

JULIUS CAESER**Act 3, Scene 2**

Brutus takes his place at the pulpit and Cassius goes into the crowd to separate those who wish to hear Brutus speak from those who refuse to listen. Brutus addresses the Plebeians with a convincing speech, assuring them that Caesar's murder was necessary to preserve their freedoms:

Not that I loved Caesar less, but that I loved Rome more. Had you rather Caesar were living and die all slaves, than that Caesar were dead, to live all free men? (22-6)

The crowd rallies behind Brutus and when Antony arrives he has to yell to make himself heard. Brutus asks the people to listen to Antony and he begins, masterfully crafting a speech to his end: "Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears/I come to bury Caesar, not to praise him." (79-80) He goes on to call Brutus and the other assassins "honourable men" (89), but gradually and subtly Antony turns the crowd against Brutus:

Did this in Caesar seem ambitious?

When that the poor have cried, Caesar hath wept:

Ambition should be made of sterner stuff:

Yet Brutus says he was ambitious;

And Brutus is an honourable man.

You all did see that on the Lupercal

I thrice presented him a kingly crown,

Which he did thrice refuse: was this ambition?

Yet Brutus says he was ambitious;

And, sure, he is an honourable man.

I speak not to disprove what Brutus spoke,

But here I am to speak what I do know.

You all did love him once, not without cause:

What cause withholds you then, to mourn for him?

O judgment! thou art fled to brutish beasts,
And men have lost their reason. Bear with me;
My heart is in the coffin there with Caesar,
And I must pause till it come back to me. (96-113)

Antony has managed to change the minds of the Plebeians, and he produces Caesar's will, which includes a generous gift to the people of Rome. But Antony tells them he cannot read the will because it will inflame them. The crowd insists he read the will and soon they are calling the assassins murders and traitors. The people run through the streets, screaming "Revenge! About! Seek! Burn! Fire! Kill! Slay! Let not a traitor live!" (209-10). They rush to burn the homes of Brutus and his conspirators and Antony rejoices:

Now let it work. Mischief, thou art afoot,
Take thou what course thou wilt! (265-6)

A servant arrives to tell Antony that Brutus and Cassius have fled the city and that Octavius is in Rome and waits at Caesar's house. Antony hurries to meet Octavius.

IMPORTANT QUOTES

Beware the ides of March

—The Soothsayer delivers his famous warning to Caesar.

Why, man, he doth stride the narrow world / Like a Colossus

—Cassius bitterly comments to Brutus about Caesar's growing power and influence.

*The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars,
But in ourselves, that we are underlings*

—Cassius tells Brutus that rise of Caesar is their fault, because they are not doing anything to stop it.

Yond Cassius has a lean and hungry look

—Caesar's suspicious comment.

it was Greek to me

—Casca's sarcastic comment about a speech by Cicero.

*Between the acting of a dreadful thing
and the first motion, all the interim is
Like a phantasma, or a hideous dream*

—Having decided that Caesar must die, Brutus reflects on how difficult it is to put his decision into action.

*Let us be sacrificers, but not butchers, Caius.
We all stand up against the spirit of Caesar;
And in the spirit of men there is no blood:
O, that we then could come by Caesar's spirit,
And not dismember Caesar! But, alas,
Caesar must bleed for it! And, gentle friends,
Let's kill him boldly, but not wrathfully;
Let's carve him as a dish fit for the gods,
Not hew him as a carcass fit for hounds*

—Brutus, explaining why Antony need not be killed, too, expresses his unrealistic idealism.

Think you I am no stronger than my sex . . . ?

—Portia assures Brutus that she can be trusted with his secrets.

*When beggars die, there are no comets seen;
The heavens themselves blaze forth the death of princes*

—Calpurnia tries to persuade Caesar to give credence to the omens and stay away from the Senate on the ides of March.

*Cowards die many times before their deaths;
The valiant never taste of death but once*

—Caesar tells Calpurnia that he is not afraid of death.

I am constant as the northern star

—Caesar tells Cassius that he cannot be moved by humble pleadings.

Et tu, Brute?

—Seeing his friend among the assassins, Caesar exclaims, "And you, Brutus?"

O, pardon me, thou bleeding piece of earth

—Antony apologizes to Caesar's body for shaking hands with Caesar's killers.

Cry "Havoc!" and let slip the dogs of war

—Antony predicts the revenge of Caesar's spirit upon the conspirators.

Not that I loved Caesar less, but that I loved Rome more

—Brutus explains to the Roman crowd his reason for killing Caesar.

Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears; I come to bury Caesar, not to praise him

—Antony begins his famous speech over Caesar's body by calming the crowd.

*But Brutus says he was ambitious;
And Brutus is an honourable man*

—Antony, in a backhanded way, casts doubt on the honor of Brutus.

This was the most unkindest cut of all

—Antony, showing the crowd Caesar's mantle, points out where Brutus stabbed Caesar.

There is a tide in the affairs of men

—Brutus tells Cassius that when the time is ripe, action must be taken.

This was the noblest Roman of them all

—Antony's praise of the dead Brutus.

MERCHANT OF VENICE

Characters Act 4, Court scene (Scene 1)

DUKE

1 What, is Antonio here?

ANTONIO

2 Ready, so please your grace.

DUKE

3 I am sorry for thee: thou art come to answer

4 A stony adversary, an inhuman wretch

5 Uncapable of pity, void and empty

6 From any dram of mercy.

ANTONIO

6 I have heard

7 Your grace hath ta'en great pains to qualify

8 His rigorous course; but since he stands obdurate

9 And that no lawful means can carry me

10 Out of his envy's reach, I do oppose

11 My patience to his fury, and am arm'd

12 To suffer, with a quietness of spirit,

13 The very tyranny and rage of his.

DUKE

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

SALERIO

15 He is ready at the door: he comes, my lord.

Enter SHYLOCK.

DUKE

16 Make room, and let him stand before our face.
17 Shylock, the world thinks, and I think so too,
18 That thou but leadest this fashion of thy malice
19 To the last hour of act; and then 'tis thought
20 Thou'lt show thy mercy and remorse more strange
21 Than is thy strange apparent cruelty;
22 And where thou now exact'st the penalty,
23 Which is a pound of this poor merchant's flesh,
24 Thou wilt not only loose the forfeiture,
25 But, touch'd with human gentleness and love,
26 Forgive a moi'ty of the principal;
27 Glancing an eye of pity on his losses,
28 That have of late so huddled on his back,
29 Enow to press a royal merchant down
30 And pluck commiseration of his state
31 From brassy bosoms and rough hearts of flint,
32 From stubborn Turks and Tartars, never train'd
33 To offices of tender courtesy.
34 We all expect a gentle answer, Jew.

SHYLOCK

35 I have possess'd your grace of what I purpose;
36 And by our holy Sabbath have I sworn
37 To have the due and forfeit of my bond:
38 If you deny it, let the danger light
39 Upon your charter and your city's freedom.
40 You'll ask me, why I rather choose to have
41 A weight of carrion flesh than to receive
42 Three thousand ducats: I'll not answer that:
43 But, say, it is my humor: is it answer'd?
44 What if my house be troubled with a rat
45 And I be pleased to give ten thousand ducats
46 To have it ban'd? What, are you answer'd yet?
47 Some men there are love not a gaping pig;
48 Some, that are mad if they behold a cat;
49 And others, when the bagpipe sings i' the nose,
50 Cannot contain their urine: for affection,
51 Mistress of passion, sways it to the mood
52 Of what it likes or loathes. Now, for your answer:
53 As there is no firm reason to be render'd,
54 Why he cannot abide a gaping pig;

55 Why he, a harmless necessary cat;
56 Why he, a woolen bagpipe; but of force
57 Must yield to such inevitable shame
58 As to offend, himself being offended;
59 So can I give no reason, nor I will not,
60 More than a lodg'd hate and a certain loathing
61 I bear Antonio, that I follow thus
62 A losing suit against him. Are you answer'd?

BASSANIO

63 This is no answer, thou unfeeling man,
64 To excuse the current of thy cruelty.

SHYLOCK

65 I am not bound to please thee with my answers.

BASSANIO

66 Do all men kill the things they do not love?

SHYLOCK

67 Hates any man the thing he would not kill?

BASSANIO

68 Every offence is not a hate at first.

SHYLOCK

69 What, wouldst thou have a serpent sting thee twice?

ANTONIO

70 I pray you, think you question with the Jew:
71 You may as well go stand upon the beach
72 And bid the main flood bate his usual height;
73 You may as well use question with the wolf
74 Why he hath made the ewe bleat for the lamb;
75 You may as well forbid the mountain pines
76 To wag their high tops and to make no noise,
77 When they are fretten with the gusts of heaven;
78 You may as well do anything most hard,
79 As seek to soften that — than which what's harder? —
80 His Jewish heart: therefore, I do beseech you,
81 Make no more offers, use no farther means,
82 But with all brief and plain conveniency
83 Let me have judgment and the Jew his will.

BASSANIO

84 For thy three thousand ducats here is six.

SHYLOCK

85 If every ducat in six thousand ducats
86 Were in six parts and every part a ducat,
87 I would not draw them; I would have my bond.

DUKE

88 How shalt thou hope for mercy, rendering none?

SHYLOCK

89 What judgment shall I dread, doing no wrong?
90 You have among you many a purchased slave,
91 Which, like your asses and your dogs and mules,
92 You use in abject and in slavish parts,
93 Because you bought them: shall I say to you,
94 Let them be free, marry them to your heirs?
95 Why sweat they under burdens? let their beds
96 Be made as soft as yours and let their palates
97 Be season'd with such viands? You will answer
98 "The slaves are ours": so do I answer you:
99 The pound of flesh, which I demand of him,
100 Is dearly bought; 'tis mine and I will have it.
101 If you deny me, fie upon your law!
102 There is no force in the decrees of Venice.
103 I stand for judgment: answer; shall I have it?

DUKE

104 Upon my power I may dismiss this court,
105 Unless Bellario, a learned doctor,
106 Whom I have sent for to determine this,
107 Come here today.

SALERIO

107 My lord, here stays without
108 A messenger with letters from the doctor,
109 New come from Padua.

DUKE

110 Bring us the letter; call the messenger.

BASSANIO

111 Good cheer, Antonio! What, man, courage yet!
112 The Jew shall have my flesh, blood, bones and all,

113 Ere thou shalt lose for me one drop of blood.

ANTONIO

114 I am a tainted wether of the flock,
115 Meetest for death: the weakest kind of fruit
116 Drops earliest to the ground; and so let me
117 You cannot better be employ'd, Bassanio,
118 Than to live still and write mine epitaph.

*Enter NERISSA,
[dressed like a lawyer's clerk].*

DUKE

119 Came you from Padua, from Bellario?

NERISSA

120 From both, my lord. Bellario greets your grace.

[Presenting a letter.]

BASSANIO

121 Why dost thou whet thy knife so earnestly?

SHYLOCK

122 To cut the forfeiture from that bankrupt there.

GRATIANO

123 Not on thy sole, but on thy soul, harsh Jew,
124 Thou makest thy knife keen; but no metal can,
125 No, not the hangman's axe, bear half the keenness
126 Of thy sharp envy. Can no prayers pierce thee?

SHYLOCK

127 No, none that thou hast wit enough to make.

GRATIANO

128 O, be thou damn'd, execrable dog!
129 And for thy life let justice be accused.
130 Thou almost makest me waver in my faith
131 To hold opinion with Pythagoras,
132 That souls of animals infuse themselves
133 Into the trunks of men: thy currish spirit
134 Govern'd a wolf, who, hang'd for human slaughter,
135 Even from the gallows did his fell soul fleet,

136 And, whilst thou lay'st in thy unhallow'd dam,
137 Infused itself in thee; for thy desires
138 Are wolfish, bloody, starved and ravenous.

SHYLOCK

139 Till thou canst rail the seal from off my bond,
140 Thou but offend'st thy lungs to speak so loud:
141 Repair thy wit, good youth, or it will fall
142 To cureless ruin. I stand here for law.

DUKE

143 This letter from Bellario doth commend
144 A young and learned doctor to our court.
145 Where is he?

NERISSA

145 He attendeth here hard by,
146 To know your answer, whether you'll admit him.

DUKE

147 With all my heart. Some three or four of you
148 Go give him courteous conduct to this place.
149 Meantime the court shall hear Bellario's letter.

[Reads]

150 "Your grace shall understand that at
151 the receipt of your letter I am very sick: but in
152 the instant that your messenger came, in loving
153 visitation was with me a young doctor of Rome;
154 his name is Balthasar. I acquainted him with the
155 cause in controversy between the Jew and
156 Antonio the merchant: we turned o'er many books
157 together: he is furnished with my opinion; which,
158 bettered with his own learning, the greatness
159 whereof I cannot enough commend, comes with
160 him, at my importunity, to fill up your grace's
161 request in my stead. I beseech you, let his lack of
162 years be no impediment to let him lack a reverend
163 estimation; for I never knew so young a body with
164 so old a head. I leave him to your gracious
165 acceptance, whose trial shall better publish his
166 commendation."

DUKE

167 You hear the learn'd Bellario, what he writes:

168 And here, I take it, is the doctor come.

Enter PORTIA for Balthazar.

169 Give me your hand. Come you from old Bellario?

PORTIA

170 I did, my lord.

DUKE

170 You are welcome: take your place.

171 Are you acquainted with the difference

172 That holds this present question in the court?

PORTIA

173 I am informed throughly of the cause.

174 Which is the merchant here, and which the Jew?

DUKE

175 Antonio and old Shylock, both stand forth.

PORTIA

176 Is your name Shylock?

SHYLOCK

176 Shylock is my name.

PORTIA

177 Of a strange nature is the suit you follow;

178 Yet in such rule that the Venetian law

179 Cannot impugn you as you do proceed.

180 You stand within his danger, do you not?

ANTONIO

181 Ay, so he says.

PORTIA

181 Do you confess the bond?

ANTONIO

182 I do.

PORTIA

182 Then must the Jew be merciful.

SHYLOCK

183 On what compulsion must I? tell me that.

PORTIA

184 The quality of mercy is not strain'd,
185 It droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven
186 Upon the place beneath: it is twice blest;
187 It blesseth him that gives and him that takes:
188 'Tis mightiest in the mightiest: it becomes
189 The throned monarch better than his crown;
190 His sceptre shows the force of temporal power,
191 The attribute to awe and majesty,
192 Wherein doth sit the dread and fear of kings;
193 But mercy is above this sceptred sway;
194 It is enthroned in the hearts of kings,
195 It is an attribute to God himself;
196 And earthly power doth then show likest God's
197 When mercy seasons justice. Therefore, Jew,
198 Though justice be thy plea, consider this,
199 That, in the course of justice, none of us
200 Should see salvation: we do pray for mercy;
201 And that same prayer doth teach us all to render
202 The deeds of mercy. I have spoke thus much
203 To mitigate the justice of thy plea;
204 Which if thou follow, this strict court of Venice
205 Must needs give sentence 'gainst the merchant there.

SHYLOCK

206 My deeds upon my head! I crave the law,
207 The penalty and forfeit of my bond.

PORTIA

208 Is he not able to discharge the money?

BASSANIO

209 Yes, here I tender it for him in the court;
210 Yea, twice the sum: if that will not suffice,
211 I will be bound to pay it ten times o'er,
212 On forfeit of my hands, my head, my heart:
213 If this will not suffice, it must appear
214 That malice bears down truth.

[To the Duke.]

214 And I beseech you,
215 Wrest once the law to your authority:
216 To do a great right, do a little wrong,
217 And curb this cruel devil of his will.

PORTIA

218 It must not be; there is no power in Venice
219 Can alter a decree established:
220 'Twill be recorded for a precedent,
221 And many an error by the same example
222 Will rush into the state: it cannot be.

SHYLOCK

223 A Daniel come to judgment! yea, a Daniel!
224 O wise young judge, how I do honor thee!

PORTIA

225 I pray you, let me look upon the bond.

SHYLOCK

226 Here 'tis, most reverend doctor, here it is.

PORTIA

227 Shylock, there's thrice thy money offer'd thee.

SHYLOCK

228 An oath, an oath, I have an oath in heaven:
229 Shall I lay perjury upon my soul?
230 No, not for Venice.

PORTIA

230 Why, this bond is forfeit;
231 And lawfully by this the Jew may claim
232 A pound of flesh, to be by him cut off
233 Nearest the merchant's heart. Be merciful:
234 Take thrice thy money; bid me tear the bond.

SHYLOCK

235 When it is paid according to the tenor.
236 It doth appear you are a worthy judge;
237 You know the law, your exposition
238 Hath been most sound: I charge you by the law,

239 Whereof you are a well-deserving pillar,
240 Proceed to judgment: by my soul I swear
241 There is no power in the tongue of man
242 To alter me: I stay here on my bond.

ANTONIO

243 Most heartily I do beseech the court
244 To give the judgment.

PORTIA

244 Why then, thus it is:
245 You must prepare your bosom for his knife.

SHYLOCK

246 O noble judge! O excellent young man!

PORTIA

247 For the intent and purpose of the law
248 Hath full relation to the penalty,
249 Which here appeareth due upon the bond.

SHYLOCK

250 'Tis very true: O wise and upright judge!
251 How much more elder art thou than thy looks!

PORTIA

252 Therefore lay bare your bosom.

SHYLOCK

252 Ay, his breast:
253 So says the bond: doth it not, noble judge?
254 "Nearest his heart": those are the very words.

PORTIA

255 It is so. Are there balance here to weigh
256 The flesh?

SHYLOCK

256 I have them ready.

PORTIA

257 Have by some surgeon, Shylock, on your charge,
258 To stop his wounds, lest he do bleed to death.

SHYLOCK

259 Is it so nominated in the bond?

PORTIA

260 It is not so express'd: but what of that?

261 'Twere good you do so much for charity.

SHYLOCK

262 I cannot find it; 'tis not in the bond.

PORTIA

263 You, merchant, have you any thing to say?

ANTONIO

264 But little: I am arm'd and well prepared.

265 Give me your hand, Bassanio: fare you well!

266 Grieve not that I am fallen to this for you;

267 For herein Fortune shows herself more kind

268 Than is her custom: it is still her use

269 To let the wretched man outlive his wealth,

270 To view with hollow eye and wrinkled brow

271 An age of poverty; from which lingering penance

272 Of such misery doth she cut me off.

273 Commend me to your honorable wife:

274 Tell her the process of Antonio's end;

275 Say how I loved you, speak me fair in death;

276 And, when the tale is told, bid her be judge

277 Whether Bassanio had not once a love.

278 Repent but you that you shall lose your friend,

279 And he repents not that he pays your debt;

280 For if the Jew do cut but deep enough,

281 I'll pay it presently with all my heart.

BASSANIO

282 Antonio, I am married to a wife

283 Which is as dear to me as life itself;

284 But life itself, my wife, and all the world,

285 Are not with me esteem'd above thy life:

286 I would lose all, ay, sacrifice them all

287 Here to this devil, to deliver you.

PORTIA

288 Your wife would give you little thanks for that,

289 If she were by, to hear you make the offer.

GRATIANO

290 I have a wife, whom, I protest, I love:
291 I would she were in heaven, so she could
292 Entreat some power to change this currish Jew.

NERISSA

293 'Tis well you offer it behind her back;
294 The wish would make else an unquiet house.

SHYLOCK *[Aside.]*

295 These be the Christian husbands. I have a daughter;
296 Would any of the stock of Barrabas
297 Had been her husband rather than a Christian!
298 We trifle time: I pray thee, pursue sentence.

PORTIA

299 A pound of that same merchant's flesh is thine:
300 The court awards it, and the law doth give it.

SHYLOCK

301 Most rightful judge!

PORTIA

302 And you must cut this flesh from off his breast:
303 The law allows it, and the court awards it.

SHYLOCK

304 Most learned judge! A sentence! Come, prepare!

PORTIA

305 Tarry a little; there is something else.
306 This bond doth give thee here no jot of blood;
307 The words expressly are "a pound of flesh":
308 Take then thy bond, take thou thy pound of flesh;
309 But, in the cutting it, if thou dost shed
310 One drop of Christian blood, thy lands and goods
311 Are, by the laws of Venice, confiscate
312 Unto the state of Venice.

GRATIANO

313 O upright judge! Mark, Jew: O learned judge!

SHYLOCK

314 Is that the law?

PORTIA

314 Thyself shalt see the act:

315 For, as thou urgest justice, be assured

316 Thou shalt have justice, more than thou desirest.

GRATIANO

317 O learned judge! Mark, Jew: a learned judge!

SHYLOCK

318 I take this offer, then; pay the bond thrice

319 And let the Christian go.

BASSANIO

319 Here is the money.

PORTIA

320 Soft!

321 The Jew shall have all justice; soft! no haste:

322 He shall have nothing but the penalty.

GRATIANO

323 O Jew! an upright judge, a learned judge!

PORTIA

324 Therefore prepare thee to cut off the flesh.

325 Shed thou no blood, nor cut thou less nor more

326 But just a pound of flesh: if thou cut'st more

327 Or less than a just pound, be it but so much

328 As makes it light or heavy in the substance,

329 Or the division of the twentieth part

330 Of one poor scruple, nay, if the scale do turn

331 But in the estimation of a hair,

332 Thou diest and all thy goods are confiscate.

GRATIANO

333 A second Daniel, a Daniel, Jew!

334 Now, infidel, I have you on the hip.

PORTIA

335 Why doth the Jew pause? take thy forfeiture.

SHYLOCK

336 Give me my principal, and let me go.

BASSANIO

337 I have it ready for thee; here it is.

PORTIA

338 He hath refused it in the open court:

339 He shall have merely justice and his bond.

GRATIANO

340 A Daniel, still say I, a second Daniel!

341 I thank thee, Jew, for teaching me that word.

SHYLOCK

342 Shall I not have barely my principal?

PORTIA

343 Thou shalt have nothing but the forfeiture,

344 To be so taken at thy peril, Jew.

SHYLOCK

345 Why, then the devil give him good of it!

346 I'll stay no longer question.

PORTIA

346 Tarry, Jew:

347 The law hath yet another hold on you.

348 It is enacted in the laws of Venice,

349 If it be proved against an alien

350 That by direct or indirect attempts

351 He seek the life of any citizen,

352 The party 'gainst the which he doth contrive

353 Shall seize one half his goods; the other half

354 Comes to the privy coffer of the state;

355 And the offender's life lies in the mercy

356 Of the duke only, 'gainst all other voice.

357 In which predicament, I say, thou stand'st;

358 For it appears, by manifest proceeding,

359 That indirectly and directly too

360 Thou hast contrived against the very life

361 Of the defendant; and thou hast incurr'd

362 The danger formerly by me rehears'd.

363 Down therefore and beg mercy of the duke.

GRATIANO

364 Beg that thou mayst have leave to hang thyself:
365 And yet, thy wealth being forfeit to the state,
366 Thou hast not left the value of a cord;
367 Therefore thou must be hang'd at the state's charge.

DUKE

368 That thou shalt see the difference of our spirits,
369 I pardon thee thy life before thou ask it:
370 For half thy wealth, it is Antonio's;
371 The other half comes to the general state,
372 Which humbleness may drive unto a fine.

PORTIA

373 Ay, for the state, not for Antonio.

SHYLOCK

374 Nay, take my life and all; pardon not that:
375 You take my house when you do take the prop
376 That doth sustain my house; you take my life
377 When you do take the means whereby I live.

PORTIA

378 What mercy can you render him, Antonio?

GRATIANO

379 A halter gratis; nothing else, for God's sake.

ANTONIO

380 So please my lord the duke and all the court
381 To quit the fine for one half of his goods,
382 I am content; so he will let me have
383 The other half in use, to render it,
384 Upon his death, unto the gentleman
385 That lately stole his daughter:
386 Two things provided more, that, for this favor,
387 He presently become a Christian;
388 The other, that he do record a gift,
389 Here in the court, of all he dies possess'd,
390 Unto his son Lorenzo and his daughter.

DUKE

391 He shall do this, or else I do recant
392 The pardon that I late pronounced here.

PORTIA

393 Art thou contented, Jew? what dost thou say?

SHYLOCK

394 I am content.

PORTIA

394 Clerk, draw a deed of gift.

SHYLOCK

395 I pray you, give me leave to go from hence;

396 I am not well: send the deed after me,

397 And I will sign it.

DUKE

397 Get thee gone, but do it.

GRATIANO

398 In christening shalt thou have two godfathers:

399 Had I been judge, thou shouldst have had ten more,

400 To bring thee to the gallows, not the font.

Exit [SHYLOCK].

DUKE

401 Sir, I entreat you home with me to dinner.

PORTIA

402 I humbly do desire your grace of pardon:

403 I must away this night toward Padua,

404 And it is meet I presently set forth.

DUKE

405 I am sorry that your leisure serves you not.

406 Antonio, gratify this gentleman,

407 For, in my mind, you are much bound to him.

Exeunt Duke and his Train.

BASSANIO

408 Most worthy gentleman, I and my friend

409 Have by your wisdom been this day acquitted

410 Of grievous penalties; in lieu whereof,

411 Three thousand ducats, due unto the Jew,
412 We freely cope your courteous pains withal.

ANTONIO

413 And stand indebted, over and above,
414 In love and service to you evermore.

PORTIA

415 He is well paid that is well satisfied;
416 And I, delivering you, am satisfied
417 And therein do account myself well paid:
418 My mind was never yet more mercenary.
419 I pray you, know me when we meet again:
420 I wish you well, and so I take my leave.

BASSANIO

421 Dear sir, of force I must attempt you further:
422 Take some remembrance of us, as a tribute,
423 Not as a fee: grant me two things, I pray you,
424 Not to deny me, and to pardon me.

PORTIA

425 You press me far, and therefore I will yield.
426 Give me your gloves, I'll wear them for your sake;
427 And, for your love, I'll take this ring from you:
428 Do not draw back your hand; I'll take no more;
429 And you in love shall not deny me this.

BASSANIO

430 This ring, good sir, alas, it is a trifle!
431 I will not shame myself to give you this.

PORTIA

432 I will have nothing else but only this;
433 And now methinks I have a mind to it.

BASSANIO

434 There's more depends on this than on the value.
435 The dearest ring in Venice will I give you,
436 And find it out by proclamation:
437 Only for this, I pray you, pardon me.

PORTIA

438 I see, sir, you are liberal in offers

439 You taught me first to beg; and now methinks
440 You teach me how a beggar should be answer'd.

BASSANIO

441 Good sir, this ring was given me by my wife;
442 And when she put it on, she made me vow
443 That I should neither sell nor give nor lose it.

PORTIA

444 That 'scuse serves many men to save their gifts.
445 An if your wife be not a madwoman,
446 And know how well I have deserved the ring,
447 She would not hold out enemy for ever,
448 For giving it to me. Well, peace be with you!

Exeunt [Portia and Nerissa].

ANTONIO

449 My Lord Bassanio, let him have the ring:
450 Let his deservings and my love withal
451 Be valued against your wife's commandment.

BASSANIO

452 Go, Gratiano, run and overtake him;
453 Give him the ring, and bring him, if thou canst,
454 Unto Antonio's house: away! make haste.

Exit Gratiano.

455 Come, you and I will thither presently;
456 And in the morning early will we both
457 Fly toward Belmont: come, Antonio.

IMPORTANT QUOTES

Act 4, scene 1 Quotes

I am a tainted whether of the flock,
Meetest for death: the weakest kind of fruit
Drops earliest to the ground. (114–116)

Speaker: Antonio

A Daniel come to judgment! yea, a Daniel! (223)

Speaker: Shylock

Art thou contended Jew? (393)

Speaker: Portia

Mentioned or related: Shylock

Which is the merchant here, and which the Jew? (174)

Speaker: Portia

Mentioned or related: Antonio, Shylock

We all expect a gentle answer, Jew! (34)

Speaker: Duke of Venice

Mentioned or related: Shylock

Nay, take my life and all; pardon not that:
You take my house when you do take the prop
That doth sustain my house; you take my life
When you do take the means whereby I live. (374–377)

Speaker: Shylock

My deeds upon my head! I crave the law,
The penalty and forfeit of my bond. (206–207)

Speaker: Shylock

The pound of flesh, which I demand of him,
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 judgement: answer; shall I have it? (99–103)

Speaker: Shylock

Mentioned or related: Antonio

The quality of mercy is not strain'd,
It droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven
Upon the place beneath. It is twice blest:
It blesseth him that gives and him that takes.
'T is mightiest in the mightiest: it becomes
The throned monarch better than his crown;
His sceptre shows the force of temporal power,
The attribute to awe and majesty,
Wherein doth sit the dread and fear of kings;
But mercy is above this sceptred sway,
It is enthroned in the hearts of kings,
It is an attribute to God himself;
And earthly power doth then show likest God's,
When mercy seasons justice. Therefore, Jew,
Though justice be thy plea, consider this,
That in the course of justice none of us
Should see salvation: we do pray for mercy;
And that same prayer doth teach us all to render
The deeds of mercy. (184–202)

Speaker: Portia

Mentioned or related: Shylock

I never knew so young a body with so old a head. (163–164)

Speaker: Duke of Venice

Mentioned or related: Portia

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