! Well, [studying his palm] if any man in Italy have a fairer table which doth offer to swear upon a book-I shall have good fortune, go to! Here's a simple line of life. Here's a small trifle of wives—alas, fifteen wives is nothing; 160 eleven widows and nine maids is a simple comingin for one man-and then to 'scape drowning thrice, and to be in peril of my life with the edge of a featherbed! Here are simple 'scapes. Well, if Fortune be a woman, she's a good wench for this gear. 165 Father, come. I'll take my leave of the Jew in the [Lancelet and old Gobbo] exit. twinkling. BASSANIO I pray thee, good Leonardo, think on this. 「Handing him a paper. ¬

LEONARDO

Return in haste, for I do feast tonight

My best endeavors shall be done herein.

These things being bought and orderly bestowed.

My best esteemed acquaintance. Hie thee, go.

170

177. **suit to:** i.e., a request to make of 183. **Parts:** i.e., qualities; **happily:** agreeably 186–87. **show...liberal:** appear somewhat too free and easy

188. allay: moderate; modesty: self-control

190. misconstered: misunderstood

193. **put...habit:** i.e., assume a serious manner (literally, dress in dark clothes)

196. saying: i.e., being said

198. Use . . . civility: pay attention to manners

199. sad ostent: serious appearance

Enter Gratiano. GRATIANO, \( \text{to Leonardo} \) Where's your master? LEONARDO Yonder, sir, he walks. Leonardo exits. GRATIANO Signior Bassanio! 175 BASSANIO Gratiano! GRATIANO I have suit to you. BASSANIO You have obtained it. GRATIANO You must not deny me. I must go with you to Belmont. 180 BASSANIO Why then you must. But hear thee, Gratiano, Thou art too wild, too rude and bold of voice— Parts that become thee happily enough, And in such eyes as ours appear not faults. But where thou art not known—why, there they 185 show Something too liberal. Pray thee take pain To allay with some cold drops of modesty Thy skipping spirit, lest through thy wild behavior I be misconstered in the place I go to, 190 And lose my hopes. Signior Bassanio, hear me. GRATIANO If I do not put on a sober habit, Talk with respect, and swear but now and then, Wear prayer books in my pocket, look demurely. 195 Nay more, while grace is saying, hood mine eyes Thus with my hat, and sigh and say "amen," Use all the observance of civility Like one well studied in a sad ostent To please his grandam, never trust me more. 200 204. were pity: would be a pity

207. purpose: intend

2.3 Jessica, Shylock's daughter, says good-bye to Lancelet and gives him a letter for Lorenzo, a friend of Bassanio. In a soliloquy, Jessica reveals her desire to marry Lorenzo.

10. exhibit: i.e., inhibit (malapropism)

BASSANIO Well, we shall see your bearing. GRATIANO Nav. but I bar tonight. You shall not gauge me By what we do tonight. No, that were pity. BASSANIO I would entreat you rather to put on 205 Your boldest suit of mirth, for we have friends That purpose merriment. But fare you well. I have some business. GRATIANO And I must to Lorenzo and the rest. But we will visit you at supper time. 210 They exit.

### 「Scene 37

### Enter Jessica and \( \text{Lancelet Gobbo.} \)

### JESSICA

I am sorry thou wilt leave my father so. Our house is hell and thou, a merry devil, Didst rob it of some taste of tediousness. But fare thee well. There is a ducat for thee, And, Lancelet, soon at supper shalt thou see Lorenzo, who is thy new master's guest. Give him this letter, do it secretly, And so farewell. I would not have my father See me in talk with thee. LANCELET Adieu. Tears exhibit my tongue, most beau- 10 tiful pagan, most sweet Jew. If a Christian do not play the knave and get thee, I am much deceived.

But adieu. These foolish drops do something drown my manly spirit. Adieu.

JESSICA Farewell, good Lancelet.

[Lancelet exits.]

try to arrange a masque for Bassanio's dinner that night. Lancelet brings Lorenzo Jessica's letter indicating that she will rob her father and, in disguise as

a page, elope that night with Lorenzo.

1. in: i.e., during

5. spoke ... of: i.e., arranged to have

6. it: the masque that the gentlemen are planning (A masque was an impromptu masquerade. The performers wore masks and fancy clothing. See picture, page 62.); quaintly ordered: elegantly managed

7. in my mind: i.e., I think

9. furnish us: prepare ourselves

11. An...this: i.e., if you would like to open this letter

13. **the hand:** the handwriting (with a pun on the more usual meaning in line 15)

Alack, what heinous sin is it in me
To be ashamed to be my father's child?
But though I am a daughter to his blood,
I am not to his manners. O Lorenzo,
If thou keep promise, I shall end this strife,
Become a Christian and thy loving wife.

20

She exits.

### 「Scene 47

Enter Gratiano, Lorenzo, Salarino, and Solanio.

### LORENZO

Nay, we will slink away in supper time, Disguise us at my lodging, and return All in an hour.

### GRATIANO

We have not made good preparation.

### SALARINO

We have not spoke us yet of torchbearers. SOLANIO

5

'Tis vile, unless it may be quaintly ordered, And better in my mind not undertook. LORENZO

'Tis now but four o'clock. We have two hours To furnish us.

### Enter Lancelet.

Friend Lancelet, what's the news?

LANCELET An it shall please you to break up this, it shall seem to signify. 

[Handing him Jessica's letter.]

LORENZO

I know the hand; in faith, 'tis a fair hand, And whiter than the paper it writ on Is the fair hand that writ.

15

10

GRATIANO Love news, in faith!

17. **By your leave, sir:** a polite indication that Lancelet would like permission to leave

27. straight: straightaway, immediately

30. some hour hence: about an hour from now

39. foot: i.e., path

40. she: i.e., misfortune

41. she: Jessica; issue to: child of



Masquers.
From Giacomo Franco, Habiti d'huomeni . . . (1609?).

LANCELET By your leave, sir. LORENZO Whither goest thou? LANCELET Marry, sir, to bid my old master the Jew to sup tonight with my new master the Christian. LORENZO Hold here, take this. Giving him money. Tell gentle Jessica I will not fail her. Speak it privately. [Lancelet] exits. Go, gentlemen, Will you prepare you for this masque tonight? 25 I am provided of a torchbearer. SALARINO Ay, marry, I'll be gone about it straight. SOLANIO And so will I. LORENZO Meet me and Gratiano At Gratiano's lodging some hour hence. SALARINO 'Tis good we do so. Salarino and Solanio exit. GRATIANO Was not that letter from fair Jessica? LORENZO I must needs tell thee all. She hath directed How I shall take her from her father's house, What gold and jewels she is furnished with, What page's suit she hath in readiness. If e'er the Jew her father come to heaven, It will be for his gentle daughter's sake; And never dare misfortune cross her foot Unless she do it under this excuse, That she is issue to a faithless Jew. Come, go with me. Peruse this as thou goest; THanding him the letter. Fair Jessica shall be my torchbearer. Thev exit.

SHYLOCK

LANCELET

Why, Jessica, I say!

「Scene 57

Enter Shylock, the Jew, and Lancelet.

his man that was, the Clown.

Well, thou shalt see, thy eyes shall be thy judge, The difference of old Shylock and Bassanio.—

What, Jessica!—Thou shalt not gormandize

As thou hast done with me-what, Jessica!-

And sleep, and snore, and rend apparel out.—

Why, Jessica!

LANCELET I beseech you, sir, go. My young master 20

LANCELET And they have conspired together—I will not say you shall see a masque, but if you do, then it was not for nothing that my nose fell a-bleeding on Black Monday last, at six o'clock i' th' morning, falling out that year on Ash Wednesday was four

5

10

15

Lancelet also manages to tell Jessica that Lorenzo is coming for her that night.

2. of: i.e., between

3. What: an interjection

5. rend apparel out: i.e., wear out clothes

8. bids thee call: asked you to call

13. wherefore: why

14. bid for love: i.e., invited because of affection

17. right: very

18. rest: i.e., peace of mind

19. tonight: i.e., last night

21. **reproach:** i.e., approach (Shylock takes the word literally.)

25. nose fell a-bleeding: supposedly an omen

25-28. on Black Monday...afternoon: This is a parody of prognostication. Black Monday: Easter Monday

SHYLOCK
Who bids thee call? I do not bid thee call.

LANCELET Your Worship was wont to tell me I could do nothing without bidding.

Enter Jessica.

JESSICA Call you? What is your will?

SHYLOCK
I am bid forth to supper, Jessica.
There are my keys.—But wherefore should I go?
I am not bid for love. They flatter me.
But yet I'll go in hate, to feed upon
The prodigal Christian.—Jessica, my girl,
Look to my house.—I am right loath to go.
There is some ill a-brewing towards my rest,
For I did dream of money bags tonight.

doth expect your reproach.

year in th' afternoon.

SHYLOCK So do I his.

34. varnished faces: i.e., painted masks (See picture, below.)

36. fopp'ry: foolishness

37. **Jacob:** wealthy patriarch in the Old Testament (See note to 1.3.79–98, above.)

38. mind...forth: i.e., desire to feast away from home

42. for all this: i.e., in spite of what Shylock has said

45. **fool...offspring:** gentile outcast (Abraham's son by Hagar, an Egyptian handmaid, was the outcast Ishmael.)

47. patch: i.e., fool

48. in profit: i.e., in doing anything that pays

49. Drones hive not with me: i.e., bees that do not work can't stay in my hive

55. **Fast bind, fast find:** a proverb that seems to mean "If you secure something tightly, you'll return to find it tightly secured"



"Varnished faces." (2.5.34)
From Guillaume de La Perrière, *Le théâtre des bons engins* . . . (1539?).

SHYLOCK What, are there masques? Hear you me, Jessica, Lock up my doors, and when you hear the drum 30 And the vile squealing of the wry-necked fife, Clamber not you up to the casements then. Nor thrust your head into the public street To gaze on Christian fools with varnished faces, But stop my house's ears (I mean my casements). 35 Let not the sound of shallow fopp'ry enter My sober house. By Jacob's staff I swear I have no mind of feasting forth tonight. But I will go.—Go you before me, sirrah. Say I will come. LANCELET I will go before, sir, [Aside to Jessica.] Mistress, look out at window for all this. There will come a Christian by Will be worth a Jewess' eve. 「He exits. ¬ SHYLOCK What says that fool of Hagar's offspring, ha? **JESSICA** His words were "Farewell, mistress," nothing else. SHYLOCK The patch is kind enough, but a huge feeder, Snail-slow in profit, and he sleeps by day More than the wildcat. Drones hive not with me. Therefore I part with him, and part with him To one that I would have him help to waste His borrowed purse. Well, Jessica, go in. Perhaps I will return immediately. Do as I bid you. Shut doors after you. Fast bind, fast find— A proverb never stale in thrifty mind. He exits. **JESSICA** Farewell, and if my fortune be not crossed, I have a father, you a daughter, lost. She exits.

Scene 67

25

2.6 Gratiano and Salarino wait for Lorenzo near Shylock's house. As soon as Lorenzo arrives, he calls Jessica, who throws him down her father's treasures and goes off with him to be married. Antonio enters to announce that Bassanio is about to sail for Belmont.

1. penthouse: overhanging roof

2. make stand: i.e., stand

6. Venus' pigeons: irreverent reference to the doves that draw the chariot of the Roman goddess of love, Venus (See picture of Venus, page 90.)

8. obligèd faith: contracted vows

9. ever holds: is always true

11. untread: retrace

12. measures: paces

15. younger ... prodigal: i.e., younger son, as in the parable of the Prodigal Son of Luke 15

16. scarfèd: adorned with flags and pennants

- 19. overweathered: weatherbeaten: ribs: timhers
- 22. your patience: i.e., please grant me your patience; my long abode: i.e., your long wait for
- 25. watch: perhaps, stand watch; or, perhaps keep vigil, stay awake

26. father: i.e., father-in-law to be

### Enter the masquers, Gratiano and Salarino. GRATIANO This is the penthouse under which Lorenzo Desired us to make stand. SALARINO His hour is almost past. GRATIANO And it is marvel he outdwells his hour. For lovers ever run before the clock. SALARINO O, ten times faster Venus' pigeons fly To seal love's bonds new-made than they are wont To keep obliged faith unforfeited. GRATIANO That ever holds. Who riseth from a feast With that keen appetite that he sits down? 10 Where is the horse that doth untread again His tedious measures with the unbated fire That he did pace them first? All things that are, Are with more spirit chased than enjoyed. How like a younger or a prodigal 15 The scarfèd bark puts from her native bay. Hugged and embraced by the strumpet wind; How like the prodigal doth she return With overweathered ribs and ragged sails, Lean, rent, and beggared by the strumpet wind! 20 Enter Lorenzo. SALARINO Here comes Lorenzo. More of this hereafter. LORENZO Sweet friends, your patience for my long abode. Not I but my affairs have made you wait. When you shall please to play the thieves for wives.

I'll watch as long for you then. Approach.

Here dwells my father Jew.—Ho! Who's within?

「Enter ] Jessica above, 「dressed as a boy. ]

28. tongue: i.e., sound of your voice

36. **exchange:** i.e., change, through disguise, from woman to boy

38. pretty: ingenious, clever, skillful

39. Cupid: Roman god of love (See picture, below.)

42. hold a candle to: i.e., illuminate

43. **good sooth:** i.e., in truth; **light:** (1) unrespectable; (2) illumined

44. 'tis an office of discovery: i.e., the function of torchbearing is to bring to light, or discover

47. garnish: dress, costume

49. close: (1) dark; (2) secretive; doth play the runaway: i.e., passes quickly



"Love [Cupid] is blind." (2.6.37; see also 2.6.39, 2.9.108)
From Henry Peacham, Minerua Britanna . . . (1612).

JESSICA Who are you? Tell me for more certainty. Albeit I'll swear that I do know your tongue. LORENZO Lorenzo, and thy love. **JESSICA** Lorenzo certain, and my love indeed. 30 For who love I so much? And now who knows But you, Lorenzo, whether I am yours? LORENZO Heaven and thy thoughts are witness that thou art. **IESSICA** Here, catch this casket; it is worth the pains. I am glad 'tis night, you do not look on me, 35 For I am much ashamed of my exchange. But love is blind, and lovers cannot see The pretty follies that themselves commit, For if they could, Cupid himself would blush To see me thus transformed to a boy. LORENZO Descend, for you must be my torchbearer. **JESSICA** What, must I hold a candle to my shames? They in themselves, good sooth, are too too light. Why, 'tis an office of discovery, love, And I should be obscured. 45 LORENZO So are you, sweet, Even in the lovely garnish of a boy. But come at once, For the close night doth play the runaway, And we are stayed for at Bassanio's feast. 50 **JESSICA** I will make fast the doors and gild myself With some more ducats, and be with you straight. Jessica exits. above.

GRATIANO

LORENZO

Now, by my hood, a gentle and no Jew!

53. by my hood: a mild oath; gentle: i.e., (1) well-bred person; (2) gentile

54. **Beshrew me:** i.e., curse me (a mild oath); but: unless

60. gentleman: i.e., Jessica in disguise

67. presently: immediately

69. on 't: i.e., of it

2.7 At Belmont the Prince of Morocco attempts to choose the right chest and win Portia. He picks the gold one and finds in it a skull and a warning not to choose on the basis of appearances. He leaves in disappointment.

0 SD. trains: retinues, attendants

1. discover: reveal

Beshrew me but I love her heartily, For she is wise, if I can judge of her, And fair she is, if that mine eyes be true, And true she is, as she hath proved herself. And therefore, like herself, wise, fair, and true, Shall she be placed in my constant soul.	55
Enter Jessica, 「below. 7	
What, art thou come? On, gentleman, away! Our masquing mates by this time for us stay.  [All but Gratiano] exit.	60
Enter Antonio.	
ANTONIO Who's there? GRATIANO Signior Antonio? ANTONIO Fie, fie, Gratiano, where are all the rest? 'Tis nine o'clock! Our friends all stay for you. No masque tonight; the wind is come about; Bassanio presently will go aboard. I have sent twenty out to seek for you.	65
I am glad on 't. I desire no more delight Than to be under sail and gone tonight.  They exit.	70

「Scene 77

Enter Portia with the Prince of Morocco and both their trains.

PORTIA

Go, draw aside the curtains and discover

4. who: which

10. **all as blunt:** i.e., **as blunt** (straightforward) as lead is **blunt** (dull)

15. withal: i.e., together with the picture

17. back again: i.e., again

24. shows of dross: appearances of worthless matter

25. **nor...nor:** neither...nor; **aught:** anything

26. **virgin hue: Silver** is the color of the moon, whose goddess, Diana, is patron of chastity.

31. rated ... estimation: valued in accord with your reputation



Phoebus, the sun god, in his chariot. (2.1.5) From Vincenzo Cartari, *Le vere e noue imagini* . . . (1615).

The several caskets to this noble prince. A curtain is drawn. Now make your choice. MOROCCO This first, of gold, who this inscription bears, "Who chooseth me shall gain what many men 5 desire": The second, silver, which this promise carries, "Who chooseth me shall get as much as he deserves": This third, dull lead, with warning all as blunt, 10 "Who chooseth me must give and hazard all he hath." How shall I know if I do choose the right? **PORTIA** The one of them contains my picture, prince. If you choose that, then I am yours withal. 15 MOROCCO Some god direct my judgment! Let me see. I will survey th' inscriptions back again. What says this leaden casket? "Who chooseth me must give and hazard all he hath." 20 Must give—for what? For lead? Hazard for lead? This casket threatens. Men that hazard all Do it in hope of fair advantages. A golden mind stoops not to shows of dross. I'll then nor give nor hazard aught for lead. 25 What says the silver with her virgin hue? "Who chooseth me shall get as much as he deserves." As much as he deserves—pause there, Morocco, And weigh thy value with an even hand. 30 If thou beest rated by thy estimation, Thou dost deserve enough; and yet enough May not extend so far as to the lady.

- 34. afeard...deserving: afraid that I do not deserve
  - 35. Were: i.e., would be: disabling: discrediting
- 47. Hyrcanian deserts: wild regions south of the Caspian Sea; vasty: i.e., vast
  - 48. throughfares: thoroughfares
  - 50. watery kingdom: i.e., the ocean
  - 51. Spets: spits
  - 52. spirits: i.e., persons
  - 55. like: i.e., likely
  - 57. rib: enclose; cerecloth: grave clothes
- 59. Being ... gold: i.e., since silver is worth one tenth the value of proven gold
  - 63. insculped upon: engraved on the surface
  - 68. form: i.e., picture



Hercules. (2.1.33, 35; 3.2.57) From Vincenzo Cartari, Le vere e noue imagini . . . (1615).

And yet to be afeard of my deserving Were but a weak disabling of myself. 35 As much as I deserve—why, that's the lady! I do in birth deserve her, and in fortunes. In graces, and in qualities of breeding, But more than these, in love I do deserve. What if I strayed no farther, but chose here? 40 Let's see once more this saving graved in gold: "Who chooseth me shall gain what many men desire." Why, that's the lady! All the world desires her. From the four corners of the earth they come 45 To kiss this shrine, this mortal, breathing saint. The Hyrcanian deserts and the vasty wilds Of wide Arabia are as throughfares now For princes to come view fair Portia. The watery kingdom, whose ambitious head 50 Spets in the face of heaven, is no bar To stop the foreign spirits, but they come As o'er a brook to see fair Portia. One of these three contains her heavenly picture. Is 't like that lead contains her? 'Twere damnation 55 To think so base a thought. It were too gross To rib her cerecloth in the obscure grave. Or shall I think in silver she's immured, Being ten times undervalued to tried gold? O, sinful thought! Never so rich a gem Was set in worse than gold. They have in England A coin that bears the figure of an angel Stamped in gold, but that's insculped upon; But here an angel in a golden bed Lies all within.—Deliver me the key. 65 Here do I choose, and thrive I as I may. PORTIA There, take it, prince. [Handing him the key.] And if my form lie there,

Then I am yours.

71. carrion death: i.e., a skull

73. glisters: glitters

76. But: only

80. enscrolled: i.e., on a scroll rather than in the person of Portia

83. farewell, heat, and welcome, frost: an inversion of the saying "farewell, frost"

85. part: depart

87. complexion: (1) temperament; (2) color of the face

2.8 In Venice Solanio and Salarino discuss the latest news: Shylock's torment over the loss of his daughter and the treasures that she took; the destruction of an Italian ship in the English Channel; Antonio's sadness at the departure of Bassanio.

	Morocco opens the gold casket.	
MOROCCO		70
A carr	ion death within whose empty eye	
	is a written scroll. I'll read the writing:	
	All that glisters is not gold—	
	Often have you heard that told.	
	Many a man his life hath sold	75
	But my outside to behold.	
	Gilded \(\tau tombs \)\ do worms infold.	
	Had you been as wise as bold,	
	Young in limbs, in judgment old,	
9	Your answer had not been enscrolled.	80
	Fare you well, your suit is cold.	200
Cold is	ndeed and labor lost!	
Then.	farewell, heat, and welcome, frost.	
	, adieu. I have too grieved a heart	
	e a tedious leave. Thus losers part.	85
1	He exits, \( \text{with his train.} \)	1
PORTIA		
A gent	le riddance! Draw the curtains, go.	
	of his complexion choose me so.	
	They exit.	

# 「Scene 87

# Enter Salarino and Solanio.

#### SALARINO

Why, man, I saw Bassanio under sail; With him is Gratiano gone along; And in their ship I am sure Lorenzo is not.

SOLANIO

The villain Jew with outcries raised the Duke. Who went with him to search Bassanio's ship. SALARINO

He came too late; the ship was under sail.

10. certified: assured

12. passion: i.e., emotional outburst

20. **stones:** jewels (The word also meant "testicles.")

26. look...day: i.e., take care that he pay his loan on the appointed day

29. reasoned: spoke

30. the Narrow Seas: the English Channel

31. miscarrièd: was wrecked

32. fraught: freighted, loaded with goods

35. You were best to: i.e., you should



A gondola. (2.8.8) From Cesare Vecellio, *Habiti antichi* . . . (1598).

But there the Duke was given to understand That in a gondola were seen together Lorenzo and his amorous Jessica. Besides, Antonio certified the Duke 10 They were not with Bassanio in his ship. SOLANIO I never heard a passion so confused, So strange, outrageous, and so variable As the dog Jew did utter in the streets. "My daughter, O my ducats, O my daughter! 15 Fled with a Christian! O my Christian ducats! Justice, the law, my ducats, and my daughter, A sealed bag, two sealed bags of ducats, Of double ducats, stol'n from me by my daughter. And jewels-two stones, two rich and precious 20 stones-Stol'n by my daughter! Justice! Find the girl! She hath the stones upon her, and the ducats. SALARINO Why, all the boys in Venice follow him, Crying "His stones, his daughter, and his ducats." SOLANIO Let good Antonio look he keep his day, Or he shall pay for this. SALARINO Marry, well remembered. I reasoned with a Frenchman vesterday Who told me, in the Narrow Seas that part The French and English, there miscarrièd A vessel of our country richly fraught. I thought upon Antonio when he told me, And wished in silence that it were not his. SOLANIO You were best to tell Antonio what you hear-35 Yet do not suddenly, for it may grieve him. A kinder gentleman treads not the earth.

42. stay . . . riping: await ripening or completion

43. for: i.e., as for

44. mind of love: i.e., love plans

46. ostents: appearances

50. wondrous: i.e., wondrously; sensible: (1) acutely felt; (2) strikingly evident

52. he only . . . for him: i.e., he loves the world

only because Bassanio is in it

54. quicken: i.e., enliven; embracèd heaviness: i.e., the sorrow from which he voluntarily suffers

2.9 At Belmont the Prince of Arragon attempts to win Portia by choosing the silver chest, but finds in it the picture of a blinking idiot. He leaves. A messenger announces the arrival of a splendid envoy from another suitor. Nerissa prays that this one is Bassanio.

## 0 SD. Servitor: servant

1. draw...straight: i.e., open the curtains immediately (to reveal the caskets) Compare 2.7.1-2.

3. to his election: to make his choice (of casket)

5. I: i.e., my picture

6. Straight: straightaway, at once

I saw Bassanio an	d Antonio part.	
Bassanio told him	he would make some speed	
Of his return. He	answered "Do not so.	40
「Slubber not bus	iness for my sake, Bassanio,	
	riping of the time;	
And for the Jew's	bond which he hath of me,	
Let it not enter in	your mind of love.	
Be merry, and em	ploy your chiefest thoughts	45
To courtship and	such fair ostents of love	
	ntly become you there."	
And even there, h	is eye being big with tears,	
Turning his face, l	he put his hand behind him,	
And with affection	n wondrous sensible	50
He wrung Bassan	io's hand—and so they parted.	
SOLANIO		
I think he only lov	ves the world for him.	
I pray thee, let us	go and find him out	*
And quicken his e	mbracèd heaviness	
With some deligh	t or other.	55
SALARINO	Do we so.	
	They exit	t.

## Scene 97

## Enter Nerissa and a Servitor.

#### NERISSA

Quick, quick, I pray thee, draw the curtain straight. The Prince of Arragon hath ta'en his oath And comes to his election presently.

Enter Tthe Prince of Arragon, his train, and Portia.

#### PORTIA

Behold, there stand the caskets, noble prince. If you choose that wherein I am contained, Straight shall our nuptial rites be solemnized. 10. unfold: disclose, reveal

12. Of: i.e., to choose

13. in way of: i.e., for the purpose of

14. in fortune of: i.e., to be fortunate in

18. addressed me: i.e., made myself ready; Fortune: i.e., good luck

26-28. may be meant / By: i.e., may mean

29. fond: foolish

30. martlet: house martin

31. in: exposed to

32. **Even...casualty:** i.e., directly in the way of powerfully destructive accident

34. jump: i.e., identify

But if you fail, without more speech, my lord, You must be gone from hence immediately. ARRAGON I am enjoined by oath to observe three things: First, never to unfold to anyone 10 Which casket 'twas I chose; next, if I fail Of the right casket, never in my life To woo a maid in way of marriage; Lastly, if I do fail in fortune of my choice, Immediately to leave you, and be gone. 15 PORTIA To these injunctions everyone doth swear That comes to hazard for my worthless self. ARRAGON And so have I addressed me. Fortune now To my heart's hope! Gold, silver, and base lead. "Who chooseth me must give and hazard all he 20 hath." You shall look fairer ere I give or hazard. What says the golden chest? Ha, let me see: "Who chooseth me shall gain what many men desire." 25 What many men desire—that "many" may be meant By the fool multitude that choose by show. Not learning more than the fond eye doth teach, Which pries not to th' interior, but like the martlet 30 Builds in the weather on the outward wall, Even in the force and road of casualty. I will not choose what many men desire. Because I will not jump with common spirits And rank me with the barbarous multitudes. 35 Why, then, to thee, thou silver treasure house. Tell me once more what title thou dost bear. "Who chooseth me shall get as much as he deserves."

41. cozen: trick, deceive

44. degrees: rank

47. **should... bare:** i.e., **should** keep their hats on who now take them off in deference

49. **gleaned:** separated and discarded (as chaff from seed)

52. **new varnished:** i.e., newly restored to former status

55. **assume desert:** i.e., **assume** that I deserve the best

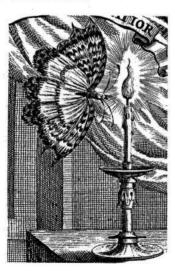
59. **schedule:** scroll



Mars. (3.2.80)
From Antiquarum statuarum ... (1585–94).

And well said, too; for who shall go about To cozen fortune and be honorable Without the stamp of merit? Let none presume To wear an undeserved dignity. O, that estates, degrees, and offices Were not derived corruptly, and that clear honor 45 Were purchased by the merit of the wearer! How many then should cover that stand bare? How many be commanded that command? How much low peasantry would then be gleaned From the true seed of honor? And how much honor Picked from the chaff and ruin of the times. To be new varnished? Well, but to my choice. "Who chooseth me shall get as much as he deserves." I will assume desert. Give me a key for this, THe is given a key. And instantly unlock my fortunes here. THe opens the silver casket. PORTIA Too long a pause for that which you find there. ARRAGON What's here? The portrait of a blinking idiot Presenting me a schedule! I will read it.-How much unlike art thou to Portia! 60 How much unlike my hopes and my deservings. "Who chooseth me shall have as much as he deserves"? Did I deserve no more than a fool's head? Is that my prize? Are my deserts no better? 65 PORTIA To offend and judge are distinct offices And of opposèd natures. What is here? ARRAGON THe reads.

- 69. tried: tested; this: (1) the silver casket; (2) the savings that follow
  - 72. shadows: images
  - 74. iwis: certainly
- 75. Silvered o'er: (1) with gray hair; (2) adorned with or possessing silver
  - 78. **sped**: ruined
  - 80. By the time: i.e., the more time
  - 84. wroth: (1) wrath, anger; (2) ruth, sorrow
  - 86. deliberate: calculating, reasoning
- 97. sensible regreets: material greetings, i.e., gifts
  - 98. commends: greetings; breath: i.e., words
  - 99. yet: i.e., before now



"The candle singed the moth." (2.9.85) From Filippo Picinelli, Mundus symbolicus . . . (1687).

The fire seven times tried this; Seven times tried that judgment is 70 That did never choose amiss. Some there be that shadows kiss; Such have but a shadow's bliss. There be fools alive, iwis, Silvered o'er-and so was this. 75 Take what wife you will to bed. I will ever be your head. So begone: you are sped. Still more fool I shall appear By the time I linger here. With one fool's head I came to woo. But I go away with two. Sweet, adieu. I'll keep my oath, Patiently to bear my wroth. The exits with his train. PORTIA Thus hath the candle singed the moth. 85 O, these deliberate fools, when they do choose, They have the wisdom by their wit to lose. NERISSA The ancient saying is no heresy: Hanging and wiving goes by destiny. PORTIA Come, draw the curtain, Nerissa. Enter Messenger. MESSENGER Where is my lady? Here. What would my PORTIA lord? MESSENGER Madam, there is alighted at your gate A young Venetian, one that comes before 95 To signify th' approaching of his lord, From whom he bringeth sensible regreets; To wit (besides commends and courteous breath), Gifts of rich value; yet I have not seen

100. likely: (1) attractive; (2) promising

102. costly: lavish, rich

103. **fore-spurrer:** i.e., herald (literally, one who precedes one who spurs his horse in haste)

106. high-day: high holiday; i.e., extraordinary

108. **Cupid's post:** messenger of Cupid, the Roman god of love (See picture of Cupid, page 70.)

109. **Bassanio...be!:** i.e., **if** it is your **will**, Cupid (**Lord Love**), let **it be Bassanio** (who has come, or who will win Portia)



Venus. (2.6.6)
From Vincenzo Cartari, Le vere e noue imagini . . . (1615).

So likely an ambassador of love.

A day in April never came so sweet,
To show how costly summer was at hand,
As this fore-spurrer comes before his lord.

PORTIA

No more, I pray thee. I am half afeard
Thou wilt say anon he is some kin to thee,
Thou spend'st such high-day wit in praising him!
Come, come, Nerissa, for I long to see
Quick Cupid's post that comes so mannerly.

NERISSA
Bassanio, Lord Love, if thy will it be!

They exit.

THE
MERCHANT
OF
VENICE

ACT 3

- 3.1 In Venice Solanio and Salarino have learned that the Italian ship wrecked in the English Channel was Antonio's. Shylock enters angry at Jessica's flight. He declares his intention of taking a pound of Antonio's flesh if Antonio is unable to repay the loan. Tubal enters to tell Shylock news of Jessica's extravagancy and Antonio's losses. Shylock sends Tubal to begin the process of Antonio's arrest.
- 2. lives ... unchecked: i.e., is said there without being contradicted

3. of rich lading: i.e., with rich cargo

3-4. the Narrow Seas: the English Channel

4. Goodwins: the Goodwin Sands, a dangerous shoal off the coast of Kent

5. flat: shoal

7. gossip: a gossiping woman (sometimes used as a title before a woman's name); Report: rumor

10. knapped: nibbled

12. slips of: i.e., lapses into

16. full stop: period, end of the sentence

20. betimes: quickly

21. cross: thwart

# FACT 37

### Scene 1

### 「Enter Solanio and Salarino

SOLANIO Now, what news on the Rialto? SALARINO Why, yet it lives there unchecked that Antonio hath a ship of rich lading wracked on the Narrow Seas-the Goodwins, I think they call the place—a very dangerous flat, and fatal, where the

carcasses of many a tall ship lie buried, as they say, if my gossip Report be an honest woman of her word.

SOLANIO I would she were as lying a gossip in that as ever knapped ginger or made her neighbors believe she wept for the death of a third husband. But it is true, without any slips of prolixity or crossing the plain highway of talk, that the good Antonio, the honest Antonio-O, that I had a title good enough to keep his name company!-

SALARINO Come, the full stop.

SOLANIO Ha, what sayest thou? Why, the end is, he hath lost a ship.

SALARINO I would it might prove the end of his losses. SOLANIO Let me say "amen" betimes, lest the devil 20

cross my prayer, for here he comes in the likeness of a Jew.

15

Enter Shylock.

- 28. withal: i.e., with
- 30. fledge: ready to fly; complexion: nature
- 31. dam: mother
- 34. **flesh and blood:** i.e., child (The phrase can also mean one's carnal desires, which is the way Solanio pretends to understand it.)
  - 35. Out upon it: i.e., curse it; carrion: dead flesh
  - 41. Rhenish: white wine from the Rhineland
  - 43. match: bargain, deal
  - 43-44. bankrout: i.e., bankrupt
- 46. **upon the mart:** to the marketplace, Rialto; **look to:** be concerned about, worry about
  - 46-47. was wont to call: used to call
- 47. **usurer:** moneylender, especially one who charges an excessive rate of interest, or "use" (See picture, page 38.)
  - 48. for a ... cur'sy: i.e., as a ... courtesy
  - 52. bait: i.e., use as bait for
  - 54. hindered me: i.e., kept me from making
  - 56. bargains: i.e., deals

chants?	
SHYLOCK You knew, none so well, none so well as you, of my daughter's flight.	25
SALARINO That's certain. I for my part knew the tailor	
that made the wings she flew withal.	
SOLANIO And Shylock for his own part knew the bird	
was fledge, and then it is the complexion of them	30
all to leave the dam.	
SHYLOCK She is damned for it.	
SALARINO That's certain, if the devil may be her judge.	
SHYLOCK My own flesh and blood to rebel!	
SOLANIO Out upon it, old carrion! Rebels it at these years?	35
SHYLOCK I say my daughter is my flesh and my blood.	
SALARINO There is more difference between thy flesh	
SALARINO THERE IS MORE difference between thy liesh	

SALARINO There is more difference between thy flesh and hers than between jet and ivory, more between your bloods than there is between red wine and Rhenish. But tell us, do you hear whether Antonio have had any loss at sea or no?

SHYLOCK There I have another bad match! A bankrout, a prodigal, who dare scarce show his head on the Rialto, a beggar that was used to come so smug upon the mart! Let him look to his bond. He was wont to call me usurer; let him look to his bond. He was wont to lend money for a Christian cur'sy; let him look to his bond.

SALARINO Why, I am sure if he forfeit, thou wilt not 50 take his flesh! What's that good for?

SHYLOCK To bait fish withal; if it will feed nothing else, it will feed my revenge. He hath disgraced me and hindered me half a million, laughed at my losses, mocked at my gains, scorned my nation, thwarted my bargains, cooled my friends, heated mine enemies—and what's his reason? I am a Jew. Hath not a Jew eyes? Hath not a Jew hands, organs, dimen-

75

68. his humility: i.e., the Christian's kindness

69. his sufferance: i.e., the Jew's forbearance: by: according to

71-72. it shall go hard but...instruction: i.e., with any luck I will do better than my teacher

76. another of the tribe: i.e., another Jew

76-77. a third cannot be matched: i.e., there will never be a third person like these two

86. that: i.e., the diamond (line 83)

89. would: i.e., I wish; hearsed: in her coffin

sions, senses, affections, passions? Fed with the same food, hurt with the same weapons, subject to 60 the same diseases, healed by the same means, warmed and cooled by the same winter and summer as a Christian is? If you prick us, do we not bleed? If you tickle us, do we not laugh? If you poison us, do we not die? And if you wrong us, shall 65 we not revenge? If we are like you in the rest, we will resemble you in that. If a Jew wrong a Christian, what is his humility? Revenge. If a Christian wrong a Jew, what should his sufferance be by Christian example? Why, revenge! The villainy you teach me I 70 will execute, and it shall go hard but I will better the instruction.

# Enter a man from Antonio.

「SERVINGMAN Gentlemen, my master Antonio is at his house and desires to speak with you both. SALARINO We have been up and down to seek him.

#### Enter Tubal.

SOLANIO Here comes another of the tribe; a third cannot be matched unless the devil himself turn Jew.

[Salarino, Solanio, and the Servingman] exit. SHYLOCK How now, Tubal, what news from Genoa? Hast thou found my daughter?

TUBAL I often came where I did hear of her, but cannot find her.

SHYLOCK Why, there, there, there, there! A diamond gone cost me two thousand ducats in Frankfurt! The curse never fell upon our nation till now, I 85 never felt it till now. Two thousand ducats in that. and other precious, precious jewels! I would my daughter were dead at my foot and the jewels in her ear; would she were hearsed at my foot and the

95, 96. a' my: i.e., of my

100. argosy: large trading ship

112. divers: several

112-13. in my company to Venice: i.e., in the group with whom I traveled to Venice

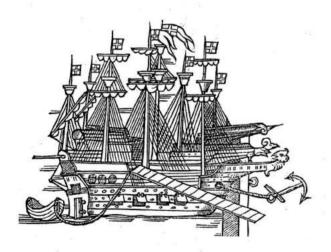
113-14. cannot...break: i.e., will surely go bankrupt

117. had of: had from

118. for a monkey: i.e., in exchange for, or, in payment for, a monkey

119. Out upon her!: i.e., curses on her!

125. **fee me:** i.e., hire me (to arrest Antonio, if the bond is forfeited); **Bespeak:** engage



An argosy.

From Robert Hitchcock, A pollitique platt . . . (1580).

100

ducats in her coffin. No news of them? Why so? And I know not what's spent in the search! Why, thou loss upon loss! The thief gone with so much, and so much to find the thief, and no satisfaction, no revenge, nor no ill luck stirring but what lights a' my shoulders, no sighs but a' my breathing, no tears but a' my shedding.

TUBAL Yes, other men have ill luck, too. Antonio, as I heard in Genoa—

SHYLOCK What, what, what? Ill luck, ill luck?

TUBAL —hath an argosy cast away coming from Tri- 100 polis.

SHYLOCK I thank God, I thank God! Is it true, is it true? TUBAL I spoke with some of the sailors that escaped the wrack.

SHYLOCK I thank thee, good Tubal. Good news, good 105 news! Ha, ha, heard in Genoa—

TUBAL Your daughter spent in Genoa, as I heard, one night fourscore ducats.

SHYLOCK Thou stick'st a dagger in me. I shall never see my gold again. Fourscore ducats at a sitting, 110 fourscore ducats!

TUBAL There came divers of Antonio's creditors in my company to Venice that swear he cannot choose but break.

SHYLOCK I am very glad of it. I'll plague him, I'll 115 torture him. I am glad of it.

TUBAL One of them showed me a ring that he had of your daughter for a monkey.

SHYLOCK Out upon her! Thou torturest me, Tubal. It was my turquoise! I had it of Leah when I was a 120 bachelor. I would not have given it for a wilderness of monkeys.

TUBAL But Antonio is certainly undone.

SHYLOCK Nay, that's true, that's very true. Go, Tubal, fee me an officer. Bespeak him a fortnight before. I 125

126. him: i.e., Antonio

127. make what merchandise I will: i.e., drive any bargain I wish (for lending money)

3.2 Portia advises Bassanio to postpone choosing for fear he should make the wrong choice. Bassanio declares himself unable to live in uncertainty. Portia is overjoyed when Bassanio correctly chooses the lead chest containing her picture. Giving Bassanio a ring as a symbolic act to indicate her giving to him both herself and everything that is hers, Portia insists that he treasure the ring. Gratiano announces that he and Nerissa will also marry. Salerio, Lorenzo, and Jessica arrive with the news of Antonio's financial ruin and the apparently certain destruction that he will soon suffer at Shylock's hands. Portia offers to pay the debt many times over and tells Bassanio to return to Venice immediately after their wedding to save Antonio.

2. hazard: i.e., venture to choose among the chests; in choosing wrong: i.e., if you choose wrong

5. would not: i.e., do not wish to

6. quality: way, manner

8. a maiden ... thought: i.e., a maiden should not put her thoughts into words (Young women were supposed to be silent, chaste, and obedient.)

11. am forsworn: i.e., perjure myself

12. So . . . So: that . . . thus

(continued)

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will have the heart of him if he forfeit, for were he out of Venice I can make what merchandise I will. Go, Tubal, and meet me at our synagogue. Go, good Tubal, at our synagogue, Tubal.

They exit.

## 「Scene 27

Enter Bassanio, Portia, and all their trains, Gratiano, 

Nerissa.

#### PORTIA

I pray you tarry, pause a day or two Before you hazard, for in choosing wrong I lose your company; therefore forbear a while. There's something tells me (but it is not love) I would not lose you, and you know yourself Hate counsels not in such a quality. But lest you should not understand me well (And yet a maiden hath no tongue but thought) I would detain you here some month or two Before you venture for me. I could teach you 10 How to choose right, but then I am forsworn. So will I never be. So may you miss me. But if you do, you'll make me wish a sin. That I had been forsworn. Beshrew your eyes, They have o'erlooked me and divided me. 15 One half of me is yours, the other half yours-Mine own, I would say-but if mine, then yours, And so all yours. O, these naughty times Puts bars between the owners and their rights! And so though yours, not yours. Prove it so, 20 Let Fortune go to hell for it, not I. I speak too long, but 'tis to peize the time, To eche it, and to draw it out in length, To stay you from election.

- 14. **That:** namely, that; **Beshrew:** literally, curse, but the sense here is less strong
  - 15. o'erlooked: (1) bewitched; (2) perused
  - 18. naughty: evil
- 19. Puts: i.e., put; bars: i.e., impediments
- 20-21. **Prove it so...hell for it:** i.e., if I do not become yours, **let Fortune** be damned **for it** (See note to 2.1.37.)
  - 22. peize: load, burden, weigh down
  - 23. eche: increase, add to
  - 24. stay ... election: delay your choosing
- 26. **upon the rack:** i.e., as if being tortured (**The rack** was an instrument of torture used to extract confessions from alleged criminals, such as those who had been accused of **treason.** See picture, page 118.)
  - 30. fear: i.e., fear for, doubt
  - 32. as: i.e., as between
  - 34. enforcèd: under compulsion
- 36. **confess and live:** inverting the proverb "**Confess and** be hanged"
  - 41. let me to: i.e., allow me to approach
- 46. a swanlike end: Swans were thought to sing as they died.
  - 48. more proper: i.e., as more appropriate
  - 51. flourish: trumpet blast
  - 53. in: i.e., at
  - 55. he: i.e., Bassanio

Let me choose. BASSANIO 25 For as I am, I live upon the rack. PORTIA Upon the rack, Bassanio? Then confess What treason there is mingled with your love. BASSANIO None but that ugly treason of mistrust. Which makes me fear th' enjoying of my love. 30 There may as well be amity and life Tween snow and fire, as treason and my love. PORTIA Ay, but I fear you speak upon the rack Where men enforced do speak anything. BASSANIO Promise me life and I'll confess the truth 35 PORTIA Well, then, confess and live. "Confess and love" Had been the very sum of my confession. O happy torment, when my torturer Doth teach me answers for deliverance! But let me to my fortune and the caskets. PORTIA Away, then. I am locked in one of them. If you do love me, you will find me out.-Nerissa and the rest, stand all aloof. Let music sound while he doth make his choice. Then if he lose he makes a swanlike end. Fading in music. That the comparison May stand more proper, my eye shall be the stream And wat'ry deathbed for him. He may win, And what is music then? Then music is Even as the flourish when true subjects bow To a new-crowned monarch. Such it is As are those dulcet sounds in break of day That creep into the dreaming bridegroom's ear And summon him to marriage. Now he goes. 55

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56. presence: bearing, dignity

57. Alcides: Hercules, the mythological hero who rescued Hesione, whose father (the king of Troy) had sought to appease the god Neptune by sacrificing her to a sea monster (See picture of Hercules. page 76.)

58. virgin tribute: i.e., sacrifice of a virgin

59. I stand for sacrifice: Portia imagines herself in the role of Hesione.

60. aloof: apart; Dardanian: Trojan

61. blearèd: tear-streaked

62. issue: result

63. Live thou: i.e., if you live

64. thou that mak'st the fray: i.e., you who fight

65-73. Tell...bell: The early printings of this play do not specify who sings this song. Only line 74, "Ding, dong, bell," is said to be sung by "All."

65. fancy: i.e., desire

72. **knell:** the solemn bell marking a death

76. still: always; ornament: outward show or display (See also at lines 82 and 99.)

78. gracious: i.e., graceful

80. sober brow: i.e., someone with a solemn expression and appearance

81. approve ... a text: demonstrate its truth by quoting from the Bible

83. simple: purely itself, unmixed

84. **his**: its

85. hearts: here, the heart is the seat of courage: false: defective, not firm or solid

86. yet: nevertheless

87. **Hercules:** a hero of extraordinary strength: Mars: god of war

With no less presence but with much more love Than young Alcides when he did redeem The virgin tribute paid by howling Troy To the sea-monster. I stand for sacrifice; The rest aloof are the Dardanian wives, With bleared visages, come forth to view The issue of th' exploit. Go, Hercules! Live thou, I live. With much much more dismay I view the fight than thou that mak'st the frav.

A song the whilst Bassanio comments on the caskets to himself.

> Tell me where is fancy bred. Or in the heart, or in the head? How begot, how nourished? Reply, reply. It is engendered in the eye, With gazing fed, and fancy dies In the cradle where it lies. Let us all ring fancy's knell. I'll begin it.—Ding, dong, bell. Ding, dong, bell.

BASSANIO

ALL

So may the outward shows be least themselves; The world is still deceived with ornament. In law, what plea so tainted and corrupt But, being seasoned with a gracious voice, Obscures the show of evil? In religion, What damnèd error but some sober brow Will bless it and approve it with a text, Hiding the grossness with fair ornament? There is no [vice] so simple but assumes Some mark of virtue on his outward parts. How many cowards whose hearts are all as false As stairs of sand, wear yet upon their chins The beards of Hercules and frowning Mars,

85

70

75

80

106

88. inward searched: i.e., if their bodies were examined within: livers white as milk: A white liver was said to be the mark of a coward.

89. excrement: outgrowth (i.e., the beard)

90. redoubted: feared, dreaded

93. lightest: least respectable (a pun)

94. crispèd: curled: locks: strands of hair

96. supposèd fairness: what is thought to be beauty; or, counterfeit beauty

97-98. dowry...sepulcher: i.e., a wig made of hair from a head that is now in the grave dowry: endowment

99. guilèd: treacherous

101. an Indian beauty: one with a dark complexion, who therefore would not match the stereotype of fair-skinned beauty then in force

105. Midas: the mythological king whose greed destroyed him when everything he touched, including his food, turned to gold; I... thee: i.e., I want nothing to do with you

106-7. pale ... man: i.e., silver, which functioned as currency common drudge: servant to everyone

107. meager: poor

109. moves: i.e., affects me emotionally

112. As: i.e., such as; doubtful: dreadful. fearful: rash: i.e., rashly, heedlessly

115. rain: i.e., rain down (The word would also be heard as rein. control.) scant: withhold or reduce

119. counterfeit: image, picture

119-20. What demigod . . . creation?: i.e., what artist has so nearly duplicated Portia as to seem a god?

Who inward searched have livers white as milk. And these assume but valor's excrement To render them redoubted. Look on beauty, 90 And you shall see 'tis purchased by the weight, Which therein works a miracle in nature, Making them lightest that wear most of it. So are those crispèd snaky golden locks, Which maketh such wanton gambols with the wind Upon supposèd fairness, often known To be the dowry of a second head, The skull that bred them in the sepulcher. Thus ornament is but the guilèd shore To a most dangerous sea, the beauteous scarf 100 Veiling an Indian beauty; in a word, The seeming truth which cunning times put on To entrap the wisest. Therefore, then, thou gaudy gold. Hard food for Midas, I will none of thee. 105 Nor none of thee, thou pale and common drudge Tween man and man. But thou, thou meager lead, Which rather threaten'st than dost promise aught. Thy paleness moves me more than eloquence, And here choose I. Joy be the consequence! 110 Bassanio is given a key. PORTIA, [aside] How all the other passions fleet to air, As doubtful thoughts and rash embraced despair, And shudd'ring fear, and green-eyed jealousy! O love, be moderate, allay thy ecstasy, In measure rain thy joy, scant this excess! 115 I feel too much thy blessing. Make it less, For fear I surfeit. Bassanio opens the lead casket. What find I here? BASSANIO Fair Portia's counterfeit! What demigod Hath come so near creation? Move these eyes? 120 123. bar: i.e., barrier (here, Portia's breath)

124. such sweet friends: i.e., Portia's lips

127. Faster: more securely

130. unfurnished: i.e., unmatched with the second eye, because the artist could no longer see (line 28) to paint it; look how far: i.e., just as far as

131. substance . . . praise: words of praise I use;

shadow: picture

132. **underprizing:** i.e., failing to do it justice, undervaluing

133. substance: i.e., Portia herself

134. continent: i.e., container

136. Chance as fair: enjoy as good luck

137. this fortune: i.e., Portia

140. hold ... for: regard ... as

144. by note: i.e., authorized by the scroll

145. prize: match, athletic contest



"Cato's daughter, Brutus' Portia." (1.1.173). From Guillaume Rouille, *Promptuarii iconum* . . . (1553).

110

Or whether, riding on the balls of mine, Seem they in motion? Here are severed lips Parted with sugar breath; so sweet a bar Should sunder such sweet friends. Here in her hairs The painter plays the spider, and hath woven 125 A golden mesh t' entrap the hearts of men Faster than gnats in cobwebs. But her eyes! How could he see to do them? Having made one. Methinks it should have power to steal both his And leave itself unfurnished. Yet look how far 130 The substance of my praise doth wrong this shadow In underprizing it, so far this shadow Doth limp behind the substance. Here's the scroll. The continent and summary of my fortune. THe reads the scroll. You that choose not by the view 135 Chance as fair and choose as true. Since this fortune falls to you. Be content and seek no new. If you be well pleased with this And hold your fortune for your bliss, 140 Turn you where your lady is, And claim her with a loving kiss. A gentle scroll! Fair lady, by your leave.

I come by note to give and to receive.

Like one of two contending in a prize

That thinks he hath done well in people's eyes,
Hearing applause and universal shout,
Giddy in spirit, still gazing in a doubt
Whether those peals of praise be his or no,
So, thrice-fair lady, stand I even so,
As doubtful whether what I see be true,
Until confirmed, signed, ratified by you.

PORTIA

You see me, Lord Bassanio, where I stand, Such as I am. Though for myself alone 161. **account:** computation (This begins a set of commercial terms that continues: **sum**, **gross**.)

162. to term in gross: to identify in general terms

166. **bred so dull:** brought up to be so stupid or obtuse

171. But now: i.e., just a moment ago

178. **be my...on you:** provide me with a position of superiority from which to cry out against you

185. blent: blended

186. wild: wilderness; save of: except

I would not be ambitious in my wish 155 To wish myself much better, yet for you I would be trebled twenty times myself. A thousand times more fair, ten thousand times More rich, that only to stand high in your account I might in virtues, beauties, livings, friends. 160 Exceed account. But the full sum of me Is sum of something, which, to term in gross. Is an unlessoned girl, unschooled, unpracticed; Happy in this, she is not yet so old But she may learn; happier than this, 165 She is not bred so dull but she can learn: Happiest of all, is that her gentle spirit Commits itself to yours to be directed As from her lord, her governor, her king. Myself, and what is mine, to you and yours 170 Is now converted. But now I was the lord Of this fair mansion, master of my servants. Queen o'er myself; and even now, but now, This house, these servants, and this same myself Are yours, my lord's. I give them with this ring. 175 [Handing him a ring.] Which, when you part from, lose, or give away, Let it presage the ruin of your love. And be my vantage to exclaim on you. BASSANIO Madam, you have bereft me of all words. Only my blood speaks to you in my veins, 180 And there is such confusion in my powers As after some oration fairly spoke By a beloved prince there doth appear Among the buzzing pleased multitude. Where every something being blent together 185 Turns to a wild of nothing, save of joy Expressed and not expressed. But when this ring Parts from this finger, then parts life from hence. O, then be bold to say Bassanio's dead!

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191. That: i.e., we who

195. **none from me:** perhaps, no more **from me** than I have already wished you; or, perhaps, **none** away **from me** (i.e., your happiness will not take away from mine)

197. bargain: contract; faith: i.e., vow

199. so: if

202. **maid:** i.e., Nerissa, who is Portia's lady-in-waiting or "waiting gentlewoman," an attendant who is also a confidante

203. intermission: delay, waiting around

206. as the matter falls: i.e., as it happens

207. sweat: i.e., did sweat

208. my very roof: i.e., the very roof of my mouth

211–12. your fortune/Achieved: i.e., it was your good fortune to win

214. so: if; withal: i.e., with it

215. **mean good faith:** enter into this engagement with honest intentions

216. faith: i.e., in faith (an oath)

218. play...boy: i.e., wager with them about which couple will have the first boy

NERISSA	
My lord and lady, it is now our time,	190
That have stood by and seen our wishes prosper,	38
To cry "Good joy, good joy, my lord and lady!"	
GRATIANO	
My Lord Bassanio, and my gentle lady,	
I wish you all the joy that you can wish,	
For I am sure you can wish none from me.	195
And when your honors mean to solemnize	1000000
The bargain of your faith, I do beseech you	
Even at that time I may be married too.	
BASSANIO	
With all my heart, so thou canst get a wife.	
GRATIANO	
I thank your Lordship, you have got me one.	200
My eyes, my lord, can look as swift as yours:	1977
You saw the mistress, I beheld the maid.	
You loved, I loved; for intermission	
No more pertains to me, my lord, than you.	
Your fortune stood upon the caskets there,	205
And so did mine, too, as the matter falls.	4.65
For wooing here until I sweat again,	
And swearing till my very roof was dry	
With oaths of love, at last (if promise last)	
I got a promise of this fair one here	210
To have her love, provided that your fortune	
Achieved her mistress.	
PORTIA Is this true, Nerissa?	
NERISSA	
Madam, it is, so you stand pleased withal.	
BASSANIO	
And do you, Gratiano, mean good faith?	215
GRATIANO Yes, faith, my lord.	
BASSANIO	
Our feast shall be much honored in your marriage.	

GRATIANO We'll play with them the first boy for a

thousand ducats.

226-27. If ... welcome: i.e., if the brief time I have been in my new position here gives me the power to welcome you

229. very: i.e., true

233. My... seen: i.e., I did not set out to see

235. past: beyond 240. him: himself

245. estate: condition

246. cheer yond stranger: i.e., greet Jessica



"Blind Fortune." (2.1.37; see also 2.2.164-65, 3.2.20-21, 4.1.79)
From Guillaume de La Perrière, Le théâtre des bons engins ... (1539?).

NERISSA What, and stake down? GRATIANO No, we shall ne'er win at that sport and stake down. Enter Lorenzo, Jessica, and Salerio, a messenger from Venice. But who comes here? Lorenzo and his infidel? What, and my old Venetian friend Salerio? BASSANIO Lorenzo and Salerio, welcome hither-225 If that the youth of my new int'rest here Have power to bid you welcome. 「To Portia. ¹ By vour leave. I bid my very friends and countrymen. Sweet Portia, welcome. 230 PORTIA So do I, my lord. They are entirely welcome. LORENZO, Tto Bassanio I thank your Honor. For my part, my lord, My purpose was not to have seen you here. But meeting with Salerio by the way, He did entreat me past all saying nay 235 To come with him along. I did. my lord. SALERIO And I have reason for it. [Handing him a paper.] Signior Antonio Commends him to you. 240 BASSANIO Ere I ope his letter. I pray you tell me how my good friend doth. SALERIO Not sick, my lord, unless it be in mind. Nor well, unless in mind. His letter there Will show you his estate. 「Bassanio opens the letter. GRATIANO Nerissa, cheer yond stranger, bid her welcome.-

Your hand, Salerio. What's the news from Venice?

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251. would: wish; fleece: perhaps a pun on "fleets"; or, perhaps, a reference to the gold Antonio has lost

252. shrewd: serious, harsh

255. dead...nothing: i.e., is dead, for nothing else

256. turn: i.e., change

257. constant: steadfast

268. Rating: evaluating

270. state: fortune, estate, property

272, 273. engaged: pledged

273. mere: utter. absolute

275. as: i.e., as if it were

278. not one hit: i.e., did not one succeed



Tortured on the rack. (3.2.26, 27, 33)
From Girolamo Maggi, ... De tintinnabulis liber postumus ...

Accedit ... De equuleo liber ... (1689).

How doth that royal merchant, good Antonio? I know he will be glad of our success. We are the Jasons, we have won the Fleece. 250 SALERIO I would you had won the fleece that he hath lost. There are some shrewd contents in yond same paper That steals the color from Bassanio's cheek. Some dear friend dead, else nothing in the world 255 Could turn so much the constitution Of any constant man. What, worse and worse?-With leave, Bassanio, I am half yourself, And I must freely have the half of anything That this same paper brings you. 260 BASSANTO O sweet Portia. Here are a few of the unpleasant'st words That ever blotted paper. Gentle lady. When I did first impart my love to you. I freely told you all the wealth I had 265 Ran in my veins: I was a gentleman. And then I told you true; and yet, dear lady. Rating myself at nothing, you shall see How much I was a braggart. When I told you My state was nothing, I should then have told you 270 That I was worse than nothing: for indeed I have engaged myself to a dear friend. Engaged my friend to his mere enemy To feed my means. Here is a letter, lady. The paper as the body of my friend, 275 And every word in it a gaping wound Issuing life blood.—But is it true. Salerio? Hath all his ventures failed? What, not one hit? From Tripolis, from Mexico and England, From Lisbon, Barbary, and India, 280 And not one vessel 'scape the dreadful touch Of merchant-marring rocks?

284. should: i.e., would

285. present money: i.e., money available; discharge: pay

286. He: i.e., Shylock

288. keen: fierce, cruel; confound: destroy

289. plies: applies pressure to

290. impeach...state: i.e., accuse the state of tyranny

292–93. **magnificoes...port:** i.e., the most dignified of Venetian nobles (See picture, below.)

293. persuaded: argued

294. envious: malicious

294-95. plea / Of: demand for

300. he: i.e., Antonio

305. best conditioned: best tempered

306. courtesies: kindnesses

312. deface: cancel



"Magnificoes." (3.2.292) From Giacomo Franco, Habiti d'huomeni . . . (1609?).

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SALERIO Not one, my lord.	
Besides, it should appear that if he had	
The present money to discharge the Jew,	205
He would not take it. Never did I know	285
A creature that did bear the shape of man	
So keen and greedy to confound a man.	
He plies the Duke at morning and at night,	
And doth impeach the freedom of the state	****
If they deny him justice. Twenty merchants,	290
The Duke himself, and the magnificoes	
Of greatest port have all persuaded with him,	
But none can drive him from the envious plea	
Of forfeiture, of justice, and his bond.	205
JESSICA	295
When I was with him, I have heard him swear	
To Tubal and to Chus, his countrymen,	
That he would rather have Antonio's flesh	
Than twenty times the value of the sum	
That he did owe him. And I know, my lord,	200
If law, authority, and power deny not,	300
It will go hard with poor Antonio.	
PORTIA	
Is it your dear friend that is thus in trouble?	
BASSANIO	
The dearest friend to me, the kindest man,	
The best conditioned and unwearied spirit	205
In doing courtesies, and one in whom	305
The ancient Roman honor more appears	
Than any that draws breath in Italy.	
PORTIA What sum owes he the Jew?	
BASSANIO	
For me, three thousand ducats.	210
PORTIA What, no more?	310
Pay him six thousand and deface the bond.	
Double six thousand and then treble that,	
Before a friend of this description	
Shall lose a hair through Bassanio's fault.	215
onan rose a nan unough bassamos fault.	315

323. maids: unmarried women

324. shall hence: i.e., shall depart

325. **cheer:** expression

326. dear . . . dear: expensively . . . dearly

328. miscarried: i.e., been wrecked

329. estate: fortune

332. **but:** only

332–33. **Notwithstanding...pleasure:** i.e., despite what I have said, do as you wish

336. good leave: consent

339. **be...twain:** interpose itself between the two of us

- **3.3** Antonio seeks out Shylock in an effort to get the moneylender to listen to him. But Shylock insists that the terms of the bond be fulfilled. Antonio is resigned to death provided Bassanio is there to see him die.
  - 1. look to: keep an eye on; attend to

First go with me to church and call me wife,
And then away to Venice to your friend!
For never shall you lie by Portia's side
With an unquiet soul. You shall have gold
To pay the petty debt twenty times over.
When it is paid, bring your true friend along.
My maid Nerissa and myself meantime
Will live as maids and widows. Come, away,
For you shall hence upon your wedding day.
Bid your friends welcome, show a merry cheer;
Since you are dear bought, I will love you dear.
But let me hear the letter of your friend.

[BASSANIO reads]

Sweet Bassanio, my ships have all miscarried, my creditors grow cruel, my estate is very low, my bond to the Jew is forfeit, and since in paying it, it is impossible 330 I should live, all debts are cleared between you and I if I might but see you at my death. Notwithstanding, use your pleasure. If your love do not persuade you to come, let not my letter.

#### **PORTIA**

O love, dispatch all business and begone!
BASSANIO

Since I have your good leave to go away, I will make haste. But till I come again, No bed shall e'er be guilty of my stay, Nor rest be interposer 'twixt us twain.

They exit.

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# 「Scene 37

Enter \Shylock, \text{\gamma} the Jew, and \Solanio, \text{\gamma} and Antonio, and the Jailer.

#### SHYLOCK

Jailer, look to him. Tell not me of mercy.

2. gratis: without requiring interest

10. naughty: wicked; fond: foolish

11. abroad: out in public

19. impenetrable: impervious to argument

20. kept: lived

22. bootless: useless

28. grant: allow; to hold: i.e., to be put into effect

29–34. **The Duke...nations:** The loose construction of this sentence creates some difficulty. It seems to say that the Duke cannot interfere with the law without thereby denying all foreigners, including Jews, the privilege under the law that encourages all nations to trade in Venice and is responsible for Venice's prosperity.

30. **commodity:** benefits, privileges; **strangers:** foreigners

31. it: i.e., the course of the law

32. impeach: discredit

33. Since that: i.e., since

This is the fool that lent out money gratis.	
Jailer, look to him.	
ANTONIO Hear me yet, good Shylock— SHYLOCK	
I'll have my bond. Speak not against my bond. I have sworn an oath that I will have my bond. Thou call'dst me dog before thou hadst a cause, But since I am a dog, beware my fangs.	5
The Duke shall grant me justice.—I do wonder,	
Thou naughty jailer, that thou art so fond	10
To come abroad with him at his request.	
ANTONIO I pray thee, hear me speak—	
SHYLOCK	
I'll have my bond. I will not hear thee speak.	
I'll have my bond, and therefore speak no more.	
I'll not be made a soft and dull-eyed fool,	15
To shake the head, relent, and sigh, and yield	
To Christian intercessors. Follow not!	
I'll have no speaking. I will have my bond. \( \textit{FHe} \) exits.	
SOLANIO	
It is the most impenetrable cur	
That ever kept with men.	20
ANTONIO Let him alone.	
I'll follow him no more with bootless prayers.	8
He seeks my life. His reason well I know: I oft delivered from his forfeitures	
Many that have at times made moan to me.	
Therefore he hates me.	25
SOLANIO I am sure the Duke	
Will never grant this forfeiture to hold.	
ANTONIO	
The Duke cannot deny the course of law.	
For the commodity that strangers have	30
With us in Venice, if it be denied,	30
Will much impeach the justice of the state,	
Since that the trade and profit of the city	
promi of the only	

35

5

- 35. bated: abated. shrunk
- 37. bloody: bloodthirsty
- 3.4 Portia entrusts the management of her household to Lorenzo and pretends to leave with Nerissa for a house of an order of nuns. She sends a messenger to Dr. Bellario of Padua and tells Nerissa that they, in disguise as men, will follow their husbands to Venice.

2. conceit: understanding, conception

3. amity: friendship; which: i.e., your understanding

7. lover: This word in the Renaissance could be used of a friend or well-wisher, as well as of a romantic partner

9. Than...you: i.e., than the kindness you habitually display can make you

12. waste: pass

14. must be needs: i.e., must be

15. lineaments: characteristics

17. **bosom:** confidential

20. semblance of my soul: i.e., Antonio, who is the image of Bassanio, Portia's soul

Consisteth of all nations. Therefore go. These griefs and losses have so bated me That I shall hardly spare a pound of flesh Tomorrow to my bloody creditor.-Well, jailer, on.—Pray God Bassanio come To see me pay his debt, and then I care not. They exit.

### 「Scene 47

Enter Portia, Nerissa, Lorenzo, Jessica, and Balthazar, a man of Portia's.

#### LORENZO

Madam, although I speak it in your presence. You have a noble and a true conceit Of godlike amity, which appears most strongly In bearing thus the absence of your lord. But if you knew to whom you show this honor. How true a gentleman you send relief. How dear a lover of my lord your husband. I know you would be prouder of the work Than customary bounty can enforce you.

#### PORTIA

I never did repent for doing good. 10 Nor shall not now; for in companions That do converse and waste the time together, Whose souls do bear an equal yoke of love, There must be needs a like proportion Of lineaments, of manners, and of spirit; 15 Which makes me think that this Antonio. Being the bosom lover of my lord, Must needs be like my lord. If it be so, How little is the cost I have bestowed In purchasing the semblance of my soul 20 From out the state of hellish cruelty!

31. monastery: a religious house (here, of nuns)

33. **deny this imposition:** refuse to accept the trust that I wish to impose on you

36. with...heart: a polite phrase indicating assent

47. honest true: honest and faithful

49. endeavor: strenuous effort



"Sultan Solyman." (2.1.27) From Paolo Giovio, Nouocomensis Episcopi . . . (1575).

This comes too near the praising of myself: Therefore no more of it. Hear other things: Lorenzo, I commit into your hands The husbandry and manage of my house 25 Until my lord's return. For mine own part. I have toward heaven breathed a secret vow To live in prayer and contemplation. Only attended by Nerissa here. Until her husband and my lord's return. 30 There is a monastery two miles off, And there we will abide. I do desire you Not to deny this imposition, The which my love and some necessity Now lavs upon you. 35 Madam, with all my heart. LORENZO I shall obey you in all fair commands. PORTIA My people do already know my mind And will acknowledge you and Jessica In place of Lord Bassanio and myself. 40 So fare you well till we shall meet again. LORENZO Fair thoughts and happy hours attend on you! **JESSICA** I wish your Ladyship all heart's content. **PORTIA** I thank you for your wish, and am well pleased To wish it back on you. Fare you well, Jessica. 45 [Lorenzo and Jessica] exit. Now, Balthazar, As I have ever found thee honest true, So let me find thee still: take this same letter. And use thou all th' endeavor of a man In speed to \(^{\text{Padua.}}\)\text{See thou render this} 50 Into my \( \cousin's \) hands, Doctor Bellario. She gives him a paper.

-	-	-	-		- 2			
52	loo	-	TITAL	.+.	xxx	201	OTTO	120
.12.	w	n	WILL	11.	wı	141	CVC	-1

54. imagined: i.e., all imaginable

55. traject: i.e., traghetto, Italian for "ferry"

58. convenient: due, appropriate

63. habit: dress, costume

64. accomplishèd: equipped

65. that we lack: that which we lack (i.e., male organs); hold thee any wager: bet you anything

68. braver: finer

69–70. **speak...voice:** i.e., **speak** in a piping **voice** as if I were an adolescent **boy** 

70. mincing: small and dainty

72. quaint: clever

75. I... withal: i.e., I could do nothing about it 78–79. I... twelvemonth: i.e., I finished being a schoolboy more than a year ago

80. raw: crude, immature; jacks: fellows

82. **turn to men:** Nerissa means "**turn** ourselves into **men.**" Portia responds as if the phrase meant "**turn to men** for sexual satisfaction." (See 1.3.89 for this sexual use of the phrase "**turn to.**")

And look what notes and garments he doth give Bring them, I pray thee, with imagined speed Unto the Ttraject. to the common ferry 55 Which trades to Venice. Waste no time in words, But get thee gone. I shall be there before thee. BALTHAZAR THe exits. Madam, I go with all convenient speed. PORTIA Come on, Nerissa, I have work in hand That you yet know not of. We'll see our husbands 60 Before they think of us. Shall they see us? NERISSA PORTIA They shall. Nerissa, but in such a habit That they shall think we are accomplished With that we lack. I'll hold thee any wager, 65 When we are both accoutered like young men, I'll prove the prettier fellow of the two, And wear my dagger with the braver grace, And speak between the change of man and boy With a reed voice, and turn two mincing steps 70 Into a manly stride, and speak of frays Like a fine bragging youth, and tell quaint lies How honorable ladies sought my love, Which I denving, they fell sick and died— I could not do withal!—then I'll repent, 75 And wish, for all that, that I had not killed them. And twenty of these puny lies I'll tell, That men shall swear I have discontinued school Above a twelvemonth. I have within my mind A thousand raw tricks of these bragging jacks 80 Which I will practice. Why, shall we turn to men? NERISSA PORTIA Fie, what a question's that,

If thou wert near a lewd interpreter!

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- **3.5** Lancelet, the clown, makes jokes at the expense of Jessica and then Lorenzo. Jessica praises Portia and jokes with Lorenzo.
- 1–2. **sins...children:** See Deuteronomy 5.9, where God promises to visit "the iniquity of the fathers **upon the children**, even unto the third and fourth generation." (See also Exodus 20.5 and 34.7.)

3. fear you: i.e., fear for you

4. agitation: i.e., perhaps, cogitation

7. **bastard:** counterfeit, not genuine (Jessica picks up the usual meaning of the word at line 12.)

10. Marry: indeed

11. got: begot

15–16. **Scylla, Charybdis:** two mythological monsters, identified with a rock (**Scylla**) and a whirlpool (**Charybdis**) off the coast of Sicily (Proverbially, "to be caught between **Scylla** and **Charybdis**" is to face two equal dangers.)

17. gone: destroyed

21. enow: enough

22. one by another: i.e., together

23. hogs, pork: food forbidden by Jewish dietary law

24. rasher: i.e., of bacon

25. for money: i.e., even if we offer to pay for it

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ACT 3, SC. 5

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But come, I'll tell thee all my whole device When I am in my coach, which stays for us At the park gate; and therefore haste away, For we must measure twenty miles today.

They exit.

### Scene 57

Enter [Lancelet, the] Clown, and Jessica.

LANCELET Yes, truly, for look you, the sins of the father are to be laid upon the children. Therefore I promise you I fear you. I was always plain with you, and so now I speak my agitation of the matter. Therefore be o' good cheer, for truly I think you are damned. There is but one hope in it that can do you any good, and that is but a kind of bastard hope neither.

JESSICA And what hope is that, I pray thee?

LANCELET Marry, you may partly hope that your father 10 got you not, that you are not the Jew's daughter.

JESSICA That were a kind of bastard hope indeed; so the sins of my mother should be visited upon me!

LANCELET Truly, then, I fear you are damned both by father and mother; thus when I shun Scylla your father, I fall into Charybdis your mother. Well, you are gone both ways.

JESSICA I shall be saved by my husband. He hath made me a Christian.

LANCELET Truly the more to blame he! We were Christians enow before, e'en as many as could well live one by another. This making of Christians will raise the price of hogs. If we grow all to be pork eaters, we shall not shortly have a rasher on the coals for money.

Enter Lorenzo.

- 30. fear: suspect
- 31. out: at odds
- 38. **Moor:** pronounced "more," making possible Lancelet's wordplay **more than reason** (lines 39–40): i.e., **more than** she reasonably should be
  - 40. honest: chaste
- 42. **play...word:** i.e., make puns, engage in wordplay
- 43–44. **best...silence:** surest sign of intelligence **will** soon be **silence** 
  - 47. stomachs: appetites
  - 50, 52. cover: i.e., set the table
- 53. I know my duty: Lancelet now takes cover to mean "Put on your hat." It was his duty to remain bareheaded in the presence of his superiors.
- 54. **quarreling with occasion:** disputing at every opportunity
  - 60. For the table: i.e., as for the supply of food
  - 61. meat: food; covered: served in covered dishes

JESSICA I'll tell my husband, Lancelet, what you say. Here he comes.

LORENZO I shall grow jealous of you shortly, Lancelet, if you thus get my wife into corners!

JESSICA Nay, you need not fear us, Lorenzo. Lancelet and I are out. He tells me flatly there's no mercy for me in heaven because I am a Jew's daughter; and he says you are no good member of the commonwealth, for in converting Jews to Christians you raise the price of pork.

LORENZO I shall answer that better to the commonwealth than you can the getting up of the Negro's belly! The Moor is with child by you, Lancelet.

than reason; but if she be less than an honest woman, she is indeed more than I took her for.

LORENZO How every fool can play upon the word! I think the best grace of wit will shortly turn into silence, and discourse grow commendable in none only but parrots. Go in, sirrah, bid them prepare for dinner.

LANCELET That is done, sir. They have all stomachs.

LORENZO Goodly Lord, what a wit-snapper are you! Then bid them prepare dinner.

LANCELET That is done too, sir, only "cover" is the 50 word.

LORENZO Will you cover, then, sir?

LANCELET Not so, sir, neither! I know my duty.

LORENZO Yet more quarreling with occasion! Wilt thou show the whole wealth of thy wit in an 55 instant? I pray thee understand a plain man in his plain meaning: go to thy fellows, bid them cover the table, serve in the meat, and we will come in to dinner.

LANCELET For the table, sir, it shall be served in; for 60 the meat, sir, it shall be covered; for your coming in

 $\lceil They \rceil exit.$ 

64. suited: fitted, adapted

67. A many fools: many a fool; stand in better place: enjoy higher social status

68. Garnished like him: i.e., perhaps, equipped with vocabularies like his

68–69. **for a tricksy word / Defy the matter:** for the sake of wordplay, digress from the topic

69. How cheer'st thou: i.e., how are you

72. meet: fitting

76. merit it: i.e., deserve or earn such joy

79. lay: should stake

80. else: more

81. Pawned with: bet along with

86. anon: soon

87. **stomach:** appetite (for food); desire (to praise)

89. howsome'er: i.e., howsoever

90. digest: endure (with an implied pun)

91. **set you forth:** i.e., (1) serve you up as if you were a dish; (2) praise you in detail

to dinner, sir, why, let it be as humors and conceits shall govern. [Lancelet] exits. LORENZO O dear discretion, how his words are suited! The fool hath planted in his memory 65 An army of good words, and I do know A many fools that stand in better place, Garnished like him, that for a tricksy word Defy the matter. How cheer'st thou, Jessica? And now, good sweet, say thy opinion 70 How dost thou like the Lord Bassanio's wife? **JESSICA** Past all expressing. It is very meet The Lord Bassanio live an upright life. For having such a blessing in his lady He finds the joys of heaven here on earth. 75 And if on earth he do not [merit] it. In reason he should never come to heaven. Why, if two gods should play some heavenly match, And on the wager lay two earthly women, And Portia one, there must be something else 80 Pawned with the other, for the poor rude world Hath not her fellow. Even such a husband LORENZO Hast thou of me as she is for  $\lceil a \rceil$  wife. **JESSICA** Nay, but ask my opinion too of that! 85 LORENZO I will anon. First let us go to dinner. Nay, let me praise you while I have a stomach! LORENZO No, pray thee, let it serve for table talk. Then howsome'er thou speak'st, 'mong other things I shall digest it. Well, I'll set you forth. JESSICA

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THE
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OF
VENICE

ACT 4

4.1 In court at Venice, Shylock demands that the terms of his bond be fulfilled. Portia enters as a doctor of laws, with a letter of introduction from Dr. Bellario. She saves Antonio by determining that the bond allows Shylock no more than a pound of Antonio's flesh and not a drop of his blood. She also finds Shylock guilty of plotting the death of a Venetian and subject to the penalty of forfeiting his estate and suffering execution. Antonio intercedes with the Duke to reduce the penalty. A defeated Shylock agrees to the proposed terms.

Bassanio offers the disguised Portia the three thousand ducats that he brought to give to Shylock, but Portia demands the ring that she herself gave Bassanio. When he refuses, she departs as if insulted. When Antonio asks Bassanio to give the ring, Bassanio sends Gratiano after her with it.

6. dram: i.e., tiny amount

8. qualify: moderate, limit

9. obdurate: accent on second syllable

10. that: i.e., since

11. envy's: malice's

14. tyranny: unmerciful action

17. our: i.e., my (The Duke uses the royal "we.")

# FACT 47

### Scene 17

Enter the Duke, the Magnificoes, Antonio, Bassanio, Salerio, and Gratiano, with Attendants.

DUKE What, is Antonio here?
ANTONIO Ready, so please your Grace.
DUKE

I am sorry for thee. Thou art come to answer A stony adversary, an inhuman wretch, Uncapable of pity, void and empty From any dram of mercy.

ANTONIO I have heard

Your Grace hath ta'en great pains to qualify His rigorous course; but since he stands obdurate, And that no lawful means can carry me

Out of his envy's reach, I do oppose My patience to his fury, and am armed

To suffer with a quietness of spirit The very tyranny and rage of his.

DUKE

Go, one, and call the Jew into the court. SALERIO

He is ready at the door. He comes, my lord.

Enter Shylock.

15

DUKE

Make room, and let him stand before our face.-

19. but . . . fashion: only keep up this pretense

20. the last...act: i.e., the moment of performing the act itself

21. remorse: pity; strange: striking

22. **strange:** exceptional; **apparent:** obvious, visible

23. where: i.e., whereas

25. loose: relinquish

27. moi'ty: moiety, portion

29. of late: lately, recently

30. Enow: enough

31. of his state: upon his condition

33. Tartars: Tatars, members of Mongolian tribes

34. offices . . . courtesy: duties of kindness

36. possessed: informed; purpose: intend

38. **due and forfeit of:** i.e., penalty that is due according to

39-40. **the danger...freedom:** See note on 3.3.29-34 above.

42. carrion: dead, decaying

44. humor: whim

47. baned: exterminated

48. **gaping:** i.e., perhaps roasted, served with its mouth opened

50. **bagpipe...nose:** a reference to the nasal sound of bagpipes

51. affection: feeling of attraction or repulsion

52. it: i.e., passion

Shylock, the world thinks, and I think so too. That thou but leadest this fashion of thy malice To the last hour of act, and then, 'tis thought. 20 Thou'lt show thy mercy and remorse more strange Than is thy strange apparent cruelty: And where thou now exacts the penalty, Which is a pound of this poor merchant's flesh. Thou wilt not only loose the forfeiture. 25 But, touched with humane gentleness and love. Forgive a moi'ty of the principal. Glancing an eve of pity on his losses That have of late so huddled on his back. Enow to press a royal merchant down 30 And pluck commiseration of his state From brassy bosoms and rough hearts of flint,7 From stubborn Turks, and Tartars never trained To offices of tender courtesy. We all expect a gentle answer. Jew. 35 SHYLOCK I have possessed your Grace of what I purpose, And by our holy Sabbath have I sworn To have the due and forfeit of my bond. If you deny it, let the danger light Upon your charter and your city's freedom! 40 You'll ask me why I rather choose to have A weight of carrion flesh than to receive Three thousand ducats. I'll not answer that, But say it is my humor. Is it answered? What if my house be troubled with a rat, 45 And I be pleased to give ten thousand ducats To have it baned? What, are you answered yet? Some men there are love not a gaping pig, Some that are mad if they behold a cat. And others, when the bagpipe sings i' th' nose. 50 Cannot contain their urine; for affection Masters foft passion, sways it to the mood

55, 56, 57. <b>he:</b> one man another, 57. <b>of force:</b> necessarily 61. <b>lodged:</b> settled; <b>certain:</b> fixed, reso	
62. <b>follow:</b> pursue	oivea
63. <b>losing:</b> unprofitable	
65. current: course	
66. bound: obliged	
71. question: dispute	
73. main flood: ocean; bate his: reduc	ce its
74. use question with: i.e., ask	and the Season
78. fretten: fretted, agitated	
*	
26.4	
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- 9	

, ACI 4. SC. 1	
Of what it likes or loathes. Now for your answer:	
As there is no firm reason to be rendered	
Why he cannot abide a gaping pig.	
Why he a harmless necessary cat.	1
Why he a woolen bagpipe, but of force	
Must yield to such inevitable shame	
As to offend, himself being offended,	
So can I give no reason, nor I will not,	(
More than a lodged hate and a certain loathing	- 3
I bear Antonio, that I follow thus	
A losing suit against him. Are you answered?	
BASSANIO	
This is no answer, thou unfeeling man,	7
To excuse the current of thy cruelty.	(
SHYLOCK	
I am not bound to please thee with my answers.	
BASSANIO	
Do all men kill the things they do not love?	
SHYLOCK	
Hates any man the thing he would not kill?	
BASSANIO	
Every offence is not a hate at first.	
HYLOCK	
What, wouldst thou have a serpent sting thee twice?	
NTONIO, To Bassanio	7
I pray you, think you question with the Jew.	
You may as well go stand upon the beach	
And bid the main flood bate his usual height;	
You may as well use question with the wolf	
Why he hath made the ewe [bleat] for the lamb;	_
You may as well forbid the mountain pines	7
To wag their high tops and to make no noise	
When they are fretten with the gusts of heaven;	
You may as well do anything most hard	
As seek to soften that than which what's harder?—	
His Jewish heart Therefore I do beseech you	8

83.	conveniency:	fitness,	proper	action

88. draw: accept

93. parts: duties

98. such viands: i.e., food such as yours

101. dearly: expensively

104. stand for: i.e., uphold, stand up for

105. Upon: according to

106. doctor: i.e., doctor of laws, learned person

107. determine: decide

109. stays without: waits outside

110. **letters:** i.e., a letter (plural with singular meaning, after the Latin *litterae*)

111. New: i.e., newly

Make no more offers, use no farther means. But with all brief and plain conveniency Let me have judgment and the Jew his will. BASSANIO For thy three thousand ducats here is six. SHYLOCK If every ducat in six thousand ducats Were in six parts, and every part a ducat, I would not draw them. I would have my bond. DUKE How shalt thou hope for mercy, rend'ring none? SHYLOCK What judgment shall I dread, doing no wrong? 90 You have among you many a purchased slave. Which, like your asses and your dogs and mules, You use in abject and in slavish parts Because you bought them. Shall I say to you "Let them be free! Marry them to your heirs! 95 Why sweat they under burdens? Let their beds Be made as soft as yours, and let their palates Be seasoned with such viands"? You will answer "The slaves are ours!" So do I answer you: The pound of flesh which I demand of him 100 Is dearly bought; 'tis' mine and I will have it. If you deny me, fie upon your law: There is no force in the decrees of Venice. I stand for judgment. Answer: shall I have it? DUKE Upon my power I may dismiss this court 105 Unless Bellario, a learned doctor Whom I have sent for to determine this. Come here today. SALERIO My lord, here stays without A messenger with letters from the doctor, 110 New come from Padua.

117. **Meetest:** most suitable 120. **live still:** continue to **live** 

124. bankrout: bankrupt

127. hangman: state executioner; keenness: (1) sharpness; (2) fierceness

128. envy: malice

129. wit: intelligence

130. **inexecrable:** perhaps, an intensified form of "execrable," abhorrent (or perhaps a misprint for "inexorable")

133. **To hold opinion:** and to agree; **Pythagoras:** ancient Greek philosopher who believed in the transmigration of souls (as described in lines 134–35)

DUKE Bring us the letters. Call the messenger. BASSANIO Good cheer, Antonio! What, man, courage yet! The Jew shall have my flesh, blood, bones, and all Ere thou shalt lose for me one drop of blood! 115 ANTONIO I am a tainted wether of the flock. Meetest for death. The weakest kind of fruit Drops earliest to the ground, and so let me. You cannot better be employed, Bassanio, Than to live still and write mine epitaph. 120 Enter Nerissa, \( \text{disguised as a lawyer's clerk.} \) DUKE Came you from Padua, from Bellario? NERISSA, as Clerk From both, my lord. Bellario greets your Grace. Handing him a paper, which he reads, aside, while Shylock sharpens his knife on the sole of his shoe. BASSANIO Why dost thou whet thy knife so earnestly? SHYLOCK To cut the forfeiture from that bankrout there. GRATIANO Not on thy sole but on thy soul, harsh Jew, 125 Thou mak'st thy knife keen. But no metal can, No, not the hangman's axe, bear half the keenness Of thy sharp envy. Can no prayers pierce thee? SHYLOCK No, none that thou hast wit enough to make. GRATIANO O, be thou damned, inexecrable dog, 130 And for thy life let justice be accused; Thou almost mak'st me waver in my faith, To hold opinion with Pythagoras

136.	Governed:	i.e.,	inha	bited
150.	Governeu.	1.0.,	IIIIIa	DILE

137. fell: cruel, pitiless; fleet: pass out of the body

138. **unhallowed:** unholy; **dam:** mother (term usually reserved for animals)

140. bloody: bloodthirsty, cruel

141. rail: revile, taunt abusively

142. but offend'st: only damage

145. commend: i.e., recommend

148. attendeth: waits; hard by: nearby

151. give...conduct: i.e., courteously conduct him

153. the receipt: i.e., the moment of receiving

156. doctor: i.e., doctor of laws

158. turned o'er: searched

159. furnished: provided

159-60. opinion: judgment

162. fill up: fulfill

163. stead: place; lack of years: youth

164. let him lack: cause him to lack; reverend estimation: high esteem

That souls of animals infuse themselves	
Into the trunks of men. Thy currish spirit	135
Governed a wolf who, hanged for human slaughter,	100
Even from the gallows did his fell soul fleet,	
And whilst thou layest in thy unhallowed dam,	
Infused itself in thee, for thy desires	
Are wolfish, bloody, starved, and ravenous.	140
SHYLOCK	
Till thou canst rail the seal from off my bond,	
Thou but offend'st thy lungs to speak so loud.	
Repair thy wit, good youth, or it will fall	
To cureless ruin. I stand here for law.	
DUKE	
This letter from Bellario doth commend	145
	145
A young and learned doctor to our court.	
Where is he?	
NERISSA, [as Clerk] He attendeth here hard by	
To know your answer whether you'll admit him.	
DUKE	4
With all my heart.—Some three or four of you	150
Go give him courteous conduct to this place.	100
TAttendants exit.	
Meantime the court shall hear Bellario's letter.	

Meantime the court shall hear Bellario's letter. THe reads.

Your Grace shall understand that, at the receipt of your letter, I am very sick, but in the instant that your messenger came, in loving visitation was with me a 155 young doctor of Rome. His name is Balthazar. I acquainted him with the cause in controversy between the Jew and Antonio the merchant. We turned o'er many books together. He is furnished with my opinion, which, bettered with his own learning (the greatness whereof I cannot enough commend), comes with him at my importunity to fill up your Grace's request in my stead. I beseech you let his lack of years be no impediment to let him lack a reverend estimation, for I

never knew so young a body with so old a head. I 165

- 166. trial: performance when put to the test
- 167. publish: make known
- 168. You hear...writes: i.e., you hear what the learned Bellario writes
- 173. difference: dispute
- 174. holds...question: i.e., is now being considered
- 175. **throughly:** i.e., thoroughly; **cause:** matter before the court for decision, subject of litigation
- 181. in such rule: i.e., in such strict accord with the law
  - 183. danger: power
- 186. confess: acknowledge

leave him to your gracious acceptance, whose trial shall better publish his commendation. You hear the learned Bellario what he writes. Enter Portia for Balthazar, \( \text{disguised as a doctor of } \) laws, with Attendants.7 And here I take it is the doctor come.-Give me your hand. Come you from old Bellario? PORTIA, [as Balthazar] I did, my lord. You are welcome. Take your place. DUKE Are you acquainted with the difference That holds this present question in the court? PORTIA, Tas Balthazar I am informed throughly of the cause. 175 Which is the merchant here? And which the Jew? DUKE Antonio and old Shylock, both stand forth. PORTIA, [as Balthazar] Is your name Shylock? SHYLOCK Shylock is my name. PORTIA, [as Balthazar] Of a strange nature is the suit you follow, 180 Yet in such rule that the Venetian law Cannot impugn you as you do proceed. To Antonio. You stand within his danger, do you not? ANTONIO Av. so he says. 185 PORTIA, \[ \textit{as Balthazar} \] Do you confess the bond? ANTONIO I do. PORTIA, \[ \textit{ as Balthazar} \] Then must the Jew be merciful. SHYLOCK On what compulsion must I? Tell me that.

190.	strained:	constrained,	compelled
			- Carried

192. **is twice blest:** i.e., gives a double blessing

194. becomes: adorns

197. attribute to: i.e., symbol of

199. sway: power

200. It: i.e., mercy

204. plea: suit

205–6. **none...salvation:** According to Christian doctrine, because of Adam and Eve's fall into sin, only God's mercy can provide **salvation**.

206. We...mercy: The reference is to the "Lord's Prayer," which includes the petition "forgive us our debts as we also forgive our debtors." Jesus' comment on this petition reads "For if you do forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you." (Matthew 6.12, 14)

209. To mitigate the justice: i.e., to temper with mercy the strict justice

210. follow: enforce

213. My...head: i.e., I bear responsibility for what I do

214. **penalty...bond:** i.e., the **penalty** prescribed in the **bond** if the payment is forfeited

215. discharge: pay

216. tender: offer

219. On forfeit of: i.e., if I fail to pay, I agree to forfeit

	PORTIA, [as Balthazar]	
	The quality of mercy is not strained.	190
	It droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven	190
	Upon the place beneath. It is twice blest:	
	It blesseth him that gives and him that takes.	
	Tis mightiest in the mightiest; it becomes	
	The thronèd monarch better than his crown.	195
	His scepter shows the force of temporal power,	15.
	The attribute to awe and majesty	
	Wherein doth sit the dread and fear of kings;	
	But mercy is above this sceptered sway.	
	It is enthroned in the hearts of kings;	200
	It is an attribute to God Himself;	200
	And earthly power doth then show likest God's	
	When mercy seasons justice. Therefore, Jew	
	Though justice be thy plea, consider this:	- 2
	That in the course of justice none of us	205
	Should see salvation. We do pray for mercy.	203
	And that same prayer doth teach us all to render	
	The deeds of mercy. I have spoke thus much	
	To mitigate the justice of thy plea.	
	Which, if thou follow, this strict court of Venice	210
	Must needs give sentence 'gainst the merchant	-10
	there.	
1	SHYLOCK	
	My deeds upon my head! I crave the law,	
	The penalty and forfeit of my bond	
1	PORTIA, 'as Balthazar'	
	Is he not able to discharge the money?	215
]	BASSANIO	
	Yes. Here I tender it for him in the court,	
	Yea, twice the sum. If that will not suffice,	
	I will be bound to pay it ten times o'er	
	On forfeit of my hands, my head, my heart.	
	If this will not suffice, it must appear	220

157

221. bears down: oppresses

223. Wrest ... authority: i.e., just this once use

your power to bend the law

231. Daniel: In the story of Susanna and the Elders found in the biblical Apocrypha, the young Daniel judged the elders who spied on and accused Susanna. His wisdom saved her from death.

239. is forfeit: has been forfeited

244. tenor: actual wording

That malice bears down truth. To the Duke. And I	
beseech you,	
Wrest once the law to your authority.	
To do a great right, do a little wrong,	
And curb this cruel devil of his will.	225
PORTIA, [as Balthazar]	
It must not be. There is no power in Venice	
Can alter a decree establishèd;	
Twill be recorded for a precedent	
And many an error by the same example	
Will rush into the state. It cannot be.	230
SHYLOCK	
A Daniel come to judgment! Yea, a Daniel.	
O wise young judge, how I do honor thee!	
PORTIA, [as Balthazar]	
I pray you let me look upon the bond.	
SHYLOCK	
Here 'tis, most reverend doctor, here it is.	
「Handing Portia a paper.	
PORTIA, [as Balthazar]	
Shylock, there's thrice thy money offered thee.	23
SHYLOCK	
An oath, an oath, I have an oath in heaven!	
Shall I lay perjury upon my soul?	
No, not for Venice!	
PORTIA, [as Balthazar] Why, this bond is forfeit,	
And lawfully by this the Jew may claim	240
A pound of flesh, to be by him cut off	
Nearest the merchant's heart.—Be merciful;	
Take thrice thy money; bid me tear the bond.	
SHYLOCK	
When it is paid according to the tenor.	
It doth appear you are a worthy judge;	245
You know the law; your exposition	
Hath been most sound. I charge you by the law,	
Whereof you are a well-deserving pillar,	

251. stay...bond: i.e., await the fulfillment of the terms in my bond

258. Hath full relation to: i.e., fully authorize

267. balance: scales (a beam with weighing pans at each side) See picture, below.

269. Have . . . charge: i.e., have a surgeon in attendance at your expense surgeon: a man (usually not a university-educated physician) trained and licensed to perform surgery

270. stop: stanch

271. nominated: named, specified

272. so expressed: i.e., made explicit

274. it: i.e., the requirement to provide a surgeon



Scales. (4.1.267) From Silvestro Pietrasanta . . . Symbola heroica . . . (1682).

Described in demonstrate Property applications	
Proceed to judgment. By my soul I swear	250
There is no power in the tongue of man	250
To alter me. I stay here on my bond.	
ANTONIO	
Most heartily I do beseech the court	
To give the judgment.	
PORTIA, [as Balthazar] Why, then, thus it is:	2000
You must prepare your bosom for his knife—	255
SHYLOCK	
O noble judge! O excellent young man!	
PORTIA, [as Balthazar]	
For the intent and purpose of the law	4
Hath full relation to the penalty,	
Which here appeareth due upon the bond.	
SHYLOCK	
'Tis very true. O wise and upright judge,	260
How much more elder art thou than thy looks!	
PORTIA, \( \text{as Balthazar, to Antonio} \)	
Therefore lay bare your bosom—	
SHYLOCK Ay, his breast!	
So says the bond, doth it not, noble judge?	
"Nearest his heart." Those are the very words.	265
PORTIA, <sup>「as Balthazar</sup> ]	
It is so.	
Are there balance here to weigh the flesh?	
SHYLOCK I have them ready.	
PORTIA, \(\gamma as Balthazar\)	
Have by some surgeon, Shylock, on your charge,	
To stop his wounds, lest he do bleed to death.	270
SHYLOCK	
Is it so nominated in the bond?	
PORTIA, <sup>r</sup> as Balthazar <sup>1</sup>	
It is not so expressed, but what of that?	
Twere good you do so much for charity.	
SHYLOCK	
I cannot find it. Tis not in the bond.	30

280. Than is her custom: i.e., than she usually
does; still her use: always her habit (For Fortune)
[line 279], see note to 2.1.37.)

283. age: old age

284. cut me off: separate me (with a pun on the normal meaning of cut off)

286. process: story; manner

287. speak me fair: i.e., speak well of me 289. had not once a love: i.e., did not once have someone who loved him

290. Repent but you that: regret only that 291. repents not: does not regret

295. Which: i.e., who

PORTIA, 「as Balthazar ]	
You, merchant, have you anything to say?	275
ANTONIO	
But little. I am armed and well prepared.—	
Give me your hand, Bassanio. Fare you well.	
Grieve not that I am fall'n to this for you,	
For herein Fortune shows herself more kind	
Than is her custom: it is still her use	280
To let the wretched man outlive his wealth,	
To view with hollow eye and wrinkled brow	
An age of poverty, from which ling'ring penance	
Of such misery doth she cut me off.	
Commend me to your honorable wife,	285
Tell her the process of Antonio's end,	
Say how I loved you, speak me fair in death,	
And when the tale is told, bid her be judge	
Whether Bassanio had not once a love.	
Repent but you that you shall lose your friend	290
And he repents not that he pays your debt.	
For if the Jew do cut but deep enough,	
I'll pay it instantly with all my heart.	
BASSANIO	
Antonio, I am married to a wife	000000
Which is as dear to me as life itself,	295
But life itself, my wife, and all the world	
Are not with me esteemed above thy life.	
I would lose all, ay, sacrifice them all	
Here to this devil, to deliver you.  PORTIA, [aside]	
######################################	200
Your wife would give you little thanks for that If she were by to hear you make the offer.	300
GRATIANO	
I have a wife who I protest I love.	
I would she were in heaven, so she could	
Entreat some power to change this currish Jew.	

306. ı	make	else:	i.e.,	otherwise	make
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309. Would: i.e., I wish; Barabbas: a thief set free when Jesus was condemned to death

311. trifle time: i.e., trifle with time, waste time
319. no jot of blood: i.e., no blood at all
324. confiscate: i.e., confiscated
326. Mark: pay attention
328. act: decree, law

NERISSA, 'aside'	
'Tis well you offer it behind her back.	305
The wish would make else an unquiet house.	
SHYLOCK	
These be the Christian husbands! I have a	
daughter—	
Would any of the stock of Barabbas	
Had been her husband, rather than a Christian!	310
We trifle time. I pray thee, pursue sentence.	
PORTIA, \[ \text{as Balthazar} \]	
A pound of that same merchant's flesh is thine:	
The court awards it, and the law doth give it.	
SHYLOCK Most rightful judge!	
PORTIA, [as Balthazar]	
And you must cut this flesh from off his breast:	315
The law allows it, and the court awards it.	2.00
SHYLOCK	
Most learned judge! A sentence!—Come, prepare.	
PORTIA, as Balthazar	
Tarry a little. There is something else.	
This bond doth give thee here no jot of blood.	
The words expressly are "a pound of flesh."	320
Take then thy bond, take thou thy pound of flesh,	
But in the cutting it, if thou dost shed	
One drop of Christian blood, thy lands and goods	
Are by the laws of Venice confiscate	
Unto the state of Venice.	325
GRATIANO	
O upright judge!-Mark, JewO learned judge!	
SHYLOCK	
Is that the law?	
PORTIA, [as Balthazar] Thyself shalt see the act.	
For, as thou urgest justice, be assured	
Thou shalt have justice more than thou desir'st.	330
GRATIANO	
O learned judge!—Mark Jew a learned judge!	

341. a just pound: i.e., exactly a pound; it: i.e., the surplus or deficiency

342. substance: mass, matter

343. division: fraction

344. scruple: the twenty-fourth part of an ounce

345. But in the estimation: i.e., even so much as

348. I... hip: i.e., I have the advantage over you (a wrestling term) See picture, below.

356. barely: merely



"On the hip." (1.3.46, 4.1.348)
From Romein de Hoogue, L'academie de l'admirable art
de la lutte . . . [1712].

I take this offer then. Pay the bond thrice And let the Christian go. BASSANIO Here is the money. PORTIA, [as Balthazar] Soft! The Jew shall have all justice. Soft, no haste! He shall have nothing but the penalty. GRATIANO O Jew, an upright judge, a learned judge! PORTIA, [as Balthazar] Therefore prepare thee to cut off the flesh. Shed thou no blood, nor cut thou less nor more But just a pound of flesh. If thou tak'st more 340 Or less than a just pound, be it but so much As makes it light or heavy in the substance Or the division of the twentieth part Of one poor scruple-nay, if the scale do turn But in the estimation of a hair. 345 Thou diest, and all thy goods are confiscate. GRATIANO A second Daniel! A Daniel, Jew! Now, infidel, I have you on the hip. PORTIA, \( \sigma s Balthazar \) Why doth the Jew pause? Take thy forfeiture. SHYLOCK Give me my principal and let me go. 350 BASSANIO I have it ready for thee. Here it is PORTIA, Tas Balthazar He hath refused it in the open court. He shall have merely justice and his bond. GRATIANO A Daniel still, say I! A second Daniel!-I thank thee, Jew, for teaching me that word. SHYLOCK

Shall I not have barely my principal?

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SHYLOCK

360.	I'll	question:	i.e.,	ľll	wait	for	no	further
disputa								

364. **an alien:** a non-citizen (As a Jew, Shylock would have been denied citizenship in Venice.)

369. privy coffer: private account

371. 'gainst . . . voice: i.e., without appeal

372. predicament: situation, condition

377. rehearsed: described

379. leave: permission

383. charge: expense

386. For: i.e., as for

388. **humbleness:** i.e., a proper attitude of humility and abjectness; **drive unto:** reduce to

PORTIA, [as Balthazar] Thou shalt have nothing but the forfeiture To be so taken at thy peril, Jew. SHYLOCK Why, then, the devil give him good of it! I'll stay no longer question. THe begins to exit. 360 PORTIA, Tas Balthazar Tarry, Jew. The law hath yet another hold on you. It is enacted in the laws of Venice. If it be proved against an alien That by direct or indirect attempts 365 He seek the life of any citizen, The party 'gainst the which he doth contrive Shall seize one half his goods; the other half Comes to the privy coffer of the state, And the offender's life lies in the mercy 370 Of the Duke only, 'gainst all other voice.' In which predicament I say thou stand'st, For it appears by manifest proceeding That indirectly, and directly too, Thou hast contrived against the very life 375 Of the defendant, and thou hast incurred The danger formerly by me rehearsed. Down, therefore, and beg mercy of the Duke. GRATIANO Beg that thou mayst have leave to hang thyself! And yet, thy wealth being forfeit to the state, 380 Thou hast not left the value of a cord: Therefore thou must be hanged at the state's charge. DUKE That thou shalt see the difference of our spirit, I pardon thee thy life before thou ask it. 385 For half thy wealth, it is Antonio's; The other half comes to the general state, Which humbleness may drive unto a fine.

		**		
389. Ay Antonion reduced to a fine (line to the other half (line 392. sustain: support 395. halter gratis: h	388), 387) rt nangn if it p ed tha rust nediate ssed	but not nan's rop blease t tely i.e., of a	Antonio	o's claim
	·up			
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PORTIA. Tas	Balthazar <sup>7</sup>	
Av. for t	he state, not for Antonio.	
SHYLOCK	not for Antomo.	
	e my life and all. Pardon not that	
You tak	e my house when you do take the	t.
That do	th sustain my house; you take my	prop
When v	ou do take the means whereby I l	ire
PORTIA. Tas	Balthazar	rve.
What m	ercy can you render him, Antonio	-3
GRATIANO	erey can you render min, Antonic	or ·
	gratis, nothing else, for God's sal	LLY .
ANTONIO	gradis, nothing cise, for God's sai	ke! 3
	e my lord the Duke and all the co	
To quit t	the fine for one half of his goods,	ourt
I am cor	ntent, so he will let me have	
The other	er half in use, to render it	
Upon hi	s death unto the gentleman	
That late	ely stole his daughter.	4
Two thir	ags provided more: that for this fa	NY CH
He prese	ently become a Christian;	avor
The other	er, that he do record a gift,	
Here in	the court, of all he dies possessed	
Unto his	son Lorenzo and his daughter.	4
DUKE	and ms dauginer.	
He shall	do this, or else I do recant	
The parc	lon that I late pronounced here.	
PORTIA, Tas	Balthazar 7	
Art thou	contented, Jew? What dost thou	cav2
SHYLOCK	, and add thou	ouy.
I am con	tent.	4:
PORTIA, Tas	Balthazar Clerk, draw a deed of	oift 4.
HYLOCK	,	Parer
I pray yo	u give me leave to go from hence	£
I am not	well. Send the deed after me	
And I wil	l sign it.	
UKE	Get thee gone, but do it.	41

417. **ten more:** Twelve is the number in a jury, which, according to Gratiano, should have sentenced Shylock to death.

419. home: i.e., to come home

422. meet: fitting

423, your leisure ... not: i.e., you are not free to accept my invitation

424. gratify: reward

425. bound: obligated

430. **cope...withal:** i.e., give you in exchange for your kind efforts

437. **know me...again:** a polite phrase meaning that one person has been introduced to the other (with a secondary, hidden meaning: "Recognize me")

439. of force: necessarily; attempt you further: i.e., again try to offer you something

「GRATIANO] In christ'ning shalt thou have two godfathers. Had I been judge, thou shouldst have had ten more. To bring thee to the gallows, not to the font. 「Shylock <sup>¬</sup>exits. DUKE, Tto Portia as Balthazar Sir, I entreat you home with me to dinner. PORTIA, [as Balthazar] I humbly do desire your Grace of pardon. 420 I must away this night toward Padua. And it is meet I presently set forth. DUKE I am sorry that your leisure serves you not .-Antonio, gratify this gentleman, For in my mind you are much bound to him. 425 The Duke and his train exit. BASSANIO, To Portia as Balthazar Most worthy gentleman, I and my friend Have by your wisdom been this day acquitted Of grievous penalties, in lieu whereof Three thousand ducats due unto the Jew We freely cope your courteous pains withal. 430 ANTONIO And stand indebted, over and above, In love and service to you evermore. PORTIA, [as Balthazar] He is well paid that is well satisfied. And I, delivering you, am satisfied, And therein do account myself well paid. 435 My mind was never yet more mercenary. I pray you know me when we meet again. I wish you well, and so I take my leave. She begins to exit. BASSANIO Dear sir, of force I must attempt you further. Take some remembrance of us as a tribute.

445. **for your love:** i.e., as a remembrance of **your love,** a polite formula (But all Portia's words to Bassanio have meanings that exceed what he understands "Balthazar" to say.)

451. have a mind: am strongly inclined

452. There's ... value: i.e., there's more to this ring than its monetary value

453. dearest: most expensive

455. pardon me: i.e., excuse me for not giving you this ring

456. liberal: generous

Not as fee. Grant me two things, I pray you: Not to deny me, and to pardon me.	
PORTIA, Tas Balthazar	
You press me far, and therefore I will yield. Give me your gloves; I'll wear them for your sake—	
And for your love I'll take this ring from you.	445
Do not draw back your hand; I'll take no more,	113
And you in love shall not deny me this.	
BASSANIO	
This ring, good sir? Alas, it is a trifle.	
I will not shame myself to give you this.	
PORTIA, <sup>r</sup> as Balthazar <sup>7</sup>	
I will have nothing else but only this.	450
And now methinks I have a mind to it.	
BASSANIO	
There's more depends on this than on the value.	
The dearest ring in Venice will I give you,	
And find it out by proclamation.	
Only for this, I pray you pardon me.	455
PORTIA, \( \sigma s Balthazar \)	
I see, sir, you are liberal in offers.	
You taught me first to beg, and now methinks	
You teach me how a beggar should be answered.	
BASSANIO	
Good sir, this ring was given me by my wife,	
And when she put it on, she made me vow	460
That I should neither sell nor give nor lose it.	
PORTIA, 「as Balthazar T	
That 'scuse serves many men to save their gifts.	
And if your wife be not a madwoman,	
And know how well I have deserved this ring,	
She would not hold out enemy forever	465
For giving it to me. Well, peace be with you.	
「Portia and Nerissa <sup>¬</sup> exit.	
ANTONIO	

My Lord Bassanio, let him have the ring.

5. well welcome: most welcome

6. **you are well o'erta'en:** i.e., it's to your advantage that I've caught up to you

7. upon more advice: after further thought

10. That cannot be: i.e., I cannot have dinner with him

13. my youth: my boy (Nerissa)

Let his deservings and my love withal Be valued 'gainst your wife's commandment. BASSANIO Go, Gratiano, run and overtake him. 470 Give him the ring, and bring him if thou canst Unto Antonio's house. Away, make haste. Gratiano exits Come, you and I will thither presently. And in the morning early will we both Fly toward Belmont.—Come, Antonio. 475 They exit. 「Scene 27 Enter [Portia and] Nerissa, [still in disguise.] PORTIA Inquire the Jew's house out; give him this deed And let him sign it. She gives Nerissa a paper. We'll away tonight. And be a day before our husbands home. This deed will be well welcome to Lorenzo. Enter Gratiano. GRATIANO Fair sir, you are well o'erta'en. My Lord Bassanio, upon more advice, Hath sent you here this ring, and doth entreat Your company at dinner. THe gives her a ring. PORTIA, [as Balthazar] That cannot be. 10 His ring I do accept most thankfully. And so I pray you tell him. Furthermore. I pray you show my youth old Shylock's house.

The Merchant of Venice

ACT 4, SC. 2

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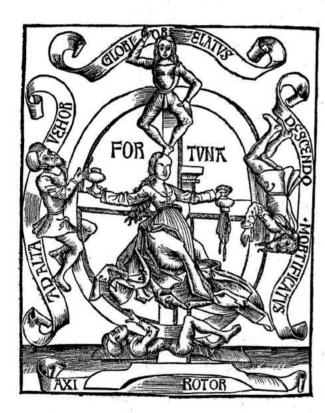
GRATIANO

That will I do.

19. old: i.e., lots of

21. outface: (1) defy; (2) lie boldly to

22. tarry: wait (for you)



Fortune turning her wheel. (2.1.37, 2.2.164–65, 3.2.20–21, 4.1.279)
From Gregor Reisch, Margarita philosophica . . . [1503].

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NERISSA, 「as Clerk Sir, I would speak with you.

「Aside to Portia. I'll see if I can get my husband's ring,
Which I did make him swear to keep forever.

PORTIA, 「aside to Nerissa Thou mayst, I warrant! We shall have old swearing That they did give the rings away to men;
But we'll outface them, and outswear them, too.—
Away, make haste! Thou know'st where I will tarry.

「She exits. NERISSA, 「as Clerk Come, good sir, will you show me to this house?

The Merchant of Venice

ACT 4. Sc. 2

They exit.

THE
MERCHANT
OF
VENICE

ACT 5

5.1 Portia and Nerissa return to Belmont. When Bassanio and Gratiano also return, bringing Antonio with them, Portia and Nerissa "discover" that their husbands have given away their rings. Antonio steps in and pleads with Portia to forgive Bassanio. At this request, the women return the rings to their husbands and reveal that Portia was the lawyer who saved Antonio. Portia also tells Antonio that three of his ships have successfully returned and tells Lorenzo that he is Shylock's heir.

1–17. **In...Aeson:** These lines allude to four famous love stories with very unhappy endings. In lines 18–28, Jessica and Lorenzo jokingly place their story among these mythological tales.

4. **Troilus:** A prince of Troy, **Troilus** was betrayed by Cressida after she was moved to the Greek camp.

8. **Thisbe:** In love with Pyramus, the son of an enemy family, **Thisbe** set out to meet him but fled from a lion. Pyramus, thinking the lion had killed Thisbe, killed himself; Thisbe committed suicide when she found Pyramus dead. (See picture, page 182.)

12. **Dido: Dido,** queen of Carthage, loved Aeneas, who abandoned her. (See picture, page 196.)

13. waft: beckoned (with the willow branch, a symbol of forsaken love)

16. **Medea:** Because of her love for Jason, **Medea** magically restored to youth his father, **Aeson.** Jason later betrayed her, and in revenge she murdered their children.

19. steal from: (1) run away from; (2) rob

20. **unthrift love:** i.e., a **love** with no regard for wealth; or, unthrifty, prodigal lover

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# 「ACT 57

### 「Scene 17

### Enter Lorenzo and Jessica.

LORENZO		
	shines bright. In such a night as this,	
	sweet wind did gently kiss the trees	
	id make no noise, in such a night	
	ethinks, mounted the Trojan walls	
And sighed	his soul toward the Grecian tents	5
	ssid lay that night.	
JESSICA	In such a night	
Did Thisbe	fearfully o'ertrip the dew	
	e' lion's shadow ere himself	
	smayed away.	10
LORENZO	In such a night	(5,5)
Stood Dido	with a willow in her hand	
Upon the w	vild sea-banks, and waft her love	
	gain to Carthage.	
JESSICA	In such a night	15
Medea gath	nered the enchanted herbs	
That did re	new old Aeson.	
LORENZO	In such a night	
Did Jessica	steal from the wealthy Jew,	
And with a	n unthrift love did run from Venice	20
As far as Bo	elmont.	
JESSICA	In such a night	
Did voung	I orenzo swear he loved her well	

29. did nobody come: i.e., if nobody was coming

30. footing: i.e., footsteps

41. but: except

43. nor...heard: i.e., nor have we heard
45-46. ceremoniously...welcome: i.e., let us prepare a ceremonious welcome

47. **Sola:** imitation of the sound of a post horn



Pyramus and Thisbe. (5.1.8) From Ovid, *Le metamorphosi* . . . (1538).

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Stealing her soul with many vows of faith,	
And ne'er a true one.	:
LORENZO In such a night	
Did pretty Jessica, like a little shrew,	
Slander her love, and he forgave it her.	
JESSICA	
I would out-night you did nobody come,	
But hark, I hear the footing of a man.	1
Enter \( Stephano, \)\\ a Messenger.	
LORENZO	
Who comes so fast in silence of the night?	
STEPHANO A friend.	
LORENZO	
A friend? What friend? Your name, I pray you,	
friend.	
STEPHANO	
Stephano is my name, and I bring word	
My mistress will before the break of day	
Be here at Belmont. She doth stray about	
By holy crosses, where she kneels and prays	
For happy wedlock hours.	
LORENZO Who comes with her?	
STEPHANO	
None but a holy hermit and her maid.	
I pray you, is my master yet returned?	
LORENZO	
He is not, nor we have not heard from him.—	
But go we in, I pray thee, Jessica,	
And ceremoniously let us prepare	1
Some welcome for the mistress of the house.	
Enter \( \text{Lancelet, the} \) Clown.	
LANCELET Sola, sola! Wo ha, ho! Sola, sola!	
LORENZO Who calls?	
LANCELET Sola! Did you see Master Lorenzo? Master	
Lorenzo, sola, sola!	

LORENZO

54. post: messenger

57. Let's in: i.e., let's go in; expect: await

61. music: i.e., musical instrument, or group of musicians

65. Become: are appropriate to; touches: sounds

67. **patens:** small metal plates or disks (In the Mass, the Eucharist is placed on a **gold** paten.)

68-69. **orb...sings:** The stars and planets were thought to move within transparent spheres, which in turn moved in such perfect harmony with each other that they produced the music of the spheres—music that humankind could no longer hear after the fall of Adam and Eve. (See picture of the spheres circling the sun, page xxx.)

70. **Still choiring:** continually singing; **young-eyed cherubins:** possibly the winged cherubs of Renaissance art (See picture, page 188.); possibly the terrifyingly swift cherubim of Ezekiel 10.12, which were "full of eyes round about"

72. muddy . . . decay: i.e., body

74. **Diana:** goddess of the moon (See picture, page 24.) The moon is described as sleeping at lines 62 and 118.

ORENZO Leave holloaing, man! Here.	
ANCELET Sola! Where, where?	
ORENZO Here!	
ANCELET Tell him there's a post come from my mas-	
ter with his horn full of good news. My master will	55
be here ere morning, sweet soul. \[ \sum_{Lancelet exits.} \]	
LORENZO, \[ \tag{to Jessica} \]	
Let's in, and there expect their coming.	
And yet no matter; why should we go in?—	
My friend 「Stephano, ¬signify, I pray you,	
Within the house, your mistress is at hand,	60
And bring your music forth into the air.	
「Stephano exits.	
How sweet the moonlight sleeps upon this bank.	
Here will we sit and let the sounds of music	
Creep in our ears; soft stillness and the night	
Become the touches of sweet harmony.	65
Sit, Jessica. Look how the floor of heaven	
Is thick inlaid with patens of bright gold.	
There's not the smallest orb which thou behold'st	
But in his motion like an angel sings,	
Still choiring to the young-eyed cherubins.	70
Such harmony is in immortal souls,	
But whilst this muddy vesture of decay	
Doth grossly close it in, we cannot hear it.	
Enter Stephano and musicians.	
Enter Stephano and musicians.	
Come, ho! and wake Diana with a hymn.	
With sweetest touches pierce your mistress' ear,	75
And draw her home with music.	
「Music plays. ¬	
JESSICA	
I am never merry when I hear sweet music.	

The reason is, your spirits are attentive.

For do but note a wild and wanton herd

100

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81. Fetching mad bounds: i.e., madly leaping

85. make . . . stand: i.e., all stand still

87–89. **the poet...floods:** Many poets wrote of **Orpheus**, the mythological musician whose music was so enticing that it drew even inanimate objects toward him. (See picture, page 192.) Probably **the poet** refers to Ovid. (See his *Metamorphoses* 10.86–103.)

90. **naught:** nothing; **stockish:** i.e., like a stock or post

91. his: i.e., its

94. stratagems, and spoils: violent deeds and pillage

96. **affections:** inclinations; **Erebus:** a place of darkness between Earth and Hades

97. Mark: listen to

99. his: its

100. naughty: evil

104. his: i.e., the substitute's; state: majesty, dignity

106. the main of waters: i.e., the sea

108. without respect: i.e., except for the circumstances that attend it

Or race of youthful and unhandled colts. Fetching mad bounds, bellowing and neighing loud. Which is the hot condition of their blood, If they but hear perchance a trumpet sound, Or any air of music touch their ears, You shall perceive them make a mutual stand. 85 Their savage eyes turned to a modest gaze By the sweet power of music. Therefore the poet Did feign that Orpheus drew trees, stones, and floods. Since naught so stockish, hard, and full of rage, 90 But music for the time doth change his nature. The man that hath no music in himself. Nor is not moved with concord of sweet sounds. Is fit for treasons, stratagems, and spoils; The motions of his spirit are dull as night, 95 And his affections dark as [Erebus.] Let no such man be trusted. Mark the music.

## Enter Portia and Nerissa.

#### PORTIA

That light we see is burning in my hall.

How far that little candle throws his beams!

So shines a good deed in a naughty world.

NERISSA

When the moon shone we did not see the candle.

So doth the greater glory dim the less. A substitute shines brightly as a king Until a king be by, and then his state Empties itself as doth an inland brook Into the main of waters. Music, hark! NERISSA

It is your music, madam, of the house.

Nothing is good, I see, without respect. Methinks it sounds much sweeter than by day.

110. virtue: power

112. attended: listened to, heard

116. **by season:** by appearing at the proper time; **seasoned are:** are perfected, made fit

117. right: just

118. **Endymion:** in mythology, a mortal loved by the moon

126. **Which speed:** i.e., who prosper 129. **before:** in advance



"Young-eyed cherubins." (5.1.70) From Martin Luther, Der zwey und zwentzigste Psalm . . . (1525).

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NERISSA		4
Silence be	stows that virtue on it, madam.	
PORTIA		
The crow of	doth sing as sweetly as the lark	
When neit	her is attended, and I think	
The nighti	ngale, if she should sing by day	
When ever	y goose is cackling, would be th	ought
No better a	a musician than the wren.	•
How many	things by season seasoned are	
To their rig	ght praise and true perfection!	
Peace-ho	w the moon sleeps with Endym	ion
	l not be awaked!	
	<sup>r</sup> Mus	sic ceases.
LORENZO	That is the voice	3,
Or I am m	uch deceived, of Portia.	
PORTIA		
He knows	me as the blind man knows the	cuckoo,
By the bad		+
LORENZO	Dear lady, welcome home	e.
PORTIA		2
We have be	een praying for our husbands' w	elfare,
	ed we hope the better for our we	
Are they re	eturned?	
LORENZO	Madam, they are not ye	t,
But there i	is come a messenger before	502 <b>-</b> 02
	their coming.	
PORTIA	Go in, Nerissa.	
Give order	to my servants that they take	
	all of our being absent hence-	
	orenzo—Jessica, nor you.	
1		et sounds.7
LORENZO		
Your husb	and is at hand. I hear his trump	et.
	tell-tales, madam, fear you not.	
PORTIA	- market et al mark	
This night	methinks is but the daylight sic	k:

It looks a little paler. Tis a day

140-41. **We...sun:** i.e., we would have daylight at the same time as **the Antipodes**—the other side of the world—provided you (Portia) walked about when **the sun** is absent from us (See picture, below.)

142. be light: be unchaste

143. heavy: sad

144. never be Bassanio so: i.e., may Bassanio never be sad

145. God sort all: i.e., may God arrange everything

148. bound: obligated; tied

149. in all sense: in every sense (of the word)

154. scant: limit, cut short; breathing courtesy: i.e., mere words of courtesy

157. **gelt:** gelded, castrated; **for my part:** from my point of view

161. posy: i.e., rhyming inscription



Antipodes. (5.1.140–41)
From Ambrosius Aurelius Theodosius Macrobius,
In somnium Scipionis exposito...(1492).

Such as the day is when the sun is hid. Enter Bassanio, Antonio, Gratiano, and their followers. BASSANIO We should hold day with the Antipodes 140 If you would walk in absence of the sun. PORTIA Let me give light, but let me not be light. For a light wife doth make a heavy husband, And never be Bassanio so for me. But God sort all! You are welcome home, my lord. 「Gratiano and Nerissa talk aside. 7 BASSANIO I thank you, madam. Give welcome to my friend. This is the man, this is Antonio, To whom I am so infinitely bound. PORTIA You should in all sense be much bound to him, For as I hear he was much bound for you. 150 ANTONIO No more than I am well acquitted of. PORTIA Sir, you are very welcome to our house. It must appear in other ways than words; Therefore I scant this breathing courtesy. GRATIANO, To Nerissa? By yonder moon I swear you do me wrong! 155 In faith, I gave it to the judge's clerk. Would he were gelt that had it, for my part, Since you do take it, love, so much at heart. A quarrel ho, already! What's the matter? GRATIANO About a hoop of gold, a paltry ring 160 That she did give me, whose posy was

169. respective: mindful

170. Gave it: i.e., gave it to; God's: i.e., as God is

171. on 's: on his

172. an if: i.e., if

175. scrubbèd: stunted

177. **prating:** talkative

179. to blame: blameworthy

189. An 'twere: i.e., if it were done; mad: upset

190. I were best to: i.e., I had better



Orpheus. (5.1.88) From Ovid, Metamorphoseon . . . (1565).

For all the world like cutler's poetry Upon a knife, "Love me, and leave me not." NERISSA What talk you of the posy or the value? You swore to me when I did give [it] you 165 That you would wear it till your hour of death. And that it should lie with you in your grave. Though not for me, yet for your vehement oaths. You should have been respective and have kept it. Gave it a judge's clerk! No, God's my judge. 170 The clerk will ne'er wear hair on 's face that had it. GRATIANO He will, an if he live to be a man. NERISSA Ay, if a woman live to be a man. GRATIANO Now, by this hand, I gave it to a youth. A kind of boy, a little scrubbèd boy, 175 No higher than thyself, the judge's clerk, A prating boy that begged it as a fee. I could not for my heart deny it him. **PORTIA** You were to blame, I must be plain with you. To part so slightly with your wife's first gift, 180 A thing stuck on with oaths upon your finger,

And so riveted with faith unto your flesh. I gave my love a ring and made him swear Never to part with it, and here he stands. I dare be sworn for him he would not leave it

Nor pluck it from his finger for the wealth That the world masters. Now, in faith, Gratiano, You give your wife too unkind a cause of grief.

An 'twere to me I should be mad at it.

Why, I were best to cut my left hand off

And swear I lost the ring defending it.

BASSANIO, [aside]

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211.	conceive:	understand

212. left: parted with

215. virtue: power

217. contain: retain

221. wanted the modesty: lacked the restraint 222. held...ceremony: kept for its symbolic value

224. I'll . . . but: i.e., I'll bet my life that

GRATIANO	
My Lord Bassanio gave his ring away	
Unto the judge that begged it, and indeed	*
Deserved it, too. And then the boy, his clerk,	
That took some pains in writing, he begged mine,	195
And neither man nor master would take aught	19.
But the two rings.	
PORTIA What ring gave you, my lord?	
Not that, I hope, which you received of me.	
BASSANIO	
If I could add a lie unto a fault,	200
I would deny it, but you see my finger	200
Hath not the ring upon it. It is gone.	
PORTIA	
Even so void is your false heart of truth.	
By heaven, I will ne'er come in your bed	
Until I see the ring!	205
NERISSA, <sup>†</sup> to Gratiano <sup>†</sup> Nor I in yours	200
Till I again see mine!	
BASSANIO Sweet Portia,	
If you did know to whom I gave the ring,	
If you did know for whom I gave the ring,	210
And would conceive for what I gave the ring,	
And how unwillingly I left the ring,	1
When naught would be accepted but the ring,	
You would abate the strength of your displeasure.	
PORTIA	
If you had known the virtue of the ring,	215
Or half her worthiness that gave the ring,	
Or your own honor to contain the ring,	
You would not then have parted with the ring.	W
What man is there so much unreasonable,	
If you had pleased to have defended it	220
With any terms of zeal, wanted the modesty	
To urge the thing held as a ceremony?	
Nerissa teaches me what to believe:	
I'll die for 't but some woman had the ring!	

227. Which: i.e., who

229. suffered: allowed

230. held up: i.e., upheld, preserved 236. candles of the night: stars

242. liberal: generous

246. **Argus:** a mythological figure with a hundred eyes, used as a round-the-clock guard

253. mar...pen: a bawdy threat



Dido. (5.1.12)
From Guillaume Rouille, *Promptuarii iconum* . . . (1553).

BASSANIO	
No, by my honor, madam, by my soul,	225
No woman had it, but a civil doctor,	223
Which did refuse three thousand ducats of me	
And begged the ring, the which I did deny him	
And suffered him to go displeased away,	
Even he that had held up the very life	230
Of my dear friend. What should I say, sweet lady?	230
I was enforced to send it after him.	
I was beset with shame and courtesy.	
My honor would not let ingratitude	
So much besmear it. Pardon me, good lady,	235
For by these blessèd candles of the night,	233
Had you been there, I think you would have begged	
The ring of me to give the worthy doctor.	
PORTIA DO TO GITTO TO GITTO TO TO THE TOTAL OF THE TOTAL	
Let not that doctor e'er come near my house!	
Since he hath got the jewel that I loved,	240
And that which you did swear to keep for me,	210
I will become as liberal as you:	
I'll not deny him anything I have,	
No, not my body, nor my husband's bed.	
Know him I shall, I am well sure of it.	245
Lie not a night from home. Watch me like Argus.	
If you do not, if I be left alone,	
Now by mine honor, which is yet mine own,	
I'll have that doctor for my bedfellow.	
NERISSA	
And I his clerk. Therefore be well advised	250
How you do leave me to mine own protection.	
GRATIANO	
Well, do you so. Let not me take him, then,	
For if I do, I'll mar the young clerk's pen.	
ANTONIO	
I am th' unhappy subject of these quarrels.	

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ACT 5. Sc. 1

257. enforcèd wrong: compulsory error 263. double self: wordplay on double as duplicitous, deceitful 264. oath of credit: i.e., credible oath 268. for his wealth: i.e., in order to enrich him 269. but: except 270. Had quite miscarried: i.e., (my body) would have been utterly lost 271. My soul upon: i.e., with my soul as 272. advisedly: knowingly 281. In lieu of this: i.e., in return for this ring	
	1
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PORTIA		- 4	
Sir, grie	eve not you. You are welcome		2
notw	ithstanding.		-
BASSANIO	3		
Portia,	forgive me this enforced wrong,		
And in	the hearing of these many friends		
I swear	to thee, even by thine own fair ey	700	
Wherei	n I see myself—	CS,	2
PORTIA	Mark you but that	<b>-1</b>	26
	my eyes he doubly sees himself,	11	
In each	eye one. Swear by your double se	16	
And the	ere's an oath of credit.	:II,	
BASSANIO			
	Nay, but hea	ir me.	26
Inguian	this fault, and by my soul I swear	<b>€</b> 0 50 25	
1 never	more will break an oath with thee	<b>.</b>	
ANTONIO		40	
1 once d	lid lend my body for his wealth,	3	
wnich	out for him that had your husband	d's ring	
Had qui	te miscarried. I dare be bound ag	ain,	27
My soul	upon the forfeit, that your lord		
	er more break faith advisedly.		
PORTIA			
Then yo	u shall be his surety. Give him thi		
was Van Base	Giving Anto	nio a ring.	
And bid	him keep it better than the other.		
ANTONIO			
Here, Lo	ord Bassanio, swear to keep this r	ing.	27
BASSANIO			~:
By heav	en, it is the same I gave the doctor	r!	
PORTIA			
I had it	of him. Pardon me, Bassanio,		
For by t	his ring, the doctor lay with me.		
NERISSA	o, any with the.		
	don me, my gentle Gratiano,		
For that	same scrubbèd boy, the doctor's	alark	20
In lieu o	f this, last night did lie with me.	JEIK,	28
-11 11CU O			
	'She sho	ows a ring.	

285. **amazed:** bewildered 299. **dumb:** i.e., dumbstruck

306. **living:** livelihood 308. **road:** i.e., harbor



Sixteenth-century ships at sea. From William Okeley, Eben-ezer; or, A small monument of great mercy . . . (1684). 201

The Merchant of Venice

ACT 5. SC. 1

GRATIANO	
Why, this is like the mending of highways	
In summer, where the ways are fair enough!	
What, are we cuckolds ere we have deserved it?	
PORTIA	
Speak not so grossly.—You are all amazed.	285
She hands a paper to Bassanio.	
Here is a letter; read it at your leisure.	
It comes from Padua from Bellario.	
There you shall find that Portia was the doctor,	
Nerissa there, her clerk. Lorenzo here	
Shall witness I set forth as soon as you,	290
And even but now returned. I have not yet	230
Entered my house.—Antonio, you are welcome,	
And I have better news in store for you	
Than you expect. Unseal this letter soon.	
[Handing him a paper.]	
There you shall find three of your argosies	295
Are richly come to harbor suddenly.	290
You shall not know by what strange accident	
I chancèd on this letter.	
NTONIO I am dumb.	
BASSANIO	
Were you the doctor and I knew you not?	300
GRATIANO	300
Were you the clerk that is to make me cuckold?	
JERISSA	
Ay, but the clerk that never means to do it,	
Unless he live until he be a man.	
ASSANIO, To Portia	
Sweet doctor, you shall be my bedfellow.	
When I am absent, then lie with my wife.	305
NTONIO	303
Sweet lady, you have given me life and living;	
For here I read for certain that my ships	
Are safely come to road.	

319. Of: about; at fu	ıll:	full	V
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320. charge...inter'gatories: i.e., oblige us to answer questions, as if in court under oath 324. stay: wait 329. sore: i.e., sorely, greatly

PORTIA	How now, Lorenzo?	
My clerk hath so	me good comforts too for you.	310
NERISSA		
Ay, and I'll give th	nem him without a fee.  「Handing him a paper.」	
There do I give to	you and Jessica,	
	w, a special deed of gift,	
	of all he dies possessed of.	
LORENZO		
Fair ladies, you d	lrop manna in the way	315
Of starved people		
PORTIA	It is almost morning,	
And yet I am sure	e you are not satisfied	
Of these events a	t full. Let us go in,	
And charge us th	ere upon inter'gatories,	320
	ver all things faithfully.	
GRATIANO		
Let it be so. The	first inter'gatory	
That my Nerissa	shall be sworn on is	
Whether till the r	next night she had rather stay	
Or go to bed now	, being two hours to day.	325
But were the day	come, I should wish it dark	
Till I were couch	ing with the doctor's clerk.	
Well, while I live,	, I'll fear no other thing	
So sore as keepin	ng safe Nerissa's ring.	
	They exit	