

The **MERCHANT** *of* **VENICE**

By WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

Edited by BARBARA A. MOWAT
and PAUL WERSTINE

Folger Shakespeare Library

<https://shakespeare.folger.edu/>

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From the Director of the Folger Shakespeare Library

It is hard to imagine a world without Shakespeare. Since their composition four hundred years ago, Shakespeare's plays and poems have traveled the globe, inviting those who see and read his works to make them their own.

Readers of the New Folger Editions are part of this ongoing process of "taking up Shakespeare," finding our own thoughts and feelings in language that strikes us as old or unusual and, for that very reason, new. We still struggle to keep up with a writer who could think a mile a minute, whose words paint pictures that shift like clouds. These expertly edited texts are presented to the public as a resource for study, artistic adaptation, and enjoyment. By making the classic texts of the New Folger Editions available in electronic form as The Folger Shakespeare (formerly Folger Digital Texts), we place a trusted resource in the hands of anyone who wants them.

The New Folger Editions of Shakespeare's plays, which are the basis for the texts realized here in digital form, are special because of their

origin. The Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, DC, is the single greatest documentary source of Shakespeare's works. An unparalleled collection of early modern books, manuscripts, and artwork connected to Shakespeare, the Folger's holdings have been consulted extensively in the preparation of these texts. The Editions also reflect the expertise gained through the regular performance of Shakespeare's works in the Folger's Elizabethan Theatre.

I want to express my deep thanks to editors Barbara Mowat and Paul Werstine for creating these indispensable editions of Shakespeare's works, which incorporate the best of textual scholarship with a richness of commentary that is both inspired and engaging. Readers who want to know more about Shakespeare and his plays can follow the paths these distinguished scholars have tread by visiting the Folger either in-person or online, where a range of physical and digital resources exists to supplement the material in these texts. I commend to you these words, and hope that they inspire.

Michael Witmore
Director, Folger Shakespeare Library

Textual Introduction

By Barbara Mowat and Paul Werstine

Until now, with the release of The Folger Shakespeare (formerly Folger Digital Texts), readers in search of a free online text of Shakespeare's plays had to be content primarily with using the Moby™ Text, which reproduces a late-nineteenth century version of the plays. What is the difference? Many ordinary readers assume that there is a single text for the plays: what Shakespeare wrote. But Shakespeare's plays were not published the way modern novels or plays are published today: as a single, authoritative text. In some cases, the plays have come down to us in multiple published versions, represented by various Quartos (Qq) and by the great collection put together by his colleagues in 1623, called the First Folio (F). There are, for example, three very different versions of *Hamlet*, two of *King Lear*, *Henry V*, *Romeo and Juliet*, and others. Editors choose which version to use as their base text, and then amend that text with words, lines or speech prefixes from the other versions that, in their judgment, make for a better or more accurate text.

Other editorial decisions involve choices about whether an unfamiliar

word could be understood in light of other writings of the period or whether it should be changed; decisions about words that made it into Shakespeare's text by accident through four hundred years of printings and misprinting; and even decisions based on cultural preference and taste. When the Moby™ Text was created, for example, it was deemed “improper” and “indecent” for Miranda to chastise Caliban for having attempted to rape her. (See *The Tempest*, 1.2: “Abhorred slave,/Which any print of goodness wilt not take,/Being capable of all ill! I pitied thee...”). All Shakespeare editors at the time took the speech away from her and gave it to her father, Prospero.

The editors of the Moby™ Shakespeare produced their text long before scholars fully understood the proper grounds on which to make the thousands of decisions that Shakespeare editors face. The Folger Library Shakespeare Editions, on which the Folger Shakespeare texts depend, make this editorial process as nearly transparent as is possible, in contrast to older texts, like the Moby™, which hide editorial interventions. The reader of the Folger Shakespeare knows where the text has been altered because editorial interventions are signaled by square brackets (for example, from *Othello*: “[If she in chains of magic were not bound,]”), half-square brackets (for example, from *Henry V*: “With [blood] and sword and fire to win your right,”), or angle brackets (for example, from *Hamlet*: “O farewell, honest <soldier.> Who hath relieved/you?”). At any point in the text, you can hover your cursor over a bracket for more information.

Because the Folger Shakespeare texts are edited in accord with twenty-first century knowledge about Shakespeare's texts, the Folger here provides them to readers, scholars, teachers, actors, directors, and students, free of charge, confident of their quality as texts of the plays and pleased to be able to make this contribution to the study and enjoyment of Shakespeare.

Synopsis

Antonio, the merchant in *The Merchant of Venice*, secures a loan from Shylock for his friend Bassanio, who seeks to court Portia. Shylock, a Jewish moneylender, recalls past insults from Antonio and, instead of asking interest on the loan, asks instead—in what he calls a “merry sport”—that if the loan is not repaid, Antonio will owe a pound of his own flesh.

Bassanio sails to Belmont, where the wealthy heiress Portia is being courted by suitors from around the world. Her father's will requires that the successful suitor solve a riddle involving chests of gold, silver, and lead. Where others have failed, Bassanio succeeds by selecting the right chest. Portia marries Bassanio; her waiting woman, Nerissa, marries his friend Gratiano.

Shylock's daughter, Jessica, has eloped with Bassanio's friend Lorenzo, taking her father's money with her. Shylock is devastated. When Antonio cannot repay the loan, Shylock demands the pound of flesh. When the news reaches Belmont, Bassanio returns to Venice. Portia and Nerissa also travel to Venice, disguised as a lawyer and his clerk. Portia uses the law to defeat Shylock and rescue Antonio.

Characters in the Play

PORTIA, an heiress of Belmont

NERISSA, her waiting-gentlewoman

BALTHAZAR } *servants to Portia*
STEPHANO }

Prince of MOROCCO } *suitors to Portia*
Prince of ARRAGON }

ANTONIO, a merchant of Venice

BASSANIO, a Venetian gentleman, suitor to Portia

SOLANIO } *companions of Antonio and Bassanio*
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

「ACT I」

「Scene 1」

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

FTLN 0021 Misfortune to my ventures, out of doubt
 FTLN 0022 Would make me sad.

SALARINO

FTLN 0023 My wind cooling my broth
 FTLN 0024 Would blow me to an ague when I thought
 FTLN 0025 What harm a wind too great might do at sea. 25

FTLN 0026 I should not see the sandy hourglass run
 FTLN 0027 But I should think of shallows and of flats,
 FTLN 0028 And see my wealthy *Andrew* ^{⌈docked⌋} in sand,
 FTLN 0029 Vailing her high top lower than her ribs
 FTLN 0030 To kiss her burial. Should I go to church 30

FTLN 0031 And see the holy edifice of stone
 FTLN 0032 And not bethink me straight of dangerous rocks,
 FTLN 0033 Which, touching but my gentle vessel's side,
 FTLN 0034 Would scatter all her spices on the stream,
 FTLN 0035 Enrobe the roaring waters with my silks, 35

FTLN 0036 And, in a word, but even now worth this
 FTLN 0037 And now worth nothing? Shall I have the thought
 FTLN 0038 To think on this, and shall I lack the thought
 FTLN 0039 That such a thing bechanced would make me sad?
 FTLN 0040 But tell not me: I know Antonio 40
 FTLN 0041 Is sad to think upon his merchandise.

ANTONIO

FTLN 0042 Believe me, no. I thank my fortune for it,
 FTLN 0043 My ventures are not in one bottom trusted,
 FTLN 0044 Nor to one place; nor is my whole estate
 FTLN 0045 Upon the fortune of this present year: 45
 FTLN 0046 Therefore my merchandise makes me not sad.

SOLANIO

FTLN 0047 Why then you are in love.

ANTONIO

FTLN 0048 Fie, fie!

SOLANIO

FTLN 0049 Not in love neither? Then let us say you are sad
 FTLN 0050 Because you are not merry; and 'twere as easy 50
 FTLN 0051 For you to laugh and leap, and say you are merry
 FTLN 0052 Because you are not sad. Now, by two-headed
 FTLN 0053 Janus,

FTLN 0054 Nature hath framed strange fellows in her time:
 FTLN 0055 Some that will evermore peep through their eyes 55
 FTLN 0056 And laugh like parrots at a bagpiper,
 FTLN 0057 And other of such vinegar aspect
 FTLN 0058 That they'll not show their teeth in way of smile
 FTLN 0059 Though Nestor swear the jest be laughable.

Enter Bassanio, Lorenzo, and Gratiano.

FTLN 0060 Here comes Bassanio, your most noble kinsman, 60
 FTLN 0061 Gratiano, and Lorenzo. Fare you well.
 FTLN 0062 We leave you now with better company.

SALARINO

FTLN 0063 I would have stayed till I had made you merry,
 FTLN 0064 If worthier friends had not prevented me.

ANTONIO

FTLN 0065 Your worth is very dear in my regard. 65
 FTLN 0066 I take it your own business calls on you,
 FTLN 0067 And you embrace th' occasion to depart.

SALARINO

FTLN 0068 Good morrow, my good lords.

BASSANIO

FTLN 0069 Good signiors both, when shall we laugh? Say,
 FTLN 0070 when? 70
 FTLN 0071 You grow exceeding strange. Must it be so?

SALARINO

FTLN 0072 We'll make our leisures to attend on yours.

Salarino and Solanio exit.

LORENZO

FTLN 0073 My Lord Bassanio, since you have found Antonio,
 FTLN 0074 We two will leave you. But at dinner time
 FTLN 0075 I pray you have in mind where we must meet. 75

BASSANIO

FTLN 0076 I will not fail you.

GRATIANO

FTLN 0077 You look not well, Signior Antonio.
 FTLN 0078 You have too much respect upon the world.

FTLN 0079	They lose it that do buy it with much care.	
FTLN 0080	Believe me, you are marvelously changed.	80
	ANTONIO	
FTLN 0081	I hold the world but as the world, Gratiano,	
FTLN 0082	A stage where every man must play a part,	
FTLN 0083	And mine a sad one.	
	GRATIANO	
FTLN 0084	Let me play the fool.	
FTLN 0085	With mirth and laughter let old wrinkles come,	85
FTLN 0086	And let my liver rather heat with wine	
FTLN 0087	Than my heart cool with mortifying groans.	
FTLN 0088	Why should a man whose blood is warm within	
FTLN 0089	Sit like his grandsire cut in alabaster?	
FTLN 0090	Sleep when he wakes? And creep into the jaundice	90
FTLN 0091	By being peevish? I tell thee what, Antonio	
FTLN 0092	(I love thee, and 'tis my love that speaks):	
FTLN 0093	There are a sort of men whose visages	
FTLN 0094	Do cream and mantle like a standing pond	
FTLN 0095	And do a willful stillness entertain	95
FTLN 0096	With purpose to be dressed in an opinion	
FTLN 0097	Of wisdom, gravity, profound conceit,	
FTLN 0098	As who should say "I am Sir Oracle,	
FTLN 0099	And when I ope my lips, let no dog bark."	
FTLN 0100	O my Antonio, I do know of these	100
FTLN 0101	That therefore only are reputed wise	
FTLN 0102	For saying nothing, when, I am very sure,	
FTLN 0103	If they should speak, would almost damn those ears	
FTLN 0104	Which, hearing them, would call their brothers	
FTLN 0105	fools.	105
FTLN 0106	I'll tell thee more of this another time.	
FTLN 0107	But fish not with this melancholy bait	
FTLN 0108	For this fool gudgeon, this opinion.—	
FTLN 0109	Come, good Lorenzo.—Fare you well a while.	
FTLN 0110	I'll end my exhortation after dinner.	110
	LORENZO	
FTLN 0111	Well, we will leave you then till dinner time.	
FTLN 0112	I must be one of these same dumb wise men,	
FTLN 0113	For Gratiano never lets me speak.	

GRATIANO

Well, keep me company but two years more,
Thou shalt not know the sound of thine own
tongue.

115

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
By something showing a more swelling port
Than my faint means would grant continuance.

130

Nor do I now make moan to be abridged
From such a noble rate. But my chief care
Is to come fairly off from the great debts
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
To unburden all my plots and purposes
How to get clear of all the debts I owe.

135

140

ANTONIO

I pray you, good Bassanio, let me know it;

FTLN 0114

FTLN 0115

FTLN 0116

FTLN 0117

FTLN 0118

FTLN 0119

FTLN 0120

FTLN 0121

FTLN 0122

FTLN 0123

FTLN 0124

FTLN 0125

FTLN 0126

FTLN 0127

FTLN 0128

FTLN 0129

FTLN 0130

FTLN 0131

FTLN 0132

FTLN 0133

FTLN 0134

FTLN 0135

FTLN 0136

FTLN 0137

FTLN 0138

FTLN 0139

FTLN 0140

FTLN 0141

FTLN 0142

FTLN 0143 And if it stand, as you yourself still do,
 FTLN 0144 Within the eye of honor, be assured
 FTLN 0145 My purse, my person, my extremest means 145
 FTLN 0146 Lie all unlocked to your occasions.

BASSANIO

FTLN 0147 In my school days, when I had lost one shaft,
 FTLN 0148 I shot his fellow of the selfsame flight
 FTLN 0149 The selfsame way with more advised watch
 FTLN 0150 To find the other forth; and by adventuring both 150
 FTLN 0151 I oft found both. I urge this childhood proof
 FTLN 0152 Because what follows is pure innocence.
 FTLN 0153 I owe you much, and, like a willful youth,
 FTLN 0154 That which I owe is lost. But if you please
 FTLN 0155 To shoot another arrow that self way 155
 FTLN 0156 Which you did shoot the first, I do not doubt,
 FTLN 0157 As I will watch the aim, or to find both
 FTLN 0158 Or bring your latter hazard back again,
 FTLN 0159 And thankfully rest debtor for the first.

ANTONIO

FTLN 0160 You know me well, and herein spend but time 160
 FTLN 0161 To wind about my love with circumstance;
 FTLN 0162 And out of doubt you do me now more wrong
 FTLN 0163 In making question of my uttermost
 FTLN 0164 Than if you had made waste of all I have.
 FTLN 0165 Then do but say to me what I should do 165
 FTLN 0166 That in your knowledge may by me be done,
 FTLN 0167 And I am prest unto it. Therefore speak.

BASSANIO

FTLN 0168 In Belmont is a lady richly left,
 FTLN 0169 And she is fair, and, fairer than that word,
 FTLN 0170 Of wondrous virtues. Sometimes from her eyes 170
 FTLN 0171 I did receive fair speechless messages.
 FTLN 0172 Her name is Portia, nothing undervalued
 FTLN 0173 To Cato's daughter, Brutus' Portia.
 FTLN 0174 Nor is the wide world ignorant of her worth,
 FTLN 0175 For the four winds blow in from every coast 175

FTLN 0176 Renownèd suitors, and her sunny locks
FTLN 0177 Hang on her temples like a golden fleece,
FTLN 0178 Which makes her seat of Belmont Colchos' strond,
FTLN 0179 And many Jasons come in quest of her.
FTLN 0180 O my Antonio, had I but the means 180
FTLN 0181 To hold a rival place with one of them,
FTLN 0182 I have a mind presages me such thrift
FTLN 0183 That I should questionless be fortunate!

ANTONIO

FTLN 0184 Thou know'st that all my fortunes are at sea;
FTLN 0185 Neither have I money nor commodity 185
FTLN 0186 To raise a present sum. Therefore go forth:
FTLN 0187 Try what my credit can in Venice do;
FTLN 0188 That shall be racked even to the uttermost
FTLN 0189 To furnish thee to Belmont to fair Portia.
FTLN 0190 Go presently inquire, and so will I, 190
FTLN 0191 Where money is, and I no question make
FTLN 0192 To have it of my trust, or for my sake.

They exit.

「Scene 2」

Enter Portia with her waiting woman Nerissa.

PORTIA

FTLN 0193 By my troth, Nerissa, my little body is aweary
FTLN 0194 of this great world.

NERISSA

FTLN 0195 You would be, sweet madam, if your miseries
FTLN 0196 were in the same abundance as your good fortunes
FTLN 0197 are. And yet, for aught I see, they are as sick that 5
FTLN 0198 surfeit with too much as they that starve with
FTLN 0199 nothing. It is no mean happiness, therefore, to be
FTLN 0200 seated in the mean. Superfluity comes sooner by
FTLN 0201 white hairs, but competency lives longer.

PORTIA

FTLN 0202 Good sentences, and well pronounced. 10

NERISSA

FTLN 0203 They would be better if well followed.

PORTIA

FTLN 0204 If to do were as easy as to know what were
 FTLN 0205 good to do, chapels had been churches, and poor
 FTLN 0206 men's cottages princes' palaces. It is a good divine
 FTLN 0207 that follows his own instructions. I can easier teach 15
 FTLN 0208 twenty what were good to be done than to be one of
 FTLN 0209 the twenty to follow mine own teaching. The brain
 FTLN 0210 may devise laws for the blood, but a hot temper
 FTLN 0211 leaps o'er a cold decree: such a hare is madness the
 FTLN 0212 youth, to skip o'er the meshes of good counsel the 20
 FTLN 0213 cripple. But this reasoning is not in the fashion to
 FTLN 0214 choose me a husband. O, me, the word "choose"! I
 FTLN 0215 may neither choose who I would nor refuse who I
 FTLN 0216 dislike. So is the will of a living daughter curbed by
 FTLN 0217 the will of a dead father. Is it not hard, Nerissa, that 25
 FTLN 0218 I cannot choose one, nor refuse none?

NERISSA

FTLN 0219 Your father was ever virtuous, and holy men
 FTLN 0220 at their death have good inspirations. Therefore the
 FTLN 0221 lottery that he hath devised in these three chests of
 FTLN 0222 gold, silver, and lead, whereof who chooses his 30
 FTLN 0223 meaning chooses you, will no doubt never be
 FTLN 0224 chosen by any rightly but one who you shall rightly
 FTLN 0225 love. But what warmth is there in your affection
 FTLN 0226 towards any of these princely suitors that are already
 FTLN 0227 come? 35

PORTIA

FTLN 0228 I pray thee, overname them, and as thou
 FTLN 0229 namest them, I will describe them, and according
 FTLN 0230 to my description level at my affection.

NERISSA

FTLN 0231 First, there is the Neapolitan prince.

PORTIA

FTLN 0232 Ay, that's a colt indeed, for he doth nothing but 40
 FTLN 0233 talk of his horse, and he makes it a great appropriation
 FTLN 0234 to his own good parts that he can shoe him
 FTLN 0235 himself. I am much afeard my lady his mother
 FTLN 0236 played false with a smith.

NERISSA

FTLN 0237 Then is there the County Palatine. 45

PORTIA

FTLN 0238 He doth nothing but frown, as who should say

“An you will not have me, choose.” He hears

FTLN 0240

merry tales and smiles not. I fear he will prove the

FTLN 0241

weeping philosopher when he grows old, being so

FTLN 0242

full of unmannerly sadness in his youth. I had

50

FTLN 0243

rather be married to a death's-head with a bone in

FTLN 0244

his mouth than to either of these. God defend me

FTLN 0245

from these two!

NERISSA

FTLN 0246

How say you by the French lord, Monsieur Le

FTLN 0247

「Bon」?

55

PORTIA

FTLN 0248

God made him, and therefore let him pass for

FTLN 0249

a man. In truth, I know it is a sin to be a mocker,

FTLN 0250

but he!—why, he hath a horse better than the

FTLN 0251

Neapolitan's, a better bad habit of frowning than

FTLN 0252

the Count Palatine. He is every man in no man. If a

60

FTLN 0253

「throstle」 sing, he falls straight a-cap'ring. He will

FTLN 0254

fence with his own shadow. If I should marry him, I

FTLN 0255

should marry twenty husbands! If he would despise

FTLN 0256

me, I would forgive him, for if he love me to

FTLN 0257

madness, I shall never requite him.

65

NERISSA

FTLN 0258

What say you then to Falconbridge, the young

FTLN 0259

baron of England?

PORTIA

FTLN 0260

You know I say nothing to him, for he understands

FTLN 0261

not me, nor I him. He hath neither Latin,

FTLN 0262

French, nor Italian; and you will come into the

70

FTLN 0263

court and swear that I have a poor pennyworth in

FTLN 0264

the English. He is a proper man's picture, but alas,

FTLN 0265

who can converse with a dumb show? How oddly

FTLN 0266

he is suited! I think he bought his doublet in Italy,

FTLN 0267

his round hose in France, his bonnet in Germany,

75

FTLN 0268

and his behavior everywhere.

NERISSA

FTLN 0269

What think you of the Scottish lord, his

FTLN 0270

neighbor?

PORTIA

FTLN 0271 That he hath a neighborly charity in him, for
FTLN 0272 he borrowed a box of the ear of the Englishman, 80
FTLN 0273 and swore he would pay him again when he was
FTLN 0274 able. I think the Frenchman became his surety and
FTLN 0275 sealed under for another.

25

The Merchant of Venice

ACT 1. SC. 2

NERISSA

FTLN 0276 How like you the young German, the Duke of
FTLN 0277 Saxony's nephew? 85

PORTIA

FTLN 0278 Very vilely in the morning, when he is sober,
FTLN 0279 and most vilely in the afternoon, when he is drunk.
FTLN 0280 When he is best he is a little worse than a man, and
FTLN 0281 when he is worst he is little better than a beast. An
FTLN 0282 the worst fall that ever fell, I hope I shall make shift
FTLN 0283 to go without him. 90

NERISSA

FTLN 0284 If he should offer to choose, and choose the
FTLN 0285 right casket, you should refuse to perform your
FTLN 0286 father's will if you should refuse to accept him.

PORTIA

FTLN 0287 Therefore, for fear of the worst, I pray thee set 95
FTLN 0288 a deep glass of Rhenish wine on the contrary
FTLN 0289 casket, for if the devil be within and that temptation
FTLN 0290 without, I know he will choose it. I will do
FTLN 0291 anything, Nerissa, ere I will be married to a sponge.

NERISSA

FTLN 0292 You need not fear, lady, the having any of 100
FTLN 0293 these lords. They have acquainted me with their
FTLN 0294 determinations, which is indeed to return to their
FTLN 0295 home and to trouble you with no more suit, unless
FTLN 0296 you may be won by some other sort than your
FTLN 0297 father's imposition depending on the caskets. 105

PORTIA

FTLN 0298 If I live to be as old as Sibylla, I will die as
FTLN 0299 chaste as Diana unless I be obtained by the manner
FTLN 0300 of my father's will. I am glad this parcel of wooers
FTLN 0301

FTLN 0302 are so reasonable, for there is not one among them
FTLN 0303 but I dote on his very absence. And I pray God 110
grant them a fair departure!

NERISSA

FTLN 0304 Do you not remember, lady, in your father's
FTLN 0305 time, a Venetian, a scholar and a soldier, that came
FTLN 0306 hither in company of the Marquess of Montferrat?

PORTIA

FTLN 0307 Yes, yes, it was Bassanio—as I think so was he 115
FTLN 0308 called.

NERISSA

FTLN 0309 True, madam. He, of all the men that ever my
FTLN 0310 foolish eyes looked upon, was the best deserving a
FTLN 0311 fair lady.

27

The Merchant of Venice

ACT 1. SC. 3

PORTIA

FTLN 0312 I remember him well, and I remember him 120
FTLN 0313 worthy of thy praise.

Enter a Servingman.

FTLN 0314 How now, what news?

SERVINGMAN

FTLN 0315 The four strangers seek for you, madam,
FTLN 0316 to take their leave. And there is a forerunner come
FTLN 0317 from a fifth, the Prince of Morocco, who brings 125
FTLN 0318 word the Prince his master will be here tonight.

PORTIA

FTLN 0319 If I could bid the fifth welcome with so good
FTLN 0320 heart as I can bid the other four farewell, I should
FTLN 0321 be glad of his approach. If he have the condition of
FTLN 0322 a saint and the complexion of a devil, I had rather 130
FTLN 0323 he should shrive me than wive me.

FTLN 0324 Come, Nerissa. 「*To Servingman.*」 Sirrah, go before.—
FTLN 0325 Whiles we shut the gate upon one wooer, another
FTLN 0326 knocks at the door.

They exit.

「Scene 3」

Enter Bassanio with Shylock the Jew.

SHYLOCK

FTLN 0327 Three thousand ducats, well.

BASSANIO

FTLN 0328 Ay, sir, for three months.

SHYLOCK

FTLN 0329 For three months, well.

BASSANIO

FTLN 0330 For the which, as I told you, Antonio shall

FTLN 0331 be bound. 5

SHYLOCK

FTLN 0332 Antonio shall become bound, well.

BASSANIO

FTLN 0333 May you stead me? Will you pleasure me?

FTLN 0334 Shall I know your answer?

SHYLOCK

FTLN 0335 Three thousand ducats for three months,

FTLN 0336 and Antonio bound. 10

BASSANIO

FTLN 0337 Your answer to that?

SHYLOCK

FTLN 0338 Antonio is a good man.

BASSANIO

FTLN 0339 Have you heard any imputation to the

FTLN 0340 contrary?

SHYLOCK

FTLN 0341 Ho, no, no, no, no! My meaning in saying he 15

FTLN 0342 is a good man is to have you understand me that he

FTLN 0343 is sufficient. Yet his means are in supposition: he

FTLN 0344 hath an argosy bound to Tripolis, another to the

FTLN 0345 Indies. I understand, moreover, upon the Rialto,

FTLN 0346 he hath a third at Mexico, a fourth for England, and 20

FTLN 0347 other ventures he hath squandered abroad. But

FTLN 0348 ships are but boards, sailors but men; there be land
FTLN 0349 rats and water rats, water thieves and land
FTLN 0350 thieves—I mean pirates—and then there is the
FTLN 0351 peril of waters, winds, and rocks. The man is, 25
FTLN 0352 notwithstanding, sufficient. Three thousand ducats.
FTLN 0353 I think I may take his bond.

BASSANIO

FTLN 0354 Be assured you may.

SHYLOCK

FTLN 0355 I will be assured I may. And that I may be
FTLN 0356 assured, I will bethink me. May I speak with 30
FTLN 0357 Antonio?

BASSANIO

FTLN 0358 If it please you to dine with us.

SHYLOCK

FTLN 0359 Yes, to smell pork! To eat of the habitation
FTLN 0360 which your prophet the Nazarite conjured the
FTLN 0361 devil into! I will buy with you, sell with you, talk 35
FTLN 0362 with you, walk with you, and so following; but I
FTLN 0363 will not eat with you, drink with you, nor pray with
FTLN 0364 you.—What news on the Rialto?—Who is he comes
FTLN 0365 here?

Enter Antonio.

BASSANIO

FTLN 0366 This is Signior Antonio. 40

SHYLOCK, *aside*

FTLN 0367 How like a fawning publican he looks!
FTLN 0368 I hate him for he is a Christian,
FTLN 0369 But more for that in low simplicity
FTLN 0370 He lends out money gratis and brings down
FTLN 0371 The rate of usance here with us in Venice. 45
FTLN 0372 If I can catch him once upon the hip,
FTLN 0373 I will feed fat the ancient grudge I bear him.

FTLN 0374 He hates our sacred nation, and he rails,
FTLN 0375 Even there where merchants most do congregate,

FTLN 0376	On me, my bargains, and my well-won thrift,	50
FTLN 0377	Which he calls “interest.” Cursèd be my tribe	
FTLN 0378	If I forgive him!	
	BASSANIO	
FTLN 0379	Shylock, do you hear?	
	SHYLOCK	
FTLN 0380	I am debating of my present store,	
FTLN 0381	And, by the near guess of my memory,	55
FTLN 0382	I cannot instantly raise up the gross	
FTLN 0383	Of full three thousand ducats. What of that?	
FTLN 0384	Tubal, a wealthy Hebrew of my tribe,	
FTLN 0385	Will furnish me. But soft, how many months	
FTLN 0386	Do you desire? 「 <i>To Antonio.</i> 」 Rest you fair, good	60
FTLN 0387	signior!	
FTLN 0388	Your Worship was the last man in our mouths.	
	ANTONIO	
FTLN 0389	Shylock, albeit I neither lend nor borrow	
FTLN 0390	By taking nor by giving of excess,	
FTLN 0391	Yet, to supply the ripe wants of my friend,	65
FTLN 0392	I’ll break a custom. 「 <i>To Bassanio.</i> 」 Is he yet	
FTLN 0393	possessed	
FTLN 0394	How much you would?	
	SHYLOCK	
FTLN 0395	Ay, ay, three thousand	
FTLN 0396	ducats.	70
	ANTONIO	
FTLN 0397	And for three months.	
	SHYLOCK	
FTLN 0398	I had forgot—three months. 「 <i>To Bassanio.</i> 」	
FTLN 0399	You told me so.—	
FTLN 0400	Well then, your bond. And let me see—but hear	
FTLN 0401	you:	75
FTLN 0402	Methoughts you said you neither lend nor borrow	
FTLN 0403	Upon advantage.	
	ANTONIO	
FTLN 0404	I do never use it.	
	SHYLOCK	
FTLN 0405	When Jacob grazed his Uncle Laban’s sheep—	
FTLN 0406	This Jacob from our holy Abram was	80

FTLN 0407 (As his wise mother wrought in his behalf)
 FTLN 0408 The third possessor; ay, he was the third—
 ANTONIO
 FTLN 0409 And what of him? Did he take interest?
 SHYLOCK
 FTLN 0410 No, not take interest, not, as you would say,
 FTLN 0411 Directly “interest.” Mark what Jacob did. 85
 FTLN 0412 When Laban and himself were compromised
 FTLN 0413 That all the eanlings which were streaked and pied
 FTLN 0414 Should fall as Jacob’s hire, the ewes being rank
 FTLN 0415 In end of autumn turnèd to the rams,
 FTLN 0416 And when the work of generation was 90
 FTLN 0417 Between these woolly breeders in the act,
 FTLN 0418 The skillful shepherd pilled me certain wands,
 FTLN 0419 And in the doing of the deed of kind
 FTLN 0420 He stuck them up before the fulsome ewes,
 FTLN 0421 Who then conceiving did in eaning time 95
 FTLN 0422 Fall parti-colored lambs, and those were Jacob’s.
 FTLN 0423 This was a way to thrive, and he was blest;
 FTLN 0424 And thrift is blessing if men steal it not.
 ANTONIO
 FTLN 0425 This was a venture, sir, that Jacob served for,
 FTLN 0426 A thing not in his power to bring to pass, 100
 FTLN 0427 But swayed and fashioned by the hand of heaven.
 FTLN 0428 Was this inserted to make interest good?
 FTLN 0429 Or is your gold and silver ewes and rams?
 SHYLOCK
 FTLN 0430 I cannot tell; I make it breed as fast.
 FTLN 0431 But note me, signior— 105
 ANTONIO, [aside to Bassanio]
 FTLN 0432 Mark you this, Bassanio,
 FTLN 0433 The devil can cite Scripture for his purpose!
 FTLN 0434 An evil soul producing holy witness
 FTLN 0435 Is like a villain with a smiling cheek,
 FTLN 0436 A goodly apple rotten at the heart. 110
 FTLN 0437 O, what a goodly outside falsehood hath!

SHYLOCK

FTLN 0438 Three thousand ducats. 'Tis a good round sum.

FTLN 0439 Three months from twelve, then let me see, the

FTLN 0440 rate—

ANTONIO

FTLN 0441 Well, Shylock, shall we be beholding to you?

115

SHYLOCK

FTLN 0442 Signior Antonio, many a time and oft

FTLN 0443 In the Rialto you have rated me

FTLN 0444 About my moneys and my usances.

FTLN 0445 Still have I borne it with a patient shrug

FTLN 0446 (For suff'rance is the badge of all our tribe).

120

FTLN 0447 You call me misbeliever, cutthroat dog,

FTLN 0448 And spet upon my Jewish gaberdine,

FTLN 0449 And all for use of that which is mine own.

FTLN 0450 Well then, it now appears you need my help.

FTLN 0451 Go to, then. You come to me and you say

125

FTLN 0452 "Shylock, we would have moneys"—you say so,

FTLN 0453 You, that did void your rheum upon my beard,

FTLN 0454 And foot me as you spurn a stranger cur

FTLN 0455 Over your threshold. Moneys is your suit.

FTLN 0456 What should I say to you? Should I not say

130

FTLN 0457 "Hath a dog money? Is it possible

FTLN 0458 A cur can lend three thousand ducats?" Or

FTLN 0459 Shall I bend low, and in a bondman's key,

FTLN 0460 With bated breath and whisp'ring humbleness,

FTLN 0461 Say this: "Fair sir, you spet on me on Wednesday

135

FTLN 0462 last;

FTLN 0463 You spurned me such a day; another time

FTLN 0464 You called me 'dog'; and for these courtesies

FTLN 0465 I'll lend you thus much moneys"?

ANTONIO

FTLN 0466 I am as like to call thee so again,

140

FTLN 0467 To spet on thee again, to spurn thee, too.

FTLN 0468 If thou wilt lend this money, lend it not

FTLN 0469 As to thy friends, for when did friendship take

FTLN 0470 A breed for barren metal of his friend?
FTLN 0471

	But lend it rather to thine enemy,	145
FTLN 0472	Who, if he break, thou mayst with better face	
FTLN 0473	Exact the penalty.	
	SHYLOCK	
FTLN 0474	Why, look you how you storm!	
FTLN 0475	I would be friends with you and have your love,	
FTLN 0476	Forget the shames that you have stained me with,	150
FTLN 0477	Supply your present wants, and take no doit	
FTLN 0478	Of usance for my moneys, and you'll not hear me!	
FTLN 0479	This is kind I offer.	
	BASSANIO	
FTLN 0480	This were kindness!	
	SHYLOCK	
FTLN 0481	This kindness will I show.	155
FTLN 0482	Go with me to a notary, seal me there	
FTLN 0483	Your single bond; and in a merry sport,	
FTLN 0484	If you repay me not on such a day,	
FTLN 0485	In such a place, such sum or sums as are	
FTLN 0486	Expressed in the condition, let the forfeit	160
FTLN 0487	Be nominated for an equal pound	
FTLN 0488	Of your fair flesh, to be cut off and taken	
FTLN 0489	In what part of your body pleaseth me.	
	ANTONIO	
FTLN 0490	Content, in faith. I'll seal to such a bond,	
FTLN 0491	And say there is much kindness in the Jew.	165
	BASSANIO	
FTLN 0492	You shall not seal to such a bond for me!	
FTLN 0493	I'll rather dwell in my necessity.	
	ANTONIO	
FTLN 0494	Why, fear not, man, I will not forfeit it!	
FTLN 0495	Within these two months—that's a month before	
FTLN 0496	This bond expires—I do expect return	170
FTLN 0497	Of thrice three times the value of this bond.	
	SHYLOCK	
FTLN 0498	O father Abram, what these Christians are,	
FTLN 0499	Whose own hard dealings teaches them suspect	
FTLN 0500	The thoughts of others! Pray you tell me this:	
FTLN 0501	If he should break his day, what should I gain	175

FTLN 0502 By the exaction of the forfeiture?
FTLN 0503 A pound of man's flesh taken from a man
FTLN 0504 Is not so estimable, profitable neither,
FTLN 0505 As flesh of mutttons, beefs, or goats. I say,
FTLN 0506 To buy his favor I extend this friendship. 180
FTLN 0507 If he will take it, so. If not, adieu;
FTLN 0508 And for my love I pray you wrong me not.

ANTONIO

FTLN 0509 Yes, Shylock, I will seal unto this bond.

SHYLOCK

FTLN 0510 Then meet me forthwith at the notary's.
FTLN 0511 Give him direction for this merry bond, 185
FTLN 0512 And I will go and purse the ducats straight,
FTLN 0513 See to my house left in the fearful guard
FTLN 0514 Of an unthrifty knave, and presently
FTLN 0515 I'll be with you.

ANTONIO

FTLN 0516 Hie thee, gentle Jew. 190

「Shylock」 exits.

FTLN 0517 The Hebrew will turn Christian; he grows kind.

BASSANIO

FTLN 0518 I like not fair terms and a villain's mind.

ANTONIO

FTLN 0519 Come on, in this there can be no dismay;
FTLN 0520 My ships come home a month before the day.

They exit.

「ACT 2」

「Scene 1」

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

MOROCCO

FTLN 0521	Mislike me not for my complexion,	
FTLN 0522	The shadowed livery of the burnished sun,	
FTLN 0523	To whom I am a neighbor and near bred.	
FTLN 0524	Bring me the fairest creature northward born,	
FTLN 0525	Where Phoebus' fire scarce thaws the icicles,	5
FTLN 0526	And let us make incision for your love	
FTLN 0527	To prove whose blood is reddest, his or mine.	
FTLN 0528	I tell thee, lady, this aspect of mine	
FTLN 0529	Hath feared the valiant; by my love I swear	
FTLN 0530	The best regarded virgins of our clime	10
FTLN 0531	Have loved it too. I would not change this hue	
FTLN 0532	Except to steal your thoughts, my gentle queen.	

PORTIA

FTLN 0533	In terms of choice I am not solely led	
FTLN 0534	By nice direction of a maiden's eyes;	
FTLN 0535	Besides, the lott'ry of my destiny	15
FTLN 0536	Bars me the right of voluntary choosing.	
FTLN 0537	But if my father had not scanted me	
FTLN 0538	And hedged me by his wit to yield myself	
FTLN 0539	His wife who wins me by that means I told you,	

43

45

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FTLN 0540	Yourself, renownèd prince, then stood as fair	20
FTLN 0541	As any comer I have looked on yet	
FTLN 0542	For my affection.	

MOROCCO

FTLN 0543	Even for that I thank you.	
FTLN 0544	Therefore I pray you lead me to the caskets	
FTLN 0545	To try my fortune. By this scimitar	25
FTLN 0546	That slew the Sophy and a Persian prince,	
FTLN 0547	That won three fields of Sultan Solyman,	
FTLN 0548	I would o'erstare the sternest eyes that look,	
FTLN 0549	Outbrave the heart most daring on the Earth,	
FTLN 0550	Pluck the young sucking cubs from the she-bear,	30
FTLN 0551	Yea, mock the lion when he roars for prey,	
FTLN 0552	To win 'thee,'] lady. But, alas the while!	
FTLN 0553	If Hercules and Lychas play at dice	

FTLN 0554 Which is the better man, the greater throw
FTLN 0555 May turn by fortune from the weaker hand; 35
FTLN 0556 So is Alcides beaten by his 「page,」
FTLN 0557 And so may I, blind Fortune leading me,
FTLN 0558 Miss that which one unworthier may attain,
FTLN 0559 And die with grieving.

PORTIA

FTLN 0560 You must take your chance 40
FTLN 0561 And either not attempt to choose at all
FTLN 0562 Or swear before you choose, if you choose wrong
FTLN 0563 Never to speak to lady afterward
FTLN 0564 In way of marriage. Therefore be advised.

MOROCCO

FTLN 0565 Nor will not. Come, bring me unto my chance. 45

PORTIA

FTLN 0566 First, forward to the temple. After dinner
FTLN 0567 Your hazard shall be made.

MOROCCO

FTLN 0568 Good fortune then,
FTLN 0569 To make me blest—or cursed'st among men!

They exit.

「Scene 2」

Enter 「Lancelet Gobbo」 the Clown, alone.

LANCELET

FTLN 0570 Certainly my conscience will serve me to
FTLN 0571 run from this Jew my master. The fiend is at mine
FTLN 0572 elbow and tempts me, saying to me “Gobbo,
FTLN 0573 Lancelet Gobbo, good Lancelet,” or “good Gobbo,”
FTLN 0574 or “good Lancelet Gobbo, use your legs, take 5
FTLN 0575 the start, run away.” My conscience says “No. Take
FTLN 0576 heed, honest Lancelet, take heed, honest Gobbo,”
FTLN 0577 or, as aforesaid, “honest Lancelet Gobbo, do not

FTLN 0578	run; scorn running with thy heels.” Well, the most	
FTLN 0579	courageous fiend bids me pack. “Fia!” says the	10
FTLN 0580	fiend. “Away!” says the fiend. “For the heavens,	
FTLN 0581	rouse up a brave mind,” says the fiend, “and run!”	
FTLN 0582	Well, my conscience, hanging about the neck of my	
FTLN 0583	heart, says very wisely to me “My honest friend	
FTLN 0584	Lancelet, being an honest man’s son”—or rather,	15
FTLN 0585	an honest woman’s son, for indeed my father did	
FTLN 0586	something smack, something grow to—he had a	
FTLN 0587	kind of taste—well, my conscience says “Lancelet,	
FTLN 0588	budge not.” “Budge,” says the fiend. “Budge not,”	
FTLN 0589	says my conscience. “Conscience,” say I, “you	20
FTLN 0590	counsel well.” “Fiend,” say I, “you counsel well.”	
FTLN 0591	To be ruled by my conscience, I should stay with the	
FTLN 0592	Jew my master, who (God bless the mark) is a kind	
FTLN 0593	of devil; and to run away from the Jew, I should be	
FTLN 0594	ruled by the fiend, who (saving your reverence) is	25
FTLN 0595	the devil himself. Certainly the Jew is the very devil	
FTLN 0596	incarnation, and, in my conscience, my conscience	
FTLN 0597	is but a kind of hard conscience to offer to counsel	
FTLN 0598	me to stay with the Jew. The fiend gives the more	
FTLN 0599	friendly counsel. I will run, fiend. My heels are at	30
FTLN 0600	your commandment. I will run.	

Enter old Gobbo with a basket.

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. 35

GOBBO

Master young gentleman, I pray you, which is
the way to Master Jew’s?

LANCELET

FTLN 0608	Turn up on your right hand at the next	
FTLN 0609	turning, but at the next turning of all on your left;	40
FTLN 0610	marry, at the very next turning, turn of no hand,	
FTLN 0611	but turn down indirectly to the Jew's house.	
	GOBBO	
FTLN 0612	Be God's sories, 'twill be a hard way to hit.	
FTLN 0613	Can you tell me whether one Lancelet, that dwells	
FTLN 0614	with him, dwell with him or no?	45
	LANCELET	
FTLN 0615	Talk you of young Master Lancelet? [<i>Aside.</i>]	
FTLN 0616	Mark me now, now will I raise the waters.—Talk	
FTLN 0617	you of young Master Lancelet?	
	GOBBO	
FTLN 0618	No master, sir, but a poor man's son. His	
FTLN 0619	father, though I say 't, is an honest exceeding poor	50
FTLN 0620	man and, God be thanked, well to live.	
	LANCELET	
FTLN 0621	Well, let his father be what he will, we talk	
FTLN 0622	of young Master Lancelet.	
	GOBBO	
FTLN 0623	Your Worship's friend, and Lancelet, sir.	
	LANCELET	
FTLN 0624	But I pray you, <i>ergo</i> , old man, <i>ergo</i> , I beseech	55
FTLN 0625	you, talk you of young Master Lancelet?	
	GOBBO	
FTLN 0626	Of Lancelet, an 't please your mastership.	
	LANCELET	
FTLN 0627	<i>Ergo</i> , Master Lancelet. Talk not of Master	
FTLN 0628	Lancelet, father, for the young gentleman, according	
FTLN 0629	to Fates and Destinies, and such odd sayings, the	60
FTLN 0630	Sisters Three, and such branches of learning, is	
FTLN 0631	indeed deceased, or, as you would say in plain	
FTLN 0632	terms, gone to heaven.	
	GOBBO	
FTLN 0633	Marry, God forbid! The boy was the very staff	
FTLN 0634	of my age, my very prop.	65
	LANCELET, [<i>aside</i>]	
FTLN 0635	Do I look like a cudgel or a hovel-post,	
FTLN 0636	a staff or a prop?—Do you know me, father?	

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?

70

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
news of your son. *「He 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.

75

GOBBO

Pray you, sir, stand up! I am sure you are not
Lancelet my boy.

80

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
be.

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
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.

90

LANCELET, *「standing up」*

It should seem, then, that
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.

95

GOBBO

Lord, how art thou changed! How dost thou
and thy master agree? I have brought him a present.

100

FTLN 0637

FTLN 0638

FTLN 0639

FTLN 0640

FTLN 0641

FTLN 0642

FTLN 0643

FTLN 0644

FTLN 0645

FTLN 0646

FTLN 0647

FTLN 0648

FTLN 0649

FTLN 0650

FTLN 0651

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FTLN 0658

FTLN 0659

FTLN 0660

FTLN 0661

FTLN 0662

FTLN 0663

FTLN 0664

FTLN 0665

FTLN 0666

FTLN 0667

FTLN 0668

FTLN 0669

FTLN 0670

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

53

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ACT 2. SC. 2

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 「*Leonardo and*」 *a follower or two.*

BASSANIO, 「*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 115

liveries to making, and desire Gratiano to come

anon to my lodging.

「*The Attendant exits.*」

LANCELET

To him, father.

GOBBO, 「*to Bassanio*」

God bless your Worship.

BASSANIO

Gramercy. Wouldst thou aught with me? 120

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,

to serve— 125

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 135
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

55

The Merchant of Venice

ACT 2. SC. 2

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 you, sir.

GOBBO

That is the very defect of the matter, sir.

BASSANIO, *['to Lancelot']*

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

BASSANIO

Thou speak'st it well.—Go, father, with thy son.—

FTLN 0721
FTLN 0722
FTLN 0723
FTLN 0724
FTLN 0725
FTLN 0726
FTLN 0727
FTLN 0728
FTLN 0729
FTLN 0730
FTLN 0731
FTLN 0732
FTLN 0733
FTLN 0734
FTLN 0735
FTLN 0736
FTLN 0737
FTLN 0738
FTLN 0739
FTLN 0740
FTLN 0741
FTLN 0742
FTLN 0743
FTLN 0744

Take leave of thy old master, and inquire
My lodging out. *「To an Attendant.」* Give him a livery
More guarded than his fellows'. See it done.
「Attendant exits. Bassanio and Leonardo talk apart.」

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 coming-in
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
twinkling.

「Lancelet and old Gobbo」 exit.

BASSANIO

I pray thee, good Leonardo, think on this.
「Handing him a paper.」

57

The Merchant of Venice

ACT 2. SC. 2

These things being bought and orderly bestowed,
Return in haste, for I do feast tonight 170
My best esteemed acquaintance. Hie thee, go.

LEONARDO

My best endeavors shall be done herein.

Enter Gratiano.

GRATIANO, *「to Leonardo」*

Where's your master?

LEONARDO

Yonder, sir, he walks.

Leonardo exits.

GRATIANO

Signior Bassanio! 175

FTLN 0745	BASSANIO Gratiano!	
	GRATIANO	
FTLN 0746	I have suit to you.	
	BASSANIO	
FTLN 0747	You have obtained it.	
	GRATIANO	
FTLN 0748	You must not deny me. I must go with you	
FTLN 0749	to Belmont.	180
	BASSANIO	
FTLN 0750	Why then you must. But hear thee, Gratiano,	
FTLN 0751	Thou art too wild, too rude and bold of voice—	
FTLN 0752	Parts that become thee happily enough,	
FTLN 0753	And in such eyes as ours appear not faults.	
FTLN 0754	But where thou art not known—why, there they	185
FTLN 0755	show	
FTLN 0756	Something too liberal. Pray thee take pain	
FTLN 0757	To allay with some cold drops of modesty	
FTLN 0758	Thy skipping spirit, lest through thy wild behavior	
FTLN 0759	I be misconstered in the place I go to,	190
FTLN 0760	And lose my hopes.	
	GRATIANO	
FTLN 0761	Signior Bassanio, hear me.	
FTLN 0762	If I do not put on a sober habit,	
FTLN 0763	Talk with respect, and swear but now and then,	
FTLN 0764	Wear prayer books in my pocket, look demurely,	195
FTLN 0765	Nay more, while grace is saying, hood mine eyes	
FTLN 0766	Thus with my hat, and sigh and say “amen,”	
FTLN 0767	Use all the observance of civility	
FTLN 0768	Like one well studied in a sad ostent	
FTLN 0769	To please his grandam, never trust me more.	200

FTLN 0770	BASSANIO Well, we shall see your bearing.
	GRATIANO
FTLN 0771	Nay, but I bar tonight. You shall not gauge me
FTLN 0772	By what we do tonight.
	BASSANIO
FTLN 0773	

No, that were pity.
FTLN 0774 I would entreat you rather to put on 205
FTLN 0775 Your boldest suit of mirth, for we have friends
FTLN 0776 That purpose merriment. But fare you well.
FTLN 0777 I have some business.

GRATIANO

FTLN 0778 And I must to Lorenzo and the rest.
FTLN 0779 But we will visit you at supper time. 210

They exit.

「Scene 3」

Enter Jessica and 「Lancelet Gobbo.」

JESSICA

FTLN 0780 I am sorry thou wilt leave my father so.
FTLN 0781 Our house is hell and thou, a merry devil,
FTLN 0782 Didst rob it of some taste of tediousness.
FTLN 0783 But fare thee well. There is a ducat for thee,
FTLN 0784 And, Lancelet, soon at supper shalt thou see 5
FTLN 0785 Lorenzo, who is thy new master's guest.
FTLN 0786 Give him this letter, do it secretly,
FTLN 0787 And so farewell. I would not have my father
FTLN 0788 See me in talk with thee.

LANCELET

FTLN 0789 Adieu. Tears exhibit my tongue, most beautiful 10
FTLN 0790 pagan, most sweet Jew. If a Christian do not
FTLN 0791 play the knave and get thee, I am much deceived.
FTLN 0792 But adieu. These foolish drops do something drown
FTLN 0793 my manly spirit. Adieu.

JESSICA

FTLN 0794 Farewell, good Lancelet. 15

「Lancelet exits.」

FTLN 0795 Alack, what heinous sin is it in me
FTLN 0796 To be ashamed to be my father's child?
FTLN 0797 But though I am a daughter to his blood,

FTLN 0798 I am not to his manners. O Lorenzo,
FTLN 0799 If thou keep promise, I shall end this strife, 20
FTLN 0800 Become a Christian and thy loving wife.

She exits.

「Scene 4」

Enter Gratiano, Lorenzo, Salarino, and Solanio.

LORENZO

FTLN 0801 Nay, we will slink away in supper time,
FTLN 0802 Disguise us at my lodging, and return
FTLN 0803 All in an hour.

GRATIANO

FTLN 0804 We have not made good preparation.

SALARINO

FTLN 0805 We have not spoke us yet of torchbearers. 5

SOLANIO

FTLN 0806 'Tis vile, unless it may be quaintly ordered,
FTLN 0807 And better in my mind not undertook.

LORENZO

FTLN 0808 'Tis now but four o'clock. We have two hours
FTLN 0809 To furnish us.

Enter Lancelot.

FTLN 0810 Friend Lancelot, what's the news? 10

LANCELET

FTLN 0811 An it shall please you to break up this, it
FTLN 0812 shall seem to signify.

「Handing him Jessica's letter.」

LORENZO

FTLN 0813 I know the hand; in faith, 'tis a fair hand,
FTLN 0814 And whiter than the paper it writ on
FTLN 0815 Is the fair hand that writ. 15

GRATIANO

FTLN 0816 Love news, in faith!

	LANCELET	
FTLN 0817	By your leave, sir.	
	LORENZO	
FTLN 0818	Whither goest thou?	
	LANCELET	
FTLN 0819	Marry, sir, to bid my old master the Jew to	
FTLN 0820	sup tonight with my new master the Christian.	20
	LORENZO	
FTLN 0821	Hold here, take this. <i>「Giving him money.」</i> Tell gentle	
FTLN 0822	Jessica	
FTLN 0823	I will not fail her. Speak it privately.	
	<i>「Lancelet」 exits.</i>	
FTLN 0824	Go, gentlemen,	
FTLN 0825	Will you prepare you for this masque tonight?	25
FTLN 0826	I am provided of a torchbearer.	
	SALARINO	
FTLN 0827	Ay, marry, I'll be gone about it straight.	
	SOLANIO	
FTLN 0828	And so will I.	
	LORENZO	
FTLN 0829	Meet me and Gratiano	
FTLN 0830	At Gratiano's lodging some hour hence.	30
	SALARINO	
FTLN 0831	'Tis good we do so.	
	<i>「Salarino and Solanio」 exit.</i>	
	GRATIANO	
FTLN 0832	Was not that letter from fair Jessica?	
	LORENZO	
FTLN 0833	I must needs tell thee all. She hath directed	
FTLN 0834	How I shall take her from her father's house,	
FTLN 0835	What gold and jewels she is furnished with,	35
FTLN 0836	What page's suit she hath in readiness.	
FTLN 0837	If e'er the Jew her father come to heaven,	
FTLN 0838	It will be for his gentle daughter's sake;	
FTLN 0839	And never dare misfortune cross her foot	
FTLN 0840	Unless she do it under this excuse,	40
FTLN 0841	That she is issue to a faithless Jew.	
FTLN 0842	Come, go with me. Peruse this as thou goest;	
	<i>「Handing him the letter.」</i>	
FTLN 0843	Fair Jessica shall be my torchbearer.	
	<i>「They」 exit.</i>	

「Scene 5」

*Enter 「Shylock, the」 Jew, and 「Lancelet,」
his man that was, the Clown.*

SHYLOCK

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, I say!

5

LANCELET

Why, Jessica!

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.

10

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.

15

LANCELET

I beseech you, sir, go. My young master
doth expect your reproach.

20

SHYLOCK

So do I his.

LANCELET

FTLN 0844

FTLN 0845

FTLN 0846

FTLN 0847

FTLN 0848

FTLN 0849

FTLN 0850

FTLN 0851

FTLN 0852

FTLN 0853

FTLN 0854

FTLN 0855

FTLN 0856

FTLN 0857

FTLN 0858

FTLN 0859

FTLN 0860

FTLN 0861

FTLN 0862

FTLN 0863

FTLN 0864

FTLN 0865

FTLN 0866 And they have conspired together—I will
FTLN 0867 not say you shall see a masque, but if you do, then it
FTLN 0868 was not for nothing that my nose fell a-bleeding on 25
FTLN 0869 Black Monday last, at six o'clock i' th' morning,
FTLN 0870 falling out that year on Ash Wednesday was four
FTLN 0871 year in th' afternoon.

SHYLOCK

FTLN 0872 What, are there masques? Hear you me, Jessica,
FTLN 0873 Lock up my doors, and when you hear the drum 30
FTLN 0874 And the vile squealing of the wry-necked fife,
FTLN 0875 Clamber not you up to the casements then,
FTLN 0876 Nor thrust your head into the public street
FTLN 0877 To gaze on Christian fools with varnished faces,
FTLN 0878 But stop my house's ears (I mean my casements). 35
FTLN 0879 Let not the sound of shallow fopp'ry enter
FTLN 0880 My sober house. By Jacob's staff I swear
FTLN 0881 I have no mind of feasting forth tonight.
FTLN 0882 But I will go.—Go you before me, sirrah.
FTLN 0883 Say I will come. 40

LANCELET

FTLN 0884 I will go before, sir. *「Aside to Jessica.」* Mistress,
FTLN 0885 look out at window for all this.
FTLN 0886 There will come a Christian by
FTLN 0887 Will be worth a *「Jewess'」* eye.

「He exits.」

SHYLOCK

FTLN 0888 What says that fool of Hagar's offspring, ha? 45

JESSICA

FTLN 0889 His words were “Farewell, mistress,” nothing else.

SHYLOCK

FTLN 0890 The patch is kind enough, but a huge feeder,
FTLN 0891 Snail-slow in profit, and he sleeps by day
FTLN 0892 More than the wildcat. Drones hive not with me,
FTLN 0893 Therefore I part with him, and part with him 50
FTLN 0894 To one that I would have him help to waste
FTLN 0895 His borrowed purse. Well, Jessica, go in.
FTLN 0896 Perhaps I will return immediately.

FTLN 0897 Do as I bid you. Shut doors after you.
FTLN 0898 Fast bind, fast find— 55
FTLN 0899 A proverb never stale in thrifty mind.

He exits.

JESSICA

FTLN 0900 Farewell, and if my fortune be not crossed,
FTLN 0901 I have a father, you a daughter, lost.

She exits.

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The Merchant of Venice

ACT 2. SC. 6

「Scene 6」

Enter the masquers, Gratiano and Salarino.

GRATIANO

FTLN 0902 This is the penthouse under which Lorenzo
FTLN 0903 Desired us to make stand.

SALARINO

FTLN 0904 His hour is almost past.

GRATIANO

FTLN 0905 And it is marvel he outdwells his hour,
FTLN 0906 For lovers ever run before the clock. 5

SALARINO

FTLN 0907 O, ten times faster Venus' pigeons fly
FTLN 0908 To seal love's bonds new-made than they are wont
FTLN 0909 To keep obligèd faith unforfeited.

GRATIANO

FTLN 0910 That ever holds. Who riseth from a feast
FTLN 0911 With that keen appetite that he sits down? 10
FTLN 0912 Where is the horse that doth untread again
FTLN 0913 His tedious measures with the unbated fire
FTLN 0914 That he did pace them first? All things that are,
FTLN 0915 Are with more spirit chasèd than enjoyed.
FTLN 0916 How like a younger or a prodigal 15
FTLN 0917 The scarfèd bark puts from her native bay,
FTLN 0918 Hugged and embracèd by the strumpet wind;

FTLN 0919 How like the prodigal doth she return
FTLN 0920 With overweathered ribs and ragged sails,
FTLN 0921 Lean, rent, and beggared by the strumpet wind! 20

Enter Lorenzo.

SALARINO

FTLN 0922 Here comes Lorenzo. More of this hereafter.

LORENZO

FTLN 0923 Sweet friends, your patience for my long abode.
FTLN 0924 Not I but my affairs have made you wait.
FTLN 0925 When you shall please to play the thieves for wives,
FTLN 0926 I'll watch as long for you then. Approach. 25
FTLN 0927 Here dwells my father Jew.—Ho! Who's within?

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The Merchant of Venice

ACT 2. SC. 6

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

JESSICA

FTLN 0928 Who are you? Tell me for more certainty,
FTLN 0929 Albeit I'll swear that I do know your tongue.

LORENZO

FTLN 0930 Lorenzo, and thy love.

JESSICA

FTLN 0931 Lorenzo certain, and my love indeed, 30
FTLN 0932 For who love I so much? And now who knows
FTLN 0933 But you, Lorenzo, whether I am yours?

LORENZO

FTLN 0934 Heaven and thy thoughts are witness that thou art.

JESSICA

FTLN 0935 Here, catch this casket; it is worth the pains.
FTLN 0936 I am glad 'tis night, you do not look on me, 35
FTLN 0937 For I am much ashamed of my exchange.
FTLN 0938 But love is blind, and lovers cannot see
FTLN 0939 The pretty follies that themselves commit,
FTLN 0940 For if they could, Cupid himself would blush
FTLN 0941 To see me thus transformèd to a boy. 40

LORENZO

FTLN 0942 Descend, for you must be my torchbearer.

JESSICA

FTLN 0943 What, must I hold a candle to my shames?

FTLN 0944 They in themselves, good sooth, are too too light.

FTLN 0945 Why, 'tis an office of discovery, love,

FTLN 0946 And I should be obscured. 45

LORENZO

FTLN 0947 So are you, sweet,

FTLN 0948 Even in the lovely garnish of a boy.

FTLN 0949 But come at once,

FTLN 0950 For the close night doth play the runaway,

FTLN 0951 And we are stayed for at Bassanio's feast. 50

JESSICA

FTLN 0952 I will make fast the doors and gild myself

FTLN 0953 With some more ducats, and be with you straight.

「Jessica exits, above.」

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The Merchant of Venice

ACT 2. SC. 7

GRATIANO

FTLN 0954 Now, by my hood, a gentle and no Jew!

LORENZO

FTLN 0955 Beshrew me but I love her heartily,

FTLN 0956 For she is wise, if I can judge of her, 55

FTLN 0957 And fair she is, if that mine eyes be true,

FTLN 0958 And true she is, as she hath proved herself.

FTLN 0959 And therefore, like herself, wise, fair, and true,

FTLN 0960 Shall she be placèd in my constant soul.

Enter Jessica, 「below.」

FTLN 0961 What, art thou come? On, gentleman, away! 60

FTLN 0962 Our masquing mates by this time for us stay.

「All but Gratiano」 exit.

Enter Antonio.

ANTONIO

FTLN 0963 Who's there?

GRATIANO

FTLN 0964 Signior Antonio?

ANTONIO

FTLN 0965 Fie, fie, Gratiano, where are all the rest?

FTLN 0966 'Tis nine o'clock! Our friends all stay for you.

65

FTLN 0967 No masque tonight; the wind is come about;

FTLN 0968 Bassanio presently will go aboard.

FTLN 0969 I have sent twenty out to seek for you.

GRATIANO

FTLN 0970 I am glad on 't. I desire no more delight

FTLN 0971 Than to be under sail and gone tonight.

70

They exit.

「Scene 7」

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

PORTIA

FTLN 0972 Go, draw aside the curtains and discover

75

The Merchant of Venice

ACT 2. SC. 7

FTLN 0973 The several caskets to this noble prince.

「A curtain is drawn.」

FTLN 0974 Now make your choice.

MOROCCO

FTLN 0975 This first, of gold, who this inscription bears,

FTLN 0976 “Who chooseth me shall gain what many men
FTLN 0977 desire”;

5

FTLN 0978 The second, silver, which this promise carries,

FTLN 0979 “Who chooseth me shall get as much as he
FTLN 0980 deserves”;

FTLN 0981 This third, dull lead, with warning all as blunt,

10

FTLN 0982 “Who chooseth me must give and hazard all he
FTLN 0983 hath.”

FTLN 0984 How shall I know if I do choose the right?

PORTIA

FTLN 0985 The one of them contains my picture, prince.

FTLN 0986 If you choose that, then I am yours withal.

15

MOROCCO

FTLN 0987	Some god direct my judgment! Let me see.	
FTLN 0988	I will survey th' inscriptions back again.	
FTLN 0989	What says this leaden casket?	
FTLN 0990	“Who chooseth me must give and hazard all he	
FTLN 0991	hath.”	20
FTLN 0992	Must give—for what? For lead? Hazard for lead?	
FTLN 0993	This casket threatens. Men that hazard all	
FTLN 0994	Do it in hope of fair advantages.	
FTLN 0995	A golden mind stoops not to shows of dross.	
FTLN 0996	I'll then nor give nor hazard aught for lead.	25
FTLN 0997	What says the silver with her virgin hue?	
FTLN 0998	“Who chooseth me shall get as much as he	
FTLN 0999	deserves.”	
FTLN 1000	As much as he deserves—pause there, Morocco,	
FTLN 1001	And weigh thy value with an even hand.	30
FTLN 1002	If thou beest rated by thy estimation,	
FTLN 1003	Thou dost deserve enough; and yet enough	
FTLN 1004	May not extend so far as to the lady.	

FTLN 1005	And yet to be afeard of my deserving	
FTLN 1006	Were but a weak disabling of myself.	35
FTLN 1007	As much as I deserve—why, that's the lady!	
FTLN 1008	I do in birth deserve her, and in fortunes,	
FTLN 1009	In graces, and in qualities of breeding,	
FTLN 1010	But more than these, in love I do deserve.	
FTLN 1011	What if I strayed no farther, but chose here?	40
FTLN 1012	Let's see once more this saying graved in gold:	
FTLN 1013	“Who chooseth me shall gain what many men	
FTLN 1014	desire.”	
FTLN 1015	Why, that's the lady! All the world desires her.	
FTLN 1016	From the four corners of the Earth they come	45
FTLN 1017	To kiss this shrine, this mortal, breathing saint.	
FTLN 1018	The Hyrcanian deserts and the vasty wilds	
FTLN 1019	Of wide Arabia are as throughfares now	
FTLN 1020	For princes to come view fair Portia.	
FTLN 1021	The watery kingdom, whose ambitious head	50
FTLN 1022	Spets in the face of heaven, is no bar	
FTLN 1023	To stop the foreign spirits, but they come	
FTLN 1024		

FTLN 1025 As o'er a brook to see fair Portia.
 FTLN 1026 One of these three contains her heavenly picture. 55
 FTLN 1027 Is 't like that lead contains her? 'Twere damnation
 FTLN 1028 To think so base a thought. It were too gross
 FTLN 1029 To rib her cerecloth in the obscure grave.
 FTLN 1030 Or shall I think in silver she's immured,
 FTLN 1031 Being ten times undervalued to tried gold? 60
 FTLN 1032 O, sinful thought! Never so rich a gem
 FTLN 1033 Was set in worse than gold. They have in England
 FTLN 1034 A coin that bears the figure of an angel
 FTLN 1035 Stamped in gold, but that's insculped upon;
 FTLN 1036 But here an angel in a golden bed
 FTLN 1037 Lies all within.—Deliver me the key. 65
 Here do I choose, and thrive I as I may.

PORTIA

FTLN 1038 There, take it, prince. *「Handing him the key.」* And if
 FTLN 1039 my form lie there,
 FTLN 1040 Then I am yours.

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The Merchant of Venice

ACT 2. SC. 8

「Morocco opens the gold casket.」

MOROCCO

FTLN 1041 O hell! What have we here? 70
 FTLN 1042 A carrion death within whose empty eye
 FTLN 1043 There is a written scroll. I'll read the writing:
 FTLN 1044 *All that glisters is not gold—*
 FTLN 1045 *Often have you heard that told.*
 FTLN 1046 *Many a man his life hath sold* 75
 FTLN 1047 *But my outside to behold.*
 FTLN 1048 *Gilded 「tombs」 do worms infold.*
 FTLN 1049 *Had you been as wise as bold,*
 FTLN 1050 *Young in limbs, in judgment old,*
 FTLN 1051 *Your answer had not been enscrolled.* 80
 FTLN 1052 *Fare you well, your suit is cold.*
 FTLN 1053 Cold indeed and labor lost!
 FTLN 1054 Then, farewell, heat, and welcome, frost.
 FTLN 1055 Portia, adieu. I have too grieved a heart
 FTLN 1056 To take a tedious leave. Thus losers part. 85

He exits, 「with his train.」

PORTIA

FTLN 1057 A gentle riddance! Draw the curtains, go.
FTLN 1058 Let all of his complexion choose me so.

They exit.

「Scene 8」

Enter Salarino and Solanio.

SALARINO

FTLN 1059 Why, man, I saw Bassanio under sail;
FTLN 1060 With him is Gratiano gone along;
FTLN 1061 And in their ship I am sure Lorenzo is not.

SOLANIO

FTLN 1062 The villain Jew with outcries raised the Duke,
FTLN 1063 Who went with him to search Bassanio's ship. 5

SALARINO

FTLN 1064 He came too late; the ship was under sail.

81

The Merchant of Venice

ACT 2. SC. 8

FTLN 1065 But there the Duke was given to understand
FTLN 1066 That in a gondola were seen together
FTLN 1067 Lorenzo and his amorous Jessica.
FTLN 1068 Besides, Antonio certified the Duke 10
FTLN 1069 They were not with Bassanio in his ship.

SOLANIO

FTLN 1070 I never heard a passion so confused,
FTLN 1071 So strange, outrageous, and so variable
FTLN 1072 As the dog Jew did utter in the streets.
FTLN 1073 "My daughter, O my ducats, O my daughter! 15
FTLN 1074 Fled with a Christian! O my Christian ducats!
FTLN 1075 Justice, the law, my ducats, and my daughter,
FTLN 1076 A sealèd bag, two sealèd bags of ducats,
FTLN 1077 Of double ducats, stol'n from me by my daughter,
FTLN 1078 And jewels—two stones, two rich and precious 20
FTLN 1079 stones—

FTLN 1080 Stol'n by my daughter! Justice! Find the girl!
FTLN 1081 She hath the stones upon her, and the ducats."

SALARINO

FTLN 1082	Why, all the boys in Venice follow him,	
FTLN 1083	Crying “His stones, his daughter, and his ducats.”	25
	SOLANIO	
FTLN 1084	Let good Antonio look he keep his day,	
FTLN 1085	Or he shall pay for this.	
	SALARINO	
FTLN 1086	Marry, well remembered.	
FTLN 1087	I reasoned with a Frenchman yesterday	
FTLN 1088	Who told me, in the Narrow Seas that part	30
FTLN 1089	The French and English, there miscarrièd	
FTLN 1090	A vessel of our country richly fraught.	
FTLN 1091	I thought upon Antonio when he told me,	
FTLN 1092	And wished in silence that it were not his.	
	SOLANIO	
FTLN 1093	You were best to tell Antonio what you hear—	35
FTLN 1094	Yet do not suddenly, for it may grieve him.	
	SALARINO	
FTLN 1095	A kinder gentleman treads not the Earth.	

FTLN 1096	I saw Bassanio and Antonio part.	
FTLN 1097	Bassanio told him he would make some speed	
FTLN 1098	Of his return. He answered “Do not so.	40
FTLN 1099	「Slubber」 not business for my sake, Bassanio,	
FTLN 1100	But stay the very riping of the time;	
FTLN 1101	And for the Jew’s bond which he hath of me,	
FTLN 1102	Let it not enter in your mind of love.	
FTLN 1103	Be merry, and employ your chiefest thoughts	45
FTLN 1104	To courtship and such fair ostents of love	
FTLN 1105	As shall conveniently become you there.”	
FTLN 1106	And even there, his eye being big with tears,	
FTLN 1107	Turning his face, he put his hand behind him,	
FTLN 1108	And with affection wondrous sensible	50
FTLN 1109	He wrung Bassanio’s hand—and so they parted.	
	SOLANIO	
FTLN 1110	I think he only loves the world for him.	
FTLN 1111	I pray thee, let us go and find him out	
FTLN 1112	And quicken his embracèd heaviness	
FTLN 1113	With some delight or other.	55

SALARINO

FTLN 1114

Do we so.

They exit.

「Scene 9」

Enter Nerissa and a Servitor.

NERISSA

FTLN 1115

Quick, quick, I pray thee, draw the curtain straight.

FTLN 1116

The Prince of Arragon hath ta'en his oath

FTLN 1117

And comes to his election presently.

Enter 「the Prince of」 Arragon, his train, and Portia.

PORTIA

FTLN 1118

Behold, there stand the caskets, noble prince.

FTLN 1119

If you choose that wherein I am contained,

5

FTLN 1120

Straight shall our nuptial rites be solemnized.

85

The Merchant of Venice

ACT 2. SC. 9

FTLN 1121

But if you fail, without more speech, my lord,

FTLN 1122

You must be gone from hence immediately.

ARRAGON

FTLN 1123

I am enjoined by oath to observe three things:

FTLN 1124

First, never to unfold to anyone

10

FTLN 1125

Which casket 'twas I chose; next, if I fail

FTLN 1126

Of the right casket, never in my life

FTLN 1127

To woo a maid in way of marriage;

FTLN 1128

Lastly, if I do fail in fortune of my choice,

FTLN 1129

Immediately to leave you, and be gone.

15

PORTIA

FTLN 1130

To these injunctions everyone doth swear

FTLN 1131

That comes to hazard for my worthless self.

ARRAGON

FTLN 1132

And so have I addressed me. Fortune now

FTLN 1133

To my heart's hope! Gold, silver, and base lead.

FTLN 1134

“Who chooseth me must give and hazard all he

20

FTLN 1135	hath.”	
FTLN 1136	You shall look fairer ere I give or hazard.	
FTLN 1137	What says the golden chest? Ha, let me see:	
FTLN 1138	“Who chooseth me shall gain what many men	
FTLN 1139	desire.”	25
FTLN 1140	What many men desire—that “many” may be	
FTLN 1141	meant	
FTLN 1142	By the fool multitude that choose by show,	
FTLN 1143	Not learning more than the fond eye doth teach,	
FTLN 1144	Which pries not to th’ interior, but like the martlet	30
FTLN 1145	Builds in the weather on the outward wall,	
FTLN 1146	Even in the force and road of casualty.	
FTLN 1147	I will not choose what many men desire,	
FTLN 1148	Because I will not jump with common spirits	
FTLN 1149	And rank me with the barbarous multitudes.	35
FTLN 1150	Why, then, to thee, thou silver treasure house.	
FTLN 1151	Tell me once more what title thou dost bear.	
FTLN 1152	“Who chooseth me shall get as much as he	
FTLN 1153	deserves.”	

FTLN 1154	And well said, too; for who shall go about	40
FTLN 1155	To cozen fortune and be honorable	
FTLN 1156	Without the stamp of merit? Let none presume	
FTLN 1157	To wear an undeservèd dignity.	
FTLN 1158	O, that estates, degrees, and offices	
FTLN 1159	Were not derived corruptly, and that clear honor	45
FTLN 1160	Were purchased by the merit of the wearer!	
FTLN 1161	How many then should cover that stand bare?	
FTLN 1162	How many be commanded that command?	
FTLN 1163	How much low peasantry would then be gleaned	
FTLN 1164	From the true seed of honor? And how much honor	50
FTLN 1165	Picked from the chaff and ruin of the times,	
FTLN 1166	To be new varnished? Well, but to my choice.	
FTLN 1167	“Who chooseth me shall get as much as he	
FTLN 1168	deserves.”	
FTLN 1169	I will assume desert. Give me a key for this,	55
	[<i>He is given a key.</i>]	
FTLN 1170	And instantly unlock my fortunes here.	

「*He opens the silver casket.*」

PORTIA

FTLN 1171 Too long a pause for that which you find there.

ARRAGON

FTLN 1172 What's here? The portrait of a blinking idiot

FTLN 1173 Presenting me a schedule! I will read it.—

FTLN 1174 How much unlike art thou to Portia! 60

FTLN 1175 How much unlike my hopes and my deservings.

FTLN 1176 “Who chooseth me shall have as much as he
FTLN 1177 deserves”?

FTLN 1178 Did I deserve no more than a fool's head?

FTLN 1179 Is that my prize? Are my deserts no better? 65

PORTIA

FTLN 1180 To offend and judge are distinct offices

FTLN 1181 And of opposèd natures.

ARRAGON

FTLN 1182 What is here?

「*He reads.*」

FTLN 1183 *The fire seven times tried this;*

FTLN 1184 *Seven times tried that judgment is* 70

FTLN 1185 *That did never choose amiss.*

FTLN 1186 *Some there be that shadows kiss;*

FTLN 1187 *Such have but a shadow's bliss.*

FTLN 1188 *There be fools alive, iwis,*

FTLN 1189 *Silvered o'er—and so was this.* 75

FTLN 1190 *Take what wife you will to bed,*

FTLN 1191 *I will ever be your head.*

FTLN 1192 *So begone; you are sped.*

FTLN 1193 Still more fool I shall appear

FTLN 1194 By the time I linger here. 80

FTLN 1195 With one fool's head I came to woo,

FTLN 1196 But I go away with two.

FTLN 1197 Sweet, adieu. I'll keep my oath,

FTLN 1198 Patiently to bear my wroth.

「*He exits with his train.*」

PORTIA

FTLN 1199 Thus hath the candle singed the moth. 85
FTLN 1200 O, these deliberate fools, when they do choose,
FTLN 1201 They have the wisdom by their wit to lose.

NERISSA

FTLN 1202 The ancient saying is no heresy:
FTLN 1203 Hanging and wiving goes by destiny.

PORTIA

FTLN 1204 Come, draw the curtain, Nerissa. 90

Enter Messenger.

MESSENGER

FTLN 1205 Where is my lady?

PORTIA

FTLN 1206 Here. What would my
FTLN 1207 lord?

MESSENGER

FTLN 1208 Madam, there is alighted at your gate
FTLN 1209 A young Venetian, one that comes before 95
FTLN 1210 To signify th' approaching of his lord,
FTLN 1211 From whom he bringeth sensible regrets;
FTLN 1212 To wit (besides commends and courteous breath),
FTLN 1213 Gifts of rich value; yet I have not seen

91

The Merchant of Venice

ACT 2. SC. 9

FTLN 1214 So likely an ambassador of love. 100
FTLN 1215 A day in April never came so sweet,
FTLN 1216 To show how costly summer was at hand,
FTLN 1217 As this fore-spurrer comes before his lord.

PORTIA

FTLN 1218 No more, I pray thee. I am half afraid
FTLN 1219 Thou wilt say anon he is some kin to thee, 105
FTLN 1220 Thou spend'st such high-day wit in praising him!
FTLN 1221 Come, come, Nerissa, for I long to see
FTLN 1222 Quick Cupid's post that comes so mannerly.

NERISSA

FTLN 1223 Bassanio, Lord Love, if thy will it be!

They exit.

「ACT 3」

「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.

5

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!—

10

15

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

cross my prayer, for here he comes in the likeness

of a Jew.

20

Enter Shylock.

95

97

The Merchant of Venice

ACT 3. SC. 1

FTLN 1246	How now, Shylock, what news among the	
FTLN 1247	merchants?	
	SHYLOCK	
FTLN 1248	You knew, none so well, none so well as you,	25
FTLN 1249	of my daughter's flight.	
	SALARINO	
FTLN 1250	That's certain. I for my part knew the tailor	
FTLN 1251	that made the wings she flew withal.	
	SOLANIO	
FTLN 1252	And Shylock for his own part knew the bird	
FTLN 1253	was fledge, and then it is the complexion of them	30
FTLN 1254	all to leave the dam.	
	SHYLOCK	
FTLN 1255	She is damned for it.	
	SALARINO	
FTLN 1256	That's certain, if the devil may be her judge.	
	SHYLOCK	
FTLN 1257	My own flesh and blood to rebel!	
	SOLANIO	
FTLN 1258	Out upon it, old carrion! Rebels it at these	35
FTLN 1259	years?	
	SHYLOCK	
FTLN 1260	I say my daughter is my flesh and my blood.	
	SALARINO	
FTLN 1261	There is more difference between thy flesh	
FTLN 1262	and hers than between jet and ivory, more between	
FTLN 1263	your bloods than there is between red wine and	40
FTLN 1264	Rhenish. But tell us, do you hear whether Antonio	
FTLN 1265	have had any loss at sea or no?	
	SHYLOCK	
FTLN 1266	There I have another bad match! A bankrout,	
FTLN 1267	a prodigal, who dare scarce show his head on	
FTLN 1268	the Rialto, a beggar that was used to come so smug	45

FTLN 1269 upon the mart! Let him look to his bond. He was
FTLN 1270 wont to call me usurer; let him look to his bond. He
FTLN 1271 was wont to lend money for a Christian cur'sy; let
FTLN 1272 him look to his bond.

SALARINO

FTLN 1273 Why, I am sure if he forfeit, thou wilt not
FTLN 1274 take his flesh! What's that good for? 50

SHYLOCK

FTLN 1275 To bait fish withal; if it will feed nothing else,
FTLN 1276 it will feed my revenge. He hath disgraced me and
FTLN 1277 hindered me half a million, laughed at my losses,
FTLN 1278 mocked at my gains, scorned my nation, thwarted 55
FTLN 1279 my bargains, cooled my friends, heated mine enemies—
FTLN 1280 and what's his reason? I am a Jew. Hath not
FTLN 1281 a Jew eyes? Hath not a Jew hands, organs, dimensions,

FTLN 1282 senses, affections, passions? Fed with the
FTLN 1283 same food, hurt with the same weapons, subject to 60
FTLN 1284 the same diseases, healed by the same means,
FTLN 1285 warmed and cooled by the same winter and summer
FTLN 1286 as a Christian is? If you prick us, do we not
FTLN 1287 bleed? If you tickle us, do we not laugh? If you
FTLN 1288 poison us, do we not die? And if you wrong us, shall 65
FTLN 1289 we not revenge? If we are like you in the rest, we will
FTLN 1290 resemble you in that. If a Jew wrong a Christian,
FTLN 1291 what is his humility? Revenge. If a Christian wrong
FTLN 1292 a Jew, what should his sufferance be by Christian
FTLN 1293 example? Why, revenge! The villainy you teach me I 70
FTLN 1294 will execute, and it shall go hard but I will better the
FTLN 1295 instruction.

Enter a man from Antonio.

〔SERVINGMAN〕

FTLN 1296 Gentlemen, my master Antonio is at his
FTLN 1297 house and desires to speak with you both.

SALARINO

FTLN 1298 We have been up and down to seek him. 75

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?

80

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
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

85

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The Merchant of Venice

ACT 3. SC. 1

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.

90

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
Tripolis.

100

SHYLOCK

FTLN 1325 I thank God, I thank God! Is it true, is it true?

TUBAL

FTLN 1326 I spoke with some of the sailors that escaped
FTLN 1327 the wrack.

SHYLOCK

FTLN 1328 I thank thee, good Tubal. Good news, good 105
FTLN 1329 news! Ha, ha, 「heard」 in Genoa—

TUBAL

FTLN 1330 Your daughter spent in Genoa, as I heard, one
FTLN 1331 night fourscore ducats.

SHYLOCK

FTLN 1332 Thou stick'st a dagger in me. I shall never
FTLN 1333 see my gold again. Fourscore ducats at a sitting, 110
FTLN 1334 fourscore ducats!

TUBAL

FTLN 1335 There came divers of Antonio's creditors in my
FTLN 1336 company to Venice that swear he cannot choose
FTLN 1337 but break.

SHYLOCK

FTLN 1338 I am very glad of it. I'll plague him, I'll 115
FTLN 1339 torture him. I am glad of it.

TUBAL

FTLN 1340 One of them showed me a ring that he had of
FTLN 1341 your daughter for a monkey.

SHYLOCK

FTLN 1342 Out upon her! Thou torturest me, Tubal. It
FTLN 1343 was my 「turquoise!」 I had it of Leah when I was a 120
FTLN 1344 bachelor. I would not have given it for a wilderness
FTLN 1345 of monkeys.

TUBAL

FTLN 1346 But Antonio is certainly undone.

SHYLOCK

FTLN 1347 Nay, that's true, that's very true. Go, Tubal,
FTLN 1348 fee me an officer. Bespeak him a fortnight before. I 125

FTLN 1349 will have the heart of him if he forfeit, for were he
FTLN 1350 out of Venice I can make what merchandise I will.

FTLN 1351
FTLN 1352

Go, Tubal, and meet me at our synagogue. Go, good
Tubal, at our synagogue, Tubal.

They exit.

「Scene 2」

*Enter Bassanio, Portia, and all their trains, Gratiano,
「Nerissa.」*

PORTIA

FTLN 1353
FTLN 1354
FTLN 1355
FTLN 1356
FTLN 1357
FTLN 1358
FTLN 1359
FTLN 1360
FTLN 1361
FTLN 1362
FTLN 1363
FTLN 1364
FTLN 1365
FTLN 1366
FTLN 1367
FTLN 1368
FTLN 1369
FTLN 1370
FTLN 1371
FTLN 1372
FTLN 1373
FTLN 1374
FTLN 1375
FTLN 1376

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 5
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.

BASSANIO

FTLN 1377

Let me choose,

25

FTLN 1378 For as I am, I live upon the rack.
 PORTIA

FTLN 1379 Upon the rack, Bassanio? Then confess
 FTLN 1380 What treason there is mingled with your love.
 BASSANIO

FTLN 1381 None but that ugly treason of mistrust,
 FTLN 1382 Which makes me fear th' enjoying of my love. 30
 FTLN 1383 There may as well be amity and life
 FTLN 1384 'Tween snow and fire, as treason and my love.
 PORTIA

FTLN 1385 Ay, but I fear you speak upon the rack
 FTLN 1386 Where men enforcèd do speak anything.
 BASSANIO

FTLN 1387 Promise me life and I'll confess the truth. 35
 PORTIA

FTLN 1388 Well, then, confess and live.
 BASSANIO

FTLN 1389 "Confess and love"
 FTLN 1390 Had been the very sum of my confession.
 FTLN 1391 O happy torment, when my torturer
 FTLN 1392 Doth teach me answers for deliverance! 40
 FTLN 1393 But let me to my fortune and the caskets.
 PORTIA

FTLN 1394 Away, then. I am locked in one of them.
 FTLN 1395 If you do love me, you will find me out.—
 FTLN 1396 Nerissa and the rest, stand all aloof.
 FTLN 1397 Let music sound while he doth make his choice. 45
 FTLN 1398 Then if he lose he makes a swanlike end,
 FTLN 1399 Fading in music. That the comparison
 FTLN 1400 May stand more proper, my eye shall be the stream
 FTLN 1401 And wat'ry deathbed for him. He may win,
 FTLN 1402 And what is music then? Then music is 50
 FTLN 1403 Even as the flourish when true subjects bow
 FTLN 1404 To a new-crownèd monarch. Such it is
 FTLN 1405 As are those dulcet sounds in break of day
 FTLN 1406 That creep into the dreaming bridegroom's ear
 FTLN 1407 And summon him to marriage. Now he goes, 55

FTLN 1409	With no less presence but with much more love	
FTLN 1410	Than young Alcides when he did redeem	
FTLN 1411	The virgin tribute paid by howling Troy	
FTLN 1412	To the sea-monster. I stand for sacrifice;	60
FTLN 1413	The rest aloof are the Dardanian wives,	
FTLN 1414	With blearèd visages, come forth to view	
FTLN 1415	The issue of th' exploit. Go, Hercules!	
FTLN 1416	Live thou, I live. With much much more dismay	
	I view the fight than thou that mak'st the fray.	

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

FTLN 1417	<i>Tell me where is fancy bred,</i>	65
FTLN 1418	<i>Or in the heart, or in the head?</i>	
FTLN 1419	<i>How begot, how nourishèd?</i>	
FTLN 1420	<i>Reply, reply.</i>	
FTLN 1421	<i>It is engendered in the eye,</i>	
FTLN 1422	<i>With gazing fed, and fancy dies</i>	70
FTLN 1423	<i>In the cradle where it lies.</i>	
FTLN 1424	<i>Let us all ring fancy's knell.</i>	
FTLN 1425	<i>I'll begin it.—Ding, dong, bell.</i>	
FTLN 1426	ALL <i>Ding, dong, bell.</i>	

BASSANIO

FTLN 1427	So may the outward shows be least themselves;	75
FTLN 1428	The world is still deceived with ornament.	
FTLN 1429	In law, what plea so tainted and corrupt	
FTLN 1430	But, being seasoned with a gracious voice,	
FTLN 1431	Obscures the show of evil? In religion,	
FTLN 1432	What damnèd error but some sober brow	80
FTLN 1433	Will bless it and approve it with a text,	
FTLN 1434	Hiding the grossness with fair ornament?	
FTLN 1435	There is no ^{vice} so simple but assumes	
FTLN 1436	Some mark of virtue on his outward parts.	
FTLN 1437	How many cowards whose hearts are all as false	85
FTLN 1438	As ^{stairs} of sand, wear yet upon their chins	
FTLN 1439	The beards of Hercules and frowning Mars,	

FTLN 1440	Who inward searched have livers white as milk,	
FTLN 1441	And these assume but valor's excrement	
FTLN 1442	To render them redoubted. Look on beauty,	90
FTLN 1443	And you shall see 'tis purchased by the weight,	
FTLN 1444	Which therein works a miracle in nature,	
FTLN 1445	Making them lightest that wear most of it.	
FTLN 1446	So are those crispèd snaky golden locks,	
FTLN 1447	Which maketh such wanton gambols with the wind	95
FTLN 1448	Upon supposèd fairness, often known	
FTLN 1449	To be the dowry of a second head,	
FTLN 1450	The skull that bred them in the sepulcher.	
FTLN 1451	Thus ornament is but the guilèd shore	
FTLN 1452	To a most dangerous sea, the beauteous scarf	100
FTLN 1453	Veiling an Indian beauty; in a word,	
FTLN 1454	The seeming truth which cunning times put on	
FTLN 1455	To entrap the wisest. Therefore, then, thou gaudy	
FTLN 1456	gold,	
FTLN 1457	Hard food for Midas, I will none of thee.	105
FTLN 1458	Nor none of thee, thou pale and common drudge	
FTLN 1459	'Tween man and man. But thou, thou meager lead,	
FTLN 1460	Which rather threaten'st than dost promise aught,	
FTLN 1461	Thy paleness moves me more than eloquence,	
FTLN 1462	And here choose I. Joy be the consequence!	110

[*Bassanio is given a key.*]

PORTIA, [*aside*]

FTLN 1463	How all the other passions fleet to air,	
FTLN 1464	As doubtful thoughts and rash embraced despair,	
FTLN 1465	And shudd'ring fear, and green-eyed jealousy!	
FTLN 1466	O love, be moderate, allay thy ecstasy,	
FTLN 1467	In measure rain thy joy, scant this excess!	115
FTLN 1468	I feel too much thy blessing. Make it less,	
FTLN 1469	For fear I surfeit.	

[*Bassanio opens the lead casket.*]

BASSANIO

FTLN 1470	What find I here?	
FTLN 1471	Fair Portia's counterfeit! What demigod	
FTLN 1472	Hath come so near creation? Move these eyes?	120

FTLN 1473	Or whether, riding on the balls of mine,	
FTLN 1474	Seem they in motion? Here are severed lips	
FTLN 1475	Parted with sugar breath; so sweet a bar	
FTLN 1476	Should sunder such sweet friends. Here in her hairs	
FTLN 1477	The painter plays the spider, and hath woven	125
FTLN 1478	A golden mesh t' entrap the hearts of men	
FTLN 1479	Faster than gnats in cobwebs. But her eyes!	
FTLN 1480	How could he see to do them? Having made one,	
FTLN 1481	Methinks it should have power to steal both his	
FTLN 1482	And leave itself unfurnished. Yet look how far	130
FTLN 1483	The substance of my praise doth wrong this shadow	
FTLN 1484	In underprizing it, so far this shadow	
FTLN 1485	Doth limp behind the substance. Here's the scroll,	
FTLN 1486	The continent and summary of my fortune.	
	「 <i>He reads the scroll.</i> 」	
FTLN 1487	<i>You that choose not by the view</i>	135
FTLN 1488	<i>Chance as fair and choose as true.</i>	
FTLN 1489	<i>Since this fortune falls to you,</i>	
FTLN 1490	<i>Be content and seek no new.</i>	
FTLN 1491	<i>If you be well pleased with this</i>	
FTLN 1492	<i>And hold your fortune for your bliss,</i>	140
FTLN 1493	<i>Turn you where your lady is,</i>	
FTLN 1494	<i>And claim her with a loving kiss.</i>	
FTLN 1495	A gentle scroll! Fair lady, by your leave,	
FTLN 1496	I come by note to give and to receive.	
FTLN 1497	Like one of two contending in a prize	145
FTLN 1498	That thinks he hath done well in people's eyes,	
FTLN 1499	Hearing applause and universal shout,	
FTLN 1500	Giddy in spirit, still gazing in a doubt	
FTLN 1501	Whether those peals of praise be his or no,	
FTLN 1502	So, thrice-fair lady, stand I even so,	150
FTLN 1503	As doubtful whether what I see be true,	
FTLN 1504	Until confirmed, signed, ratified by you.	
	PORTIA	
FTLN 1505	You see me, Lord Bassanio, where I stand,	
FTLN 1506	Such as I am. Though for myself alone	

FTLN 1508 To wish myself much better, yet for you
 FTLN 1509 I would be trebled twenty times myself,
 FTLN 1510 A thousand times more fair, ten thousand times
 FTLN 1511 More rich, that only to stand high in your account
 FTLN 1512 I might in virtues, beauties, livings, friends, 160
 FTLN 1513 Exceed account. But the full sum of me
 FTLN 1514 Is sum of something, which, to term in gross,
 FTLN 1515 Is an unlessoned girl, unschooled, unpracticed;
 FTLN 1516 Happy in this, she is not yet so old
 FTLN 1517 But she may learn; happier than this, 165
 FTLN 1518 She is not bred so dull but she can learn;
 FTLN 1519 Happiest of all, is that her gentle spirit
 FTLN 1520 Commits itself to yours to be directed
 FTLN 1521 As from her lord, her governor, her king.
 FTLN 1522 Myself, and what is mine, to you and yours 170
 FTLN 1523 Is now converted. But now I was the lord
 FTLN 1524 Of this fair mansion, master of my servants,
 FTLN 1525 Queen o'er myself; and even now, but now,
 FTLN 1526 This house, these servants, and this same myself
 FTLN 1527 Are yours, my lord's. I give them with this ring, 175

[Handing him a ring.]

FTLN 1528 Which, when you part from, lose, or give away,
 FTLN 1529 Let it presage the ruin of your love,
 FTLN 1530 And be my vantage to exclaim on you.

BASSANIO

FTLN 1531 Madam, you have bereft me of all words.
 FTLN 1532 Only my blood speaks to you in my veins, 180
 FTLN 1533 And there is such confusion in my powers
 FTLN 1534 As after some oration fairly spoke
 FTLN 1535 By a belovèd prince there doth appear
 FTLN 1536 Among the buzzing pleasèd multitude,
 FTLN 1537 Where every something being blent together 185
 FTLN 1538 Turns to a wild of nothing, save of joy
 FTLN 1539 Expressed and not expressed. But when this ring
 FTLN 1540 Parts from this finger, then parts life from hence.
 FTLN 1541 O, then be bold to say Bassanio's dead!

FTLN 1542	My lord and lady, it is now our time,	190
FTLN 1543	That have stood by and seen our wishes prosper,	
FTLN 1544	To cry “Good joy, good joy, my lord and lady!”	
	GRATIANO	
FTLN 1545	My Lord Bassanio, and my gentle lady,	
FTLN 1546	I wish you all the joy that you can wish,	
FTLN 1547	For I am sure you can wish none from me.	195
FTLN 1548	And when your honors mean to solemnize	
FTLN 1549	The bargain of your faith, I do beseech you	
FTLN 1550	Even at that time I may be married too.	
	BASSANIO	
FTLN 1551	With all my heart, so thou canst get a wife.	
	GRATIANO	
FTLN 1552	I thank your Lordship, you have got me one.	200
FTLN 1553	My eyes, my lord, can look as swift as yours:	
FTLN 1554	You saw the mistress, I beheld the maid.	
FTLN 1555	You loved, I loved; for intermission	
FTLN 1556	No more pertains to me, my lord, than you.	
FTLN 1557	Your fortune stood upon the caskets there,	205
FTLN 1558	And so did mine, too, as the matter falls.	
FTLN 1559	For wooing here until I sweat again,	
FTLN 1560	And swearing till my very roof was dry	
FTLN 1561	With oaths of love, at last (if promise last)	
FTLN 1562	I got a promise of this fair one here	210
FTLN 1563	To have her love, provided that your fortune	
FTLN 1564	Achieved her mistress.	
	PORTIA	
FTLN 1565	Is this true, Nerissa?	
	NERISSA	
FTLN 1566	Madam, it is, so you stand pleased withal.	
	BASSANIO	
FTLN 1567	And do you, Gratiano, mean good faith?	215
	GRATIANO	
FTLN 1568	Yes, faith, my lord.	
	BASSANIO	
FTLN 1569	Our feast shall be much honored in your marriage.	
	GRATIANO	
FTLN 1570	We’ll play with them the first boy for a	
FTLN 1571	thousand ducats.	

NERISSA

FTLN 1572 What, and stake down? 220

GRATIANO

FTLN 1573 No, we shall ne'er win at that sport and
FTLN 1574 stake down.

*Enter Lorenzo, Jessica, and Salerio, a messenger
from Venice.*

FTLN 1575 But who comes here? Lorenzo and his infidel?

FTLN 1576 What, and my old Venetian friend Salerio?

BASSANIO

FTLN 1577 Lorenzo and Salerio, welcome hither— 225

FTLN 1578 If that the youth of my new int'rest here

FTLN 1579 Have power to bid you welcome. 「*To Portia.*」 By
FTLN 1580 your leave,

FTLN 1581 I bid my very friends and countrymen,

FTLN 1582 Sweet Portia, welcome. 230

PORTIA

FTLN 1583 So do I, my lord. They are entirely welcome.

LORENZO, 「*to Bassanio*」

FTLN 1584 I thank your Honor. For my part, my lord,

FTLN 1585 My purpose was not to have seen you here,

FTLN 1586 But meeting with Salerio by the way,

FTLN 1587 He did entreat me past all saying nay 235

FTLN 1588 To come with him along.

SALERIO

FTLN 1589 I did, my lord,

FTLN 1590 And I have reason for it.

「*Handing him a paper.*」

FTLN 1591 Signior Antonio

FTLN 1592 Commends him to you. 240

BASSANIO

FTLN 1593 Ere I ope his letter,

FTLN 1594 I pray you tell me how my good friend doth.

SALERIO

FTLN 1595 Not sick, my lord, unless it be in mind,

FTLN 1596 Nor well, unless in mind. His letter there

FTLN 1597 Will show you his estate. 245

「*Bassanio*」 *opens the letter.*

GRATIANO

FTLN 1598 Nerissa, cheer yond stranger, bid her welcome.—

FTLN 1599 Your hand, Salerio. What's the news from Venice?

FTLN 1600 How doth that royal merchant, good Antonio?

FTLN 1601 I know he will be glad of our success.

FTLN 1602 We are the Jasons, we have won the Fleece. 250

SALERIO

FTLN 1603 I would you had won the fleece that he hath lost.

PORTIA

FTLN 1604 There are some shrewd contents in yond same
FTLN 1605 paper

FTLN 1606 That steals the color from Bassanio's cheek.

FTLN 1607 Some dear friend dead, else nothing in the world 255

FTLN 1608 Could turn so much the constitution

FTLN 1609 Of any constant man. What, worse and worse?—

FTLN 1610 With leave, Bassanio, I am half yourself,

FTLN 1611 And I must freely have the half of anything

FTLN 1612 That this same paper brings you. 260

BASSANIO

O sweet Portia,

FTLN 1613 Here are a few of the unpleasant'st words

FTLN 1614 That ever blotted paper. Gentle lady,

FTLN 1615 When I did first impart my love to you,

FTLN 1616 I freely told you all the wealth I had 265

FTLN 1617 Ran in my veins: I was a gentleman.

FTLN 1618 And then I told you true; and yet, dear lady,

FTLN 1619 Rating myself at nothing, you shall see

FTLN 1620 How much I was a braggart. When I told you

FTLN 1621 My state was nothing, I should then have told you 270

FTLN 1622 That I was worse than nothing; for indeed

FTLN 1623 I have engaged myself to a dear friend,

FTLN 1624 Engaged my friend to his mere enemy

FTLN 1625 To feed my means. Here is a letter, lady,

FTLN 1626 The paper as the body of my friend, 275

FTLN 1627 And every word in it a gaping wound

FTLN 1628 Issuing life blood.—But is it true, Salerio?

FTLN 1629 Hath all his ventures failed? What, not one hit?

FTLN 1630 From Tripolis, from Mexico and England,

FTLN 1631 From Lisbon, Barbary, and India, 280

FTLN 1632 And not one vessel 'scape the dreadful touch

FTLN 1633 Of merchant-marring rocks?
FTLN 1634

SALERIO

FTLN 1635 Not one, my lord.
 FTLN 1636 Besides, it should appear that if he had
 FTLN 1637 The present money to discharge the Jew, 285
 FTLN 1638 He would not take it. Never did I know
 FTLN 1639 A creature that did bear the shape of man
 FTLN 1640 So keen and greedy to confound a man.
 FTLN 1641 He plies the Duke at morning and at night,
 FTLN 1642 And doth impeach the freedom of the state 290
 FTLN 1643 If they deny him justice. Twenty merchants,
 FTLN 1644 The Duke himself, and the magnificoes
 FTLN 1645 Of greatest port have all persuaded with him,
 FTLN 1646 But none can drive him from the envious plea
 FTLN 1647 Of forfeiture, of justice, and his bond. 295

JESSICA

FTLN 1648 When I was with him, I have heard him swear
 FTLN 1649 To Tubal and to Chus, his countrymen,
 FTLN 1650 That he would rather have Antonio's flesh
 FTLN 1651 Than twenty times the value of the sum
 FTLN 1652 That he did owe him. And I know, my lord, 300
 FTLN 1653 If law, authority, and power deny not,
 FTLN 1654 It will go hard with poor Antonio.

PORTIA

FTLN 1655 Is it your dear friend that is thus in trouble?

BASSANIO

FTLN 1656 The dearest friend to me, the kindest man,
 FTLN 1657 The best conditioned and unwearied spirit 305
 FTLN 1658 In doing courtesies, and one in whom
 FTLN 1659 The ancient Roman honor more appears
 FTLN 1660 Than any that draws breath in Italy.

PORTIA

FTLN 1661 What sum owes he the Jew?

BASSANIO

FTLN 1662 For me, three thousand ducats. 310

PORTIA

FTLN 1663 What, no more?
 FTLN 1664 Pay him six thousand and deface the bond.
 FTLN 1665 Double six thousand and then treble that,
 FTLN 1666 Before a friend of this description

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The Merchant of Venice

ACT 3. SC. 3

FTLN 1668 First go with me to church and call me wife,
 FTLN 1669 And then away to Venice to your friend!
 FTLN 1670 For never shall you lie by Portia's side
 FTLN 1671 With an unquiet soul. You shall have gold
 FTLN 1672 To pay the petty debt twenty times over. 320
 FTLN 1673 When it is paid, bring your true friend along.
 FTLN 1674 My maid Nerissa and myself meantime
 FTLN 1675 Will live as maids and widows. Come, away,
 FTLN 1676 For you shall hence upon your wedding day.
 FTLN 1677 Bid your friends welcome, show a merry cheer; 325
 FTLN 1678 Since you are dear bought, I will love you dear.
 FTLN 1679 But let me hear the letter of your friend.

〔BASSANIO reads〕

FTLN 1680 *Sweet Bassanio, my ships have all miscarried, my*
 FTLN 1681 *creditors grow cruel, my estate is very low, my bond to*
 FTLN 1682 *the Jew is forfeit, and since in paying it, it is impossible* 330
 FTLN 1683 *I should live, all debts are cleared between you and I if*
 FTLN 1684 *I might but see you at my death. Notwithstanding, use*
 FTLN 1685 *your pleasure. If your love do not persuade you to*
 FTLN 1686 *come, let not my letter.*

PORTIA

FTLN 1687 O love, dispatch all business and begone! 335

BASSANIO

FTLN 1688 Since I have your good leave to go away,
 FTLN 1689 I will make haste. But till I come again,
 FTLN 1690 No bed shall e'er be guilty of my stay,
 FTLN 1691 Nor rest be interposer 'twixt us twain.

They exit.

〔Scene 3〕

Enter 〔Shylock,〕 *the Jew, and* 〔Solanio,〕 *and Antonio,*
and the Jailer.

SHYLOCK

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

FTLN 1693

This is the fool that lent out money gratis.

FTLN 1694

Jailer, look to him.

ANTONIO

FTLN 1695

Hear me yet, good Shylock—

SHYLOCK

FTLN 1696

I'll have my bond. Speak not against my bond. 5

FTLN 1697

I have sworn an oath that I will have my bond.

FTLN 1698

Thou call'dst me dog before thou hadst a cause,

FTLN 1699

But since I am a dog, beware my fangs.

FTLN 1700

The Duke shall grant me justice.—I do wonder,

FTLN 1701

Thou naughty jailer, that thou art so fond 10

FTLN 1702

To come abroad with him at his request.

ANTONIO

FTLN 1703

I pray thee, hear me speak—

SHYLOCK

FTLN 1704

I'll have my bond. I will not hear thee speak.

FTLN 1705

I'll have my bond, and therefore speak no more.

FTLN 1706

I'll not be made a soft and dull-eyed fool, 15

FTLN 1707

To shake the head, relent, and sigh, and yield

FTLN 1708

To Christian intercessors. Follow not!

FTLN 1709

I'll have no speaking. I will have my bond.

[He] exits.

SOLANIO

FTLN 1710

It is the most impenetrable cur

FTLN 1711

That ever kept with men. 20

ANTONIO

FTLN 1712

Let him alone.

FTLN 1713

I'll follow him no more with bootless prayers.

FTLN 1714

He seeks my life. His reason well I know:

FTLN 1715

I oft delivered from his forfeitures

FTLN 1716

Many that have at times made moan to me. 25

FTLN 1717

Therefore he hates me.

SOLANIO

FTLN 1718

I am sure the Duke

FTLN 1719

Will never grant this forfeiture to hold.

ANTONIO

FTLN 1720 The Duke cannot deny the course of law,
FTLN 1721 For the commodity that strangers have 30
FTLN 1722 With us in Venice, if it be denied,
FTLN 1723 Will much impeach the justice of the state,
FTLN 1724 Since that the trade and profit of the city

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The Merchant of Venice

ACT 3. SC. 4

FTLN 1725 Consisteth of all nations. Therefore go.
FTLN 1726 These griefs and losses have so bated me 35
FTLN 1727 That I shall hardly spare a pound of flesh
FTLN 1728 Tomorrow to my bloody creditor.—
FTLN 1729 Well, jailer, on.—Pray God Bassanio come
FTLN 1730 To see me pay his debt, and then I care not.

They exit.

「Scene 4」

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

LORENZO

FTLN 1731 Madam, although I speak it in your presence,
FTLN 1732 You have a noble and a true conceit
FTLN 1733 Of godlike amity, which appears most strongly
FTLN 1734 In bearing thus the absence of your lord.
FTLN 1735 But if you knew to whom you show this honor, 5
FTLN 1736 How true a gentleman you send relief,
FTLN 1737 How dear a lover of my lord your husband,
FTLN 1738 I know you would be prouder of the work
FTLN 1739 Than customary bounty can enforce you.

PORTIA

FTLN 1740 I never did repent for doing good, 10
FTLN 1741 Nor shall not now; for in companions
FTLN 1742 That do converse and waste the time together,
FTLN 1743 Whose souls do bear an equal yoke of love,
FTLN 1744 There must be needs a like proportion
FTLN 1745 Of lineaments, of manners, and of spirit; 15
FTLN 1746 Which makes me think that this Antonio,

FTLN 1747 Being the bosom lover of my lord,
FTLN 1748 Must needs be like my lord. If it be so,
FTLN 1749 How little is the cost I have bestowed
FTLN 1750 In purchasing the semblance of my soul 20
FTLN 1751 From out the state of hellish cruelty!

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The Merchant of Venice

ACT 3. SC. 4

FTLN 1752 This comes too near the praising of myself;
FTLN 1753 Therefore no more of it. Hear other things:
FTLN 1754 Lorenzo, I commit into your hands
FTLN 1755 The husbandry and manage of my house 25
FTLN 1756 Until my lord's return. For mine own part,
FTLN 1757 I have toward heaven breathed a secret vow
FTLN 1758 To live in prayer and contemplation,
FTLN 1759 Only attended by Nerissa here,
FTLN 1760 Until her husband and my lord's return. 30
FTLN 1761 There is a monastery two miles off,
FTLN 1762 And there we will abide. I do desire you
FTLN 1763 Not to deny this imposition,
FTLN 1764 The which my love and some necessity
FTLN 1765 Now lays upon you. 35

LORENZO

FTLN 1766 Madam, with all my heart.
FTLN 1767 I shall obey you in all fair commands.

PORTIA

FTLN 1768 My people do already know my mind
FTLN 1769 And will acknowledge you and Jessica
FTLN 1770 In place of Lord Bassanio and myself. 40
FTLN 1771 So fare you well till we shall meet again.

LORENZO

FTLN 1772 Fair thoughts and happy hours attend on you!

JESSICA

FTLN 1773 I wish your Ladyship all heart's content.

PORTIA

FTLN 1774 I thank you for your wish, and am well pleased
FTLN 1775 To wish it back on you. Fare you well, Jessica. 45

〔Lorenzo and Jessica〕 exit.

FTLN 1776 Now, Balthazar,
FTLN 1777 As I have ever found thee honest true,

FTLN 1778 So let me find thee still: take this same letter,
FTLN 1779 And use thou all th' endeavor of a man
FTLN 1780 In speed to 「Padua.」 See thou render this 50
FTLN 1781 Into my 「cousin's」 hands, Doctor Bellario.
「She gives him a paper.」

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The Merchant of Venice

ACT 3. SC. 4

FTLN 1782 And look what notes and garments he doth give
FTLN 1783 thee,
FTLN 1784 Bring them, I pray thee, with imagined speed
FTLN 1785 Unto the 「traject,」 to the common ferry 55
FTLN 1786 Which trades to Venice. Waste no time in words,
FTLN 1787 But get thee gone. I shall be there before thee.

BALTHAZAR

FTLN 1788 Madam, I go with all convenient speed.
「He exits.」

PORTIA

FTLN 1789 Come on, Nerissa, I have work in hand
FTLN 1790 That you yet know not of. We'll see our husbands 60
FTLN 1791 Before they think of us.

NERISSA

FTLN 1792 Shall they see us?

PORTIA

FTLN 1793 They shall, Nerissa, but in such a habit
FTLN 1794 That they shall think we are accomplishèd
FTLN 1795 With that we lack. I'll hold thee any wager, 65
FTLN 1796 When we are both accoutered like young men,
FTLN 1797 I'll prove the prettier fellow of the two,
FTLN 1798 And wear my dagger with the braver grace,
FTLN 1799 And speak between the change of man and boy
FTLN 1800 With a reed voice, and turn two mincing steps 70
FTLN 1801 Into a manly stride, and speak of frays
FTLN 1802 Like a fine bragging youth, and tell quaint lies
FTLN 1803 How honorable ladies sought my love,
FTLN 1804 Which I denying, they fell sick and died—
FTLN 1805 I could not do withal!—then I'll repent, 75
FTLN 1806 And wish, for all that, that I had not killed them.
FTLN 1807 And twenty of these puny lies I'll tell,
FTLN 1808 That men shall swear I have discontinued school

FTLN 1809 Above a twelvemonth. I have within my mind
FTLN 1810 A thousand raw tricks of these bragging jacks 80
FTLN 1811 Which I will practice.

NERISSA

FTLN 1812 Why, shall we turn to men?

PORTIA

FTLN 1813 Fie, what a question's that,
FTLN 1814 If thou wert near a lewd interpreter!

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The Merchant of Venice

ACT 3. SC. 5

FTLN 1815 But come, I'll tell thee all my whole device 85
FTLN 1816 When I am in my coach, which stays for us
FTLN 1817 At the park gate; and therefore haste away,
FTLN 1818 For we must measure twenty miles today.

They exit.

「Scene 5」

Enter 「Lancelet, the」 Clown, and Jessica.

LANCELET

FTLN 1819 Yes, truly, for look you, the sins of the father
FTLN 1820 are to be laid upon the children. Therefore I
FTLN 1821 promise you I fear you. I was always plain with you,
FTLN 1822 and so now I speak my agitation of the matter.
FTLN 1823 Therefore be o' good cheer, for truly I think you 5
FTLN 1824 are damned. There is but one hope in it that can do
FTLN 1825 you any good, and that is but a kind of bastard hope
FTLN 1826 neither.

JESSICA

FTLN 1827 And what hope is that, I pray thee?

LANCELET

FTLN 1828 Marry, you may partly hope that your father 10
FTLN 1829 got you not, that you are not the Jew's daughter.

JESSICA

FTLN 1830 That were a kind of bastard hope indeed; so
FTLN 1831 the sins of my mother should be visited upon me!

LANCELET

FTLN 1832 Truly, then, I fear you are damned both by
FTLN 1833 father and mother; thus when I shun Scylla your 15
FTLN 1834 father, I fall into Charybdis your mother. Well, you
FTLN 1835 are gone both ways.

JESSICA

FTLN 1836 I shall be saved by my husband. He hath made
FTLN 1837 me a Christian.

LANCELET

FTLN 1838 Truly the more to blame he! We were Christians 20
FTLN 1839 enow before, e'en as many as could well live
FTLN 1840 one by another. This making of Christians will
FTLN 1841 raise the price of hogs. If we grow all to be pork
FTLN 1842 eaters, we shall not shortly have a rasher on the
FTLN 1843 coals for money. 25

Enter Lorenzo.

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The Merchant of Venice

ACT 3. SC. 5

JESSICA

FTLN 1844 I'll tell my husband, Lancelet, what you say.
FTLN 1845 Here he 「comes.」

LORENZO

FTLN 1846 I shall grow jealous of you shortly, Lancelet,
FTLN 1847 if you thus get my wife into corners!

JESSICA

FTLN 1848 Nay, you need not fear us, Lorenzo. Lancelet 30
FTLN 1849 and I are out. He tells me flatly there's no mercy for
FTLN 1850 me in heaven because I am a Jew's daughter; and
FTLN 1851 he says you are no good member of the commonwealth,
FTLN 1852 for in converting Jews to Christians you
FTLN 1853 raise the price of pork. 35

LORENZO

FTLN 1854 I shall answer that better to the commonwealth
FTLN 1855 than you can the getting up of the Negro's
FTLN 1856 belly! The Moor is with child by you, Lancelet.

LANCELET

FTLN 1857 It is much that the Moor should be more
FTLN 1858 than reason; but if she be less than an honest 40

FTLN 1859 woman, she is indeed more than I took her for.
 LORENZO

FTLN 1860 How every fool can play upon the word! I
 FTLN 1861 think the best grace of wit will shortly turn into
 FTLN 1862 silence, and discourse grow commendable in none
 FTLN 1863 only but parrots. Go in, sirrah, bid them prepare for 45
 FTLN 1864 dinner.

LANCELET

FTLN 1865 That is done, sir. They have all stomachs.
 LORENZO

FTLN 1866 Goodly Lord, what a wit-snapper are you!
 FTLN 1867 Then bid them prepare dinner.

LANCELET

FTLN 1868 That is done too, sir, only “cover” is the 50
 FTLN 1869 word.

LORENZO

FTLN 1870 Will you cover, then, sir?
 LANCELET

FTLN 1871 Not so, sir, neither! I know my duty.
 LORENZO

FTLN 1872 Yet more quarreling with occasion! Wilt
 FTLN 1873 thou show the whole wealth of thy wit in an 55
 FTLN 1874 instant? I pray thee understand a plain man in his
 FTLN 1875 plain meaning: go to thy fellows, bid them cover the
 FTLN 1876 table, serve in the meat, and we will come in to
 FTLN 1877 dinner.

LANCELET

FTLN 1878 For the table, sir, it shall be served in; for 60
 FTLN 1879 the meat, sir, it shall be covered; for your coming in

FTLN 1880 to dinner, sir, why, let it be as humors and conceits
 FTLN 1881 shall govern.
 [Lancelet] exits.

LORENZO

FTLN 1882 O dear discretion, how his words are suited!
 FTLN 1883 The fool hath planted in his memory 65
 FTLN 1884 An army of good words, and I do know
 FTLN 1885 A many fools that stand in better place,

FTLN 1886 Garnished like him, that for a tricky word
FTLN 1887 Defy the matter. How cheer'st thou, Jessica?
FTLN 1888 And now, good sweet, say thy opinion 70
FTLN 1889 How dost thou like the Lord Bassanio's wife?

JESSICA

FTLN 1890 Past all expressing. It is very meet
FTLN 1891 The Lord Bassanio live an upright life,
FTLN 1892 For having such a blessing in his lady
FTLN 1893 He finds the joys of heaven here on Earth, 75
FTLN 1894 And if on Earth he do not 'merit' it,
FTLN 1895 In reason he should never come to heaven.
FTLN 1896 Why, if two gods should play some heavenly match,
FTLN 1897 And on the wager lay two earthly women,
FTLN 1898 And Portia one, there must be something else 80
FTLN 1899 Pawned with the other, for the poor rude world
FTLN 1900 Hath not her fellow.

LORENZO

FTLN 1901 Even such a husband
FTLN 1902 Hast thou of me as she is for 'a' wife.

JESSICA

FTLN 1903 Nay, but ask my opinion too of that! 85

LORENZO

FTLN 1904 I will anon. First let us go to dinner.

JESSICA

FTLN 1905 Nay, let me praise you while I have a stomach!

LORENZO

FTLN 1906 No, pray thee, let it serve for table talk.
FTLN 1907 Then howsome'er thou speak'st, 'mong other things
FTLN 1908 I shall digest it. 90

JESSICA

FTLN 1909 Well, I'll set you forth.

'They' exit.

ACT 4

「Scene 1」

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

DUKE

FTLN 1910 What, is Antonio here?

ANTONIO

FTLN 1911 Ready, so please your Grace.

DUKE

FTLN 1912 I am sorry for thee. Thou art come to answer

FTLN 1913 A stony adversary, an inhuman wretch,

FTLN 1914 Uncapable of pity, void and empty

5

FTLN 1915 From any dram of mercy.

ANTONIO

FTLN 1916 I have heard

FTLN 1917 Your Grace hath ta'en great pains to qualify

FTLN 1918 His rigorous course; but since he stands obdurate,

FTLN 1919 And that no lawful means can carry me

10

FTLN 1920 Out of his envy's reach, I do oppose

FTLN 1921 My patience to his fury, and am armed

FTLN 1922 To suffer with a quietness of spirit

FTLN 1923 The very tyranny and rage of his.

DUKE

FTLN 1924 Go, one, and call the Jew into the court.

15

SALERIO

FTLN 1925 He is ready at the door. He comes, my lord.

Enter Shylock.

DUKE

FTLN 1926 Make room, and let him stand before our face.—

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The Merchant of Venice

ACT 4. SC. 1

FTLN 1927 Shylock, the world thinks, and I think so too,

FTLN 1928 That thou but ledest this fashion of thy malice

FTLN 1929 To the last hour of act, and then, 'tis thought,

20

FTLN 1930 Thou 'lt show thy mercy and remorse more strange

FTLN 1931 Than is thy strange apparent cruelty;

FTLN 1932	And where thou now exacts the penalty,	
FTLN 1933	Which is a pound of this poor merchant's flesh,	
FTLN 1934	Thou wilt not only loose the forfeiture,	25
FTLN 1935	But, touched with humane gentleness and love,	
FTLN 1936	Forgive a moi'ty of the principal,	
FTLN 1937	Glancing an eye of pity on his losses	
FTLN 1938	That have of late so huddled on his back,	
FTLN 1939	Enow to press a royal merchant down	30
FTLN 1940	And pluck commiseration of 'his state'	
FTLN 1941	From brassy bosoms and rough hearts of 'flint,'	
FTLN 1942	From stubborn Turks, and Tartars never trained	
FTLN 1943	To offices of tender courtesy.	
FTLN 1944	We all expect a gentle answer, Jew.	35

SHYLOCK

FTLN 1945	I have possessed your Grace of what I purpose,	
FTLN 1946	And by our holy Sabbath have I sworn	
FTLN 1947	To have the due and forfeit of my bond.	
FTLN 1948	If you deny it, let the danger light	
FTLN 1949	Upon your charter and your city's freedom!	40
FTLN 1950	You'll ask me why I rather choose to have	
FTLN 1951	A weight of carrion flesh than to receive	
FTLN 1952	Three thousand ducats. I'll not answer that,	
FTLN 1953	But say it is my humor. Is it answered?	
FTLN 1954	What if my house be troubled with a rat,	45
FTLN 1955	And I be pleased to give ten thousand ducats	
FTLN 1956	To have it baned? What, are you answered yet?	
FTLN 1957	Some men there are love not a gaping pig,	
FTLN 1958	Some that are mad if they behold a cat,	
FTLN 1959	And others, when the bagpipe sings i' th' nose,	50
FTLN 1960	Cannot contain their urine; for affection	
FTLN 1961	Masters 'oft' passion, sways it to the mood	

FTLN 1962	Of what it likes or loathes. Now for your answer:	
FTLN 1963	As there is no firm reason to be rendered	
FTLN 1964	Why he cannot abide a gaping pig,	55
FTLN 1965	Why he a harmless necessary cat,	
FTLN 1966	Why he a woolen bagpipe, but of force	
FTLN 1967	Must yield to such inevitable shame	

FTLN 1968	As to offend, himself being offended,	
FTLN 1969	So can I give no reason, nor I will not,	60
FTLN 1970	More than a lodged hate and a certain loathing	
FTLN 1971	I bear Antonio, that I follow thus	
FTLN 1972	A losing suit against him. Are you answered?	
	BASSANIO	
FTLN 1973	This is no answer, thou unfeeling man,	
FTLN 1974	To excuse the current of thy cruelty.	65
	SHYLOCK	
FTLN 1975	I am not bound to please thee with my answers.	
	BASSANIO	
FTLN 1976	Do all men kill the things they do not love?	
	SHYLOCK	
FTLN 1977	Hates any man the thing he would not kill?	
	BASSANIO	
FTLN 1978	Every offence is not a hate at first.	
	SHYLOCK	
FTLN 1979	What, wouldst thou have a serpent sting thee twice?	70
	ANTONIO, 「to Bassanio」	
FTLN 1980	I pray you, think you question with the Jew.	
FTLN 1981	You may as well go stand upon the beach	
FTLN 1982	And bid the main flood bate his usual height;	
FTLN 1983	You may as well use question with the wolf	
FTLN 1984	Why he hath made the ewe 「bleat」 for the lamb;	75
FTLN 1985	You may as well forbid the mountain pines	
FTLN 1986	To wag their high tops and to make no noise	
FTLN 1987	When they are fretten with the gusts of heaven;	
FTLN 1988	You may as well do anything most hard	
FTLN 1989	As seek to soften that than which what's harder?—	80
FTLN 1990	His Jewish heart. Therefore I do beseech you	

FTLN 1991	Make no more offers, use no farther means,	
FTLN 1992	But with all brief and plain conveniency	
FTLN 1993	Let me have judgment and the Jew his will.	
	BASSANIO	
FTLN 1994	For thy three thousand ducats here is six.	85
	SHYLOCK	
FTLN 1995	If every ducat in six thousand ducats	

FTLN 1996	Were in six parts, and every part a ducat,	
FTLN 1997	I would not draw them. I would have my bond.	
	DUKE	
FTLN 1998	How shalt thou hope for mercy, rend'ring none?	
	SHYLOCK	
FTLN 1999	What judgment shall I dread, doing no wrong?	90
FTLN 2000	You have among you many a purchased slave,	
FTLN 2001	Which, like your asses and your dogs and mules,	
FTLN 2002	You use in abject and in slavish parts	
FTLN 2003	Because you bought them. Shall I say to you	
FTLN 2004	“Let them be free! Marry them to your heirs!	95
FTLN 2005	Why sweat they under burdens? Let their beds	
FTLN 2006	Be made as soft as yours, and let their palates	
FTLN 2007	Be seasoned with such viands”? You will answer	
FTLN 2008	“The slaves are ours!” So do I answer you:	
FTLN 2009	The pound of flesh which I demand of him	100
FTLN 2010	Is dearly bought; 'tis mine and I will have it.	
FTLN 2011	If you deny me, fie upon your law:	
FTLN 2012	There is no force in the decrees of Venice.	
FTLN 2013	I stand for judgment. Answer: shall I have it?	
	DUKE	
FTLN 2014	Upon my power I may dismiss this court	105
FTLN 2015	Unless Bellario, a learnèd doctor	
FTLN 2016	Whom I have sent for to determine this,	
FTLN 2017	Come here today.	
	SALERIO	
FTLN 2018	My lord, here stays without	
FTLN 2019	A messenger with letters from the doctor,	110
FTLN 2020	New come from Padua.	

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!

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ANTONIO

I am a tainted wether of the flock,

FTLN 2026 Meetest for death. The weakest kind of fruit
FTLN 2027 Drops earliest to the ground, and so let me.
FTLN 2028 You cannot better be employed, Bassanio,
FTLN 2029 Than to live still and write mine epitaph. 120

Enter Nerissa, 「disguised as a lawyer's clerk.」

DUKE

FTLN 2030 Came you from Padua, from Bellario?

NERISSA, 「*as Clerk*」

FTLN 2031 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

FTLN 2032 Why dost thou whet thy knife so earnestly?

SHYLOCK

FTLN 2033 To cut the forfeiture from that bankrout there.

GRATIANO

FTLN 2034 Not on thy sole but on thy soul, harsh Jew, 125

FTLN 2035 Thou mak'st thy knife keen. But no metal can,

FTLN 2036 No, not the hangman's axe, bear half the keenness

FTLN 2037 Of thy sharp envy. Can no prayers pierce thee?

SHYLOCK

FTLN 2038 No, none that thou hast wit enough to make.

GRATIANO

FTLN 2039 O, be thou damned, inexecrable dog, 130

FTLN 2040 And for thy life let justice be accused;

FTLN 2041 Thou almost mak'st me waver in my faith,

FTLN 2042 To hold opinion with Pythagoras

151

The Merchant of Venice

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FTLN 2043 That souls of animals infuse themselves
FTLN 2044 Into the trunks of men. Thy currish spirit 135

FTLN 2045 Governed a wolf who, hanged for human slaughter,

FTLN 2046 Even from the gallows did his fell soul fleet,

FTLN 2047 And whilst thou layest in thy unhallowed dam,

FTLN 2048 Infused itself in thee, for thy desires

FTLN 2049 Are wolfish, bloody, starved, and ravenous. 140

SHYLOCK

FTLN 2050 Till thou canst rail the seal from off my bond,
FTLN 2051 Thou but offend'st thy lungs to speak so loud.
FTLN 2052 Repair thy wit, good youth, or it will fall
FTLN 2053 To cureless ruin. I stand here for law.

DUKE

FTLN 2054 This letter from Bellario doth commend 145
FTLN 2055 A young and learnèd doctor to our court.
FTLN 2056 Where is he?

NERISSA, *「as Clerk」*

FTLN 2057 He attendeth here hard by
FTLN 2058 To know your answer whether you'll admit him.

DUKE

FTLN 2059 With all my heart.—Some three or four of you 150
FTLN 2060 Go give him courteous conduct to this place.

「Attendants exit.」

FTLN 2061 Meantime the court shall hear Bellario's letter.

「He reads.」

FTLN 2062 *Your Grace shall understand that, at the receipt of*
FTLN 2063 *your letter, I am very sick, but in the instant that your*
FTLN 2064 *messenger came, in loving visitation was with me a 155*
FTLN 2065 *young doctor of Rome. His name is Balthazar. I*
FTLN 2066 *acquainted him with the cause in controversy between*
FTLN 2067 *the Jew and Antonio the merchant. We turned o'er*
FTLN 2068 *many books together. He is furnished with my opinion,*
FTLN 2069 *which, bettered with his own learning (the greatness 160*
FTLN 2070 *whereof I cannot enough commend), comes with*
FTLN 2071 *him at my importunity to fill up your Grace's request*
FTLN 2072 *in my stead. I beseech you let his lack of years be no*
FTLN 2073 *impediment to let him lack a reverend estimation, for I*

FTLN 2074 *never knew so young a body with so old a head. I 165*
FTLN 2075 *leave him to your gracious acceptance, whose trial*
FTLN 2076 *shall better publish his commendation.*

FTLN 2077 You hear the learnèd Bellario what he writes.

*Enter Portia for Balthazar, 「disguised as a doctor of
laws, with Attendants.」*

FTLN 2078	And here I take it is the doctor come.—	
FTLN 2079	Give me your hand. Come you from old Bellario?	170
	PORTIA, 「 <i>as Balthazar</i> 」	
FTLN 2080	I did, my lord.	
	DUKE	
	You are welcome. Take your place.	
FTLN 2081	Are you acquainted with the difference	
FTLN 2082	That holds this present question in the court?	
FTLN 2083	PORTIA, 「 <i>as Balthazar</i> 」	
FTLN 2084	I am informèd throughly of the cause.	175
FTLN 2085	Which is the merchant here? And which the Jew?	
	DUKE	
FTLN 2086	Antonio and old Shylock, both stand forth.	
	PORTIA, 「 <i>as Balthazar</i> 」	
FTLN 2087	Is your name Shylock?	
	SHYLOCK	
FTLN 2088	Shylock is my name.	
	PORTIA, 「 <i>as Balthazar</i> 」	
FTLN 2089	Of a strange nature is the suit you follow,	180
FTLN 2090	Yet in such rule that the Venetian law	
FTLN 2091	Cannot impugn you as you do proceed.	
FTLN 2092	「 <i>To Antonio.</i> 」 You stand within his danger, do you	
FTLN 2093	not?	
	ANTONIO	
FTLN 2094	Ay, so he says.	185
	PORTIA, 「 <i>as Balthazar</i> 」	
FTLN 2095	Do you confess the bond?	
	ANTONIO	
FTLN 2096	I do.	
	PORTIA, 「 <i>as Balthazar</i> 」	
FTLN 2097	Then must the Jew be merciful.	
	SHYLOCK	
FTLN 2098	On what compulsion must I? Tell me that.	

	PORTIA, 「 <i>as Balthazar</i> 」	
FTLN 2099	The quality of mercy is not strained.	190
FTLN 2100	It droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven	

FTLN 2101 Upon the place beneath. It is twice blest:
 FTLN 2102 It blesseth him that gives and him that takes.
 FTLN 2103 'Tis mightiest in the mightiest; it becomes
 FTLN 2104 The thronèd monarch better than his crown. 195
 FTLN 2105 His scepter shows the force of temporal power,
 FTLN 2106 The attribute to awe and majesty
 FTLN 2107 Wherein doth sit the dread and fear of kings;
 FTLN 2108 But mercy is above this sceptered sway.
 FTLN 2109 It is enthronèd in the hearts of kings; 200
 FTLN 2110 It is an attribute to God Himself;
 FTLN 2111 And earthly power doth then show likest God's
 FTLN 2112 When mercy seasons justice. Therefore, Jew,
 FTLN 2113 Though justice be thy plea, consider this:
 FTLN 2114 That in the course of justice none of us 205
 FTLN 2115 Should see salvation. We do pray for mercy,
 FTLN 2116 And that same prayer doth teach us all to render
 FTLN 2117 The deeds of mercy. I have spoke thus much
 FTLN 2118 To mitigate the justice of thy plea,
 FTLN 2119 Which, if thou follow, this strict court of Venice 210
 FTLN 2120 Must needs give sentence 'gainst the merchant
 FTLN 2121 there.

SHYLOCK

FTLN 2122 My deeds upon my head! I crave the law,
 FTLN 2123 The penalty and forfeit of my bond.

PORTIA, 「*as Balthazar*」

FTLN 2124 Is he not able to discharge the money? 215

BASSANIO

FTLN 2125 Yes. Here I tender it for him in the court,
 FTLN 2126 Yea, twice the sum. If that will not suffice,
 FTLN 2127 I will be bound to pay it ten times o'er
 FTLN 2128 On forfeit of my hands, my head, my heart.
 FTLN 2129 If this will not suffice, it must appear 220

FTLN 2130 That malice bears down truth. 「*To the Duke.*」 And I
 FTLN 2131 beseech you,
 FTLN 2132 Wrest once the law to your authority.
 FTLN 2133 To do a great right, do a little wrong,
 FTLN 2134 And curb this cruel devil of his will. 225

PORTIA, 「*as Balthazar*」

FTLN 2135 It must not be. There is no power in Venice
FTLN 2136 Can alter a decree establishèd;
FTLN 2137 'Twill be recorded for a precedent
FTLN 2138 And many an error by the same example
FTLN 2139 Will rush into the state. It cannot be. 230

SHYLOCK

FTLN 2140 A Daniel come to judgment! Yea, a Daniel.
FTLN 2141 O wise young judge, how I do honor thee!

PORTIA, 「*as Balthazar*」

FTLN 2142 I pray you let me look upon the bond.

SHYLOCK

FTLN 2143 Here 'tis, most reverend doctor, here it is.
「*Handing Portia a paper.*」

PORTIA, 「*as Balthazar*」

FTLN 2144 Shylock, there's thrice thy money offered thee. 235

SHYLOCK

FTLN 2145 An oath, an oath, I have an oath in heaven!
FTLN 2146 Shall I lay perjury upon my soul?

FTLN 2147 「No,」 not for Venice!

PORTIA, 「*as Balthazar*」

FTLN 2148 Why, this bond is forfeit,
FTLN 2149 And lawfully by this the Jew may claim 240
FTLN 2150 A pound of flesh, to be by him cut off
FTLN 2151 Nearest the merchant's heart.—Be merciful;
FTLN 2152 Take thrice thy money; bid me tear the bond.

SHYLOCK

FTLN 2153 When it is paid according to the tenor.
FTLN 2154 It doth appear you are a worthy judge; 245
FTLN 2155 You know the law; your exposition
FTLN 2156 Hath been most sound. I charge you by the law,
FTLN 2157 Whereof you are a well-deserving pillar,

FTLN 2158 Proceed to judgment. By my soul I swear
FTLN 2159 There is no power in the tongue of man 250
FTLN 2160 To alter me. I stay here on my bond.

ANTONIO

FTLN 2161 Most heartily I do beseech the court

FTLN 2162 To give the judgment.
PORTIA, 「*as Balthazar*」

FTLN 2163 Why, then, thus it is:

FTLN 2164 You must prepare your bosom for his knife— 255
SHYLOCK

FTLN 2165 O noble judge! O excellent young man!
PORTIA, 「*as Balthazar*」

FTLN 2166 For the intent and purpose of the law
FTLN 2167 Hath full relation to the penalty,
FTLN 2168 Which here appeareth due upon the bond.
SHYLOCK

FTLN 2169 'Tis very true. O wise and upright judge, 260
FTLN 2170 How much more elder art thou than thy looks!
PORTIA, 「*as Balthazar, to Antonio*」

FTLN 2171 Therefore lay bare your bosom—
SHYLOCK

FTLN 2172 Ay, his breast!
FTLN 2173 So says the bond, doth it not, noble judge?
FTLN 2174 “Nearest his heart.” Those are the very words. 265
PORTIA, 「*as Balthazar*」

FTLN 2175 It is so.
FTLN 2176 Are there balance here to weigh the flesh?
SHYLOCK

FTLN 2177 I have them ready.
PORTIA, 「*as Balthazar*」

FTLN 2178 Have by some surgeon, Shylock, on your charge,
FTLN 2179 To stop his wounds, lest he do bleed to death. 270
SHYLOCK

FTLN 2180 Is it so nominated in the bond?
PORTIA, 「*as Balthazar*」

FTLN 2181 It is not so expressed, but what of that?
FTLN 2182 'Twere good you do so much for charity.
SHYLOCK

FTLN 2183 I cannot find it. 'Tis not in the bond.

FTLN 2184 PORTIA, 「*as Balthazar*」
You, merchant, have you anything to say? 275
ANTONIO

FTLN 2185 But little. I am armed and well prepared.—
 FTLN 2186 Give me your hand, Bassanio. Fare you well.
 FTLN 2187 Grieve not that I am fall'n to this for you,
 FTLN 2188 For herein Fortune shows herself more kind
 FTLN 2189 Than is her custom: it is still her use 280
 FTLN 2190 To let the wretched man outlive his wealth,
 FTLN 2191 To view with hollow eye and wrinkled brow
 FTLN 2192 An age of poverty, from which ling'ring penance
 FTLN 2193 Of such misery doth she cut me off.
 FTLN 2194 Commend me to your honorable wife, 285
 FTLN 2195 Tell her the process of Antonio's end,
 FTLN 2196 Say how I loved you, speak me fair in death,
 FTLN 2197 And when the tale is told, bid her be judge
 FTLN 2198 Whether Bassanio had not once a love.
 FTLN 2199 Repent but you that you shall lose your friend 290
 FTLN 2200 And he repents not that he pays your debt.
 FTLN 2201 For if the Jew do cut but deep enough,
 FTLN 2202 I'll pay it instantly with all my heart.

BASSANIO

FTLN 2203 Antonio, I am married to a wife
 FTLN 2204 Which is as dear to me as life itself, 295
 FTLN 2205 But life itself, my wife, and all the world
 FTLN 2206 Are not with me esteemed above thy life.
 FTLN 2207 I would lose all, ay, sacrifice them all
 FTLN 2208 Here to this devil, to deliver you.

PORTIA, [*aside*]

FTLN 2209 Your wife would give you little thanks for that 300
 FTLN 2210 If she were by to hear you make the offer.

GRATIANO

FTLN 2211 I have a wife who I protest I love.
 FTLN 2212 I would she were in heaven, so she could
 FTLN 2213 Entreat some power to change this currish Jew.

NERISSA, [*aside*]

FTLN 2214 'Tis well you offer it behind her back. 305
 FTLN 2215 The wish would make else an unquiet house.

SHYLOCK

FTLN 2216 These be the Christian husbands! I have a

FTLN 2217 daughter—
 FTLN 2218 Would any of the stock of Barabbas
 FTLN 2219 Had been her husband, rather than a Christian! 310
 FTLN 2220 We trifle time. I pray thee, pursue sentence.
 PORTIA, 「*as Balthazar*」
 FTLN 2221 A pound of that same merchant's flesh is thine:
 FTLN 2222 The court awards it, and the law doth give it.
 SHYLOCK
 FTLN 2223 Most rightful judge!
 PORTIA, 「*as Balthazar*」
 FTLN 2224 And you must cut this flesh from off his breast: 315
 FTLN 2225 The law allows it, and the court awards it.
 SHYLOCK
 FTLN 2226 Most learnèd judge! A sentence!—Come, prepare.
 PORTIA, 「*as Balthazar*」
 FTLN 2227 Tarry a little. There is something else.
 FTLN 2228 This bond doth give thee here no jot of blood.
 FTLN 2229 The words expressly are “a pound of flesh.” 320
 FTLN 2230 Take then thy bond, take thou thy pound of flesh,
 FTLN 2231 But in the cutting it, if thou dost shed
 FTLN 2232 One drop of Christian blood, thy lands and goods
 FTLN 2233 Are by the laws of Venice confiscate
 FTLN 2234 Unto the state of Venice. 325
 GRATIANO
 FTLN 2235 O upright judge!—Mark, Jew.—O learnèd judge!
 SHYLOCK
 FTLN 2236 Is that the law?
 PORTIA, 「*as Balthazar*」
 FTLN 2237 Thyself shalt see the act.
 FTLN 2238 For, as thou urgest justice, be assured
 FTLN 2239 Thou shalt have justice more than thou desir'st. 330
 GRATIANO
 FTLN 2240 O learnèd judge!—Mark, Jew, a learnèd judge!

SHYLOCK

FTLN 2241 I take this offer then. Pay the bond thrice
 FTLN 2242 And let the Christian go.

BASSANIO

FTLN 2243	Here is the money.	
	PORTIA, 「 <i>as Balthazar</i> 」	
FTLN 2244	Soft! The Jew shall have all justice. Soft, no haste!	335
FTLN 2245	He shall have nothing but the penalty.	
	GRATIANO	
FTLN 2246	O Jew, an upright judge, a learnèd judge!	
	PORTIA, 「 <i>as Balthazar</i> 」	
FTLN 2247	Therefore prepare thee to cut off the flesh.	
FTLN 2248	Shed thou no blood, nor cut thou less nor more	
FTLN 2249	But just a pound of flesh. If thou tak'st more	340
FTLN 2250	Or less than a just pound, be it but so much	
FTLN 2251	As makes it light or heavy in the substance	
FTLN 2252	Or the division of the twentieth part	
FTLN 2253	Of one poor scruple—nay, if the scale do turn	
FTLN 2254	But in the estimation of a hair,	345
FTLN 2255	Thou diest, and all thy goods are confiscate.	
	GRATIANO	
FTLN 2256	A second Daniel! A Daniel, Jew!	
FTLN 2257	Now, infidel, I have you on the hip.	
	PORTIA, 「 <i>as Balthazar</i> 」	
FTLN 2258	Why doth the Jew pause? Take thy forfeiture.	
	SHYLOCK	
FTLN 2259	Give me my principal and let me go.	350
	BASSANIO	
FTLN 2260	I have it ready for thee. Here it is.	
	PORTIA, 「 <i>as Balthazar</i> 」	
FTLN 2261	He hath refused it in the open court.	
FTLN 2262	He shall have merely justice and his bond.	
	GRATIANO	
FTLN 2263	A Daniel still, say I! A second Daniel!—	
FTLN 2264	I thank thee, Jew, for teaching me that word.	355
	SHYLOCK	
FTLN 2265	Shall I not have barely my principal?	

	PORTIA, 「 <i>as Balthazar</i> 」	
FTLN 2266	Thou shalt have nothing but the forfeiture	
FTLN 2267	To be so taken at thy peril, Jew.	
	SHYLOCK	

FTLN 2268	Why, then, the devil give him good of it!	
FTLN 2269	I'll stay no longer question.	360
		「 <i>He begins to exit.</i> 」
	PORTIA, 「 <i>as Balthazar</i> 」	
FTLN 2270	Tarry, Jew.	
FTLN 2271	The law hath yet another hold on you.	
FTLN 2272	It is enacted in the laws of Venice,	
FTLN 2273	If it be proved against an alien	
FTLN 2274	That by direct or indirect attempts	365
FTLN 2275	He seek the life of any citizen,	
FTLN 2276	The party 'gainst the which he doth contrive	
FTLN 2277	Shall seize one half his goods; the other half	
FTLN 2278	Comes to the privy coffer of the state,	
FTLN 2279	And the offender's life lies in the mercy	370
FTLN 2280	Of the Duke only, 'gainst all other voice.	
FTLN 2281	In which predicament I say thou stand'st,	
FTLN 2282	For it appears by manifest proceeding	
FTLN 2283	That indirectly, and directly too,	
FTLN 2284	Thou hast contrived against the very life	375
FTLN 2285	Of the defendant, and thou hast incurred	
FTLN 2286	The danger formerly by me rehearsed.	
FTLN 2287	Down, therefore, and beg mercy of the Duke.	
	GRATIANO	
FTLN 2288	Beg that thou mayst have leave to hang thyself!	
FTLN 2289	And yet, thy wealth being forfeit to the state,	380
FTLN 2290	Thou hast not left the value of a cord;	
FTLN 2291	Therefore thou must be hanged at the state's	
FTLN 2292	charge.	
	DUKE	
FTLN 2293	That thou shalt see the difference of our spirit,	
FTLN 2294	I pardon thee thy life before thou ask it.	385
FTLN 2295	For half thy wealth, it is Antonio's;	
FTLN 2296	The other half comes to the general state,	
FTLN 2297	Which humbleness may drive unto a fine.	

PORTIA, 「*as Balthazar*」

FTLN 2298 Ay, for the state, not for Antonio.

SHYLOCK

FTLN 2299	Nay, take my life and all. Pardon not that.	390
FTLN 2300	You take my house when you do take the prop	
FTLN 2301	That doth sustain my house; you take my life	
FTLN 2302	When you do take the means whereby I live.	
	PORTIA, 「 <i>as Balthazar</i> 」	
FTLN 2303	What mercy can you render him, Antonio?	
	GRATIANO	
FTLN 2304	A halter gratis, nothing else, for God's sake!	395
	ANTONIO	
FTLN 2305	So please my lord the Duke and all the court	
FTLN 2306	To quit the fine for one half of his goods,	
FTLN 2307	I am content, so he will let me have	
FTLN 2308	The other half in use, to render it	
FTLN 2309	Upon his death unto the gentleman	400
FTLN 2310	That lately stole his daughter.	
FTLN 2311	Two things provided more: that for this favor	
FTLN 2312	He presently become a Christian;	
FTLN 2313	The other, that he do record a gift,	
FTLN 2314	Here in the court, of all he dies possessed	405
FTLN 2315	Unto his son Lorenzo and his daughter.	
	DUKE	
FTLN 2316	He shall do this, or else I do recant	
FTLN 2317	The pardon that I late pronouncèd here.	
	PORTIA, 「 <i>as Balthazar</i> 」	
FTLN 2318	Art thou contented, Jew? What dost thou say?	
	SHYLOCK	
FTLN 2319	I am content.	410
	PORTIA, 「 <i>as Balthazar</i> 」	
FTLN 2320	Clerk, draw a deed of gift.	
	SHYLOCK	
FTLN 2321	I pray you give me leave to go from hence.	
FTLN 2322	I am not well. Send the deed after me	
FTLN 2323	And I will sign it.	
	DUKE	
FTLN 2324	Get thee gone, but do it.	415

「GRATIANO」

In christ'ning shalt thou have two godfathers.

FTLN 2326 Had I been judge, thou shouldst have had ten more,
 FTLN 2327 To bring thee to the gallows, not to the font.
「*Shylock*」 exits.

DUKE, 「*to Portia as Balthazar*」
 FTLN 2328 Sir, I entreat you home with me to dinner.

PORTIA, 「*as Balthazar*」
 FTLN 2329 I humbly do desire your Grace of pardon. 420
 FTLN 2330 I must away this night toward Padua,
 FTLN 2331 And it is meet I presently set forth.

DUKE
 FTLN 2332 I am sorry that your leisure serves you not.—
 FTLN 2333 Antonio, gratify this gentleman,
 FTLN 2334 For in my mind you are much bound to him. 425
The Duke and his train exit.

BASSANIO, 「*to Portia as Balthazar*」
 FTLN 2335 Most worthy gentleman, I and my friend
 FTLN 2336 Have by your wisdom been this day acquitted
 FTLN 2337 Of grievous penalties, in lieu whereof
 FTLN 2338 Three thousand ducats due unto the Jew
 FTLN 2339 We freely cope your courteous pains withal. 430

ANTONIO
 FTLN 2340 And stand indebted, over and above,
 FTLN 2341 In love and service to you evermore.

PORTIA, 「*as Balthazar*」
 FTLN 2342 He is well paid that is well satisfied,
 FTLN 2343 And I, delivering you, am satisfied,
 FTLN 2344 And therein do account myself well paid. 435
 FTLN 2345 My mind was never yet more mercenary.
 FTLN 2346 I pray you know me when we meet again.
 FTLN 2347 I wish you well, and so I take my leave.
「*She begins to exit.*」

BASSANIO
 FTLN 2348 Dear sir, of force I must attempt you further.
 FTLN 2349 Take some remembrance of us as a tribute, 440

FTLN 2350 Not as fee. Grant me two things, I pray you:
 FTLN 2351 Not to deny me, and to pardon me.
 PORTIA, 「*as Balthazar*」

FTLN 2352 You press me far, and therefore I will yield.
FTLN 2353 Give me your gloves; I'll wear them for your sake—
FTLN 2354 And for your love I'll take this ring from you. 445
FTLN 2355 Do not draw back your hand; I'll take no more,
FTLN 2356 And you in love shall not deny me this.

BASSANIO

FTLN 2357 This ring, good sir? Alas, it is a trifle.
FTLN 2358 I will not shame myself to give you this.

PORTIA, 「*as Balthazar*」

FTLN 2359 I will have nothing else but only this. 450
FTLN 2360 And now methinks I have a mind to it.

BASSANIO

FTLN 2361 There's more depends on this than on the value.
FTLN 2362 The dearest ring in Venice will I give you,
FTLN 2363 And find it out by proclamation.

FTLN 2364 Only for this, I pray you pardon me. 455

PORTIA, 「*as Balthazar*」

FTLN 2365 I see, sir, you are liberal in offers.
FTLN 2366 You taught me first to beg, and now methinks
FTLN 2367 You teach me how a beggar should be answered.

BASSANIO

FTLN 2368 Good sir, this ring was given me by my wife,
FTLN 2369 And when she put it on, she made me vow 460
FTLN 2370 That I should neither sell nor give nor lose it.

PORTIA, 「*as Balthazar*」

FTLN 2371 That 'scuse serves many men to save their gifts.
FTLN 2372 And if your wife be not a madwoman,
FTLN 2373 And know how well I have deserved this ring,
FTLN 2374 She would not hold out enemy forever 465
FTLN 2375 For giving it to me. Well, peace be with you.

「*Portia and Nerissa*」 *exit.*

ANTONIO

FTLN 2376 My Lord Bassanio, let him have the ring.

FTLN 2377 Let his deservings and my love withal
FTLN 2378 Be valued 'gainst your wife's commandment.

BASSANIO

FTLN 2379 Go, Gratiano, run and overtake him. 470

FTLN 2380
FTLN 2381

FTLN 2382
FTLN 2383
FTLN 2384

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 2」

Enter 「Portia and」 Nerissa, 「still in disguise.」

PORTIA

FTLN 2385
FTLN 2386
FTLN 2387
FTLN 2388
FTLN 2389

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.

5

Enter Gratiano.

GRATIANO

FTLN 2390
FTLN 2391
FTLN 2392
FTLN 2393

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.

「*He gives her a ring.*」

PORTIA, 「*as Balthazar*」

FTLN 2394
FTLN 2395
FTLN 2396
FTLN 2397

That cannot be.
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.

10

GRATIANO

FTLN 2398

That will I do.

FTLN 2399

NERISSA, 「*as Clerk*」

Sir, I would speak with you.

15

FTLN 2400	「 <i>Aside to Portia.</i> 」 I'll see if I can get my husband's	
FTLN 2401	ring,	
FTLN 2402	Which I did make him swear to keep forever.	
	PORTIA, 「 <i>aside to Nerissa</i> 」	
FTLN 2403	Thou mayst, I warrant! We shall have old swearing	
FTLN 2404	That they did give the rings away to men;	20
FTLN 2405	But we'll outface them, and outswear them, too.—	
FTLN 2406	Away, make haste! Thou know'st where I will tarry.	
	「 <i>She exits.</i> 」	
	NERISSA, 「 <i>as Clerk</i> 」	
FTLN 2407	Come, good sir, will you show me to this house?	
	「 <i>They exit.</i> 」	

「ACT 5」

「Scene 1」 *Enter Lorenzo and Jessica.*

LORENZO

FTLN 2408	The moon shines bright. In such a night as this,	
FTLN 2409	When the sweet wind did gently kiss the trees	
FTLN 2410	And they did make no noise, in such a night	
FTLN 2411	Troilus, methinks, mounted the Trojan walls	
FTLN 2412	And sighed his soul toward the Grecian tents	5
FTLN 2413	Where Cressid lay that night.	

JESSICA

FTLN 2414	In such a night	
FTLN 2415	Did Thisbe fearfully o'ertrip the dew	
FTLN 2416	And saw the lion's shadow ere himself	
FTLN 2417	And ran dismayed away.	10

LORENZO

FTLN 2418	In such a night	
FTLN 2419	Stood Dido with a willow in her hand	
FTLN 2420	Upon the wild sea-banks, and waft her love	

FTLN 2421 To come again to Carthage.
JESSICA
FTLN 2422 In such a night 15
FTLN 2423 Medea gathered the enchanted herbs
FTLN 2424 That did renew old Aeson.

LORENZO
FTLN 2425 In such a night
FTLN 2426 Did Jessica steal from the wealthy Jew,
FTLN 2427 And with an unthrift love did run from Venice 20
FTLN 2428 As far as Belmont.

JESSICA
FTLN 2429 In such a night
FTLN 2430 Did young Lorenzo swear he loved her well,

181

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The Merchant of Venice

ACT 5. SC. 1

FTLN 2431 Stealing her soul with many vows of faith,
FTLN 2432 And ne'er a true one. 25

LORENZO
FTLN 2433 In such a night
FTLN 2434 Did pretty Jessica, like a little shrew,
FTLN 2435 Slander her love, and he forgave it her.

JESSICA
FTLN 2436 I would out-night you did nobody come,
FTLN 2437 But hark, I hear the footing of a man. 30

Enter [Stephano,] a Messenger.

LORENZO
FTLN 2438 Who comes so fast in silence of the night?

STEPHANO
FTLN 2439 A friend.

LORENZO
FTLN 2440 A friend? What friend? Your name, I pray you,
FTLN 2441 friend.

STEPHANO
FTLN 2442 Stephano is my name, and I bring word 35
FTLN 2443 My mistress will before the break of day
FTLN 2444 Be here at Belmont. She doth stray about

FTLN 2445 By holy crosses, where she kneels and prays
FTLN 2446 For happy wedlock hours.
LORENZO
FTLN 2447 Who comes with her? 40
STEPHANO
FTLN 2448 None but a holy hermit and her maid.
FTLN 2449 I pray you, is my master yet returned?
LORENZO
FTLN 2450 He is not, nor we have not heard from him.—
FTLN 2451 But go we in, I pray thee, Jessica,
FTLN 2452 And ceremoniously let us prepare 45
FTLN 2453 Some welcome for the mistress of the house.

Enter 「Lancelet, the」 Clown.

LANCELET
FTLN 2454 Sola, sola! Wo ha, ho! Sola, sola!
LORENZO
FTLN 2455 Who calls?
LANCELET
FTLN 2456 Sola! Did you see Master Lorenzo? Master
FTLN 2457 Lorenzo, sola, sola! 50

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The Merchant of Venice

ACT 5. SC. 1

LORENZO
FTLN 2458 Leave holloaing, man! Here.
LANCELET
FTLN 2459 Sola! Where, where?
LORENZO
FTLN 2460 Here!
LANCELET
FTLN 2461 Tell him there's a post come from my master
FTLN 2462 with his horn full of good news. My master will 55
FTLN 2463 be here ere morning, sweet soul.
「Lancelet exits.」
LORENZO, 「to Jessica」
FTLN 2464 Let's in, and there expect their coming.
FTLN 2465 And yet no matter; why should we go in?—
FTLN 2466 My friend 「Stephano,」 signify, I pray you,

FTLN 2467 Within the house, your mistress is at hand, 60
FTLN 2468 And bring your music forth into the air.

「*Stephano exits.*」

FTLN 2469 How sweet the moonlight sleeps upon this bank.
FTLN 2470 Here will we sit and let the sounds of music
FTLN 2471 Creep in our ears; soft stillness and the night
FTLN 2472 Become the touches of sweet harmony. 65
FTLN 2473 Sit, Jessica. Look how the floor of heaven
FTLN 2474 Is thick inlaid with patens of bright gold.
FTLN 2475 There's not the smallest orb which thou behold'st
FTLN 2476 But in his motion like an angel sings,
FTLN 2477 Still choring to the young-eyed cherubins. 70
FTLN 2478 Such harmony is in immortal souls,
FTLN 2479 But whilst this muddy vesture of decay
FTLN 2480 Doth grossly close it in, we cannot hear it.

「*Enter Stephano and musicians.*」

FTLN 2481 Come, ho! and wake Diana with a hymn.
FTLN 2482 With sweetest touches pierce your mistress' ear, 75
FTLN 2483 And draw her home with music.

「*Music plays.*」

JESSICA

FTLN 2484 I am never merry when I hear sweet music.

LORENZO

FTLN 2485 The reason is, your spirits are attentive.
FTLN 2486 For do but note a wild and wanton herd

FTLN 2487 Or race of youthful and unhandled colts, 80
FTLN 2488 Fetching mad bounds, bellowing and neighing loud,
FTLN 2489 Which is the hot condition of their blood,
FTLN 2490 If they but hear perchance a trumpet sound,
FTLN 2491 Or any air of music touch their ears,
FTLN 2492 You shall perceive them make a mutual stand, 85
FTLN 2493 Their savage eyes turned to a modest gaze
FTLN 2494 By the sweet power of music. Therefore the poet
FTLN 2495 Did feign that Orpheus drew trees, stones, and
FTLN 2496 floods,

FTLN 2497	Since naught so stockish, hard, and full of rage,	90
FTLN 2498	But music for the time doth change his nature.	
FTLN 2499	The man that hath no music in himself,	
FTLN 2500	Nor is not moved with concord of sweet sounds,	
FTLN 2501	Is fit for treasons, stratagems, and spoils;	
FTLN 2502	The motions of his spirit are dull as night,	95
FTLN 2503	And his affections dark as 「Erebus.」	
FTLN 2504	Let no such man be trusted. Mark the music.	

Enter Portia and Nerissa.

PORTIA

FTLN 2505	That light we see is burning in my hall.	
FTLN 2506	How far that little candle throws his beams!	
FTLN 2507	So shines a good deed in a naughty world.	100

NERISSA

FTLN 2508	When the moon shone we did not see the candle.	
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PORTIA

FTLN 2509	So doth the greater glory dim the less.	
FTLN 2510	A substitute shines brightly as a king	
FTLN 2511	Until a king be by, and then his state	
FTLN 2512	Empties itself as doth an inland brook	105
FTLN 2513	Into the main of waters. Music, hark!	

NERISSA

FTLN 2514	It is your music, madam, of the house.	
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PORTIA

FTLN 2515	Nothing is good, I see, without respect.	
FTLN 2516	Methinks it sounds much sweeter than by day.	

NERISSA

FTLN 2517	Silence bestows that virtue on it, madam.	110
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PORTIA

FTLN 2518	The crow doth sing as sweetly as the lark	
FTLN 2519	When neither is attended, and I think	
FTLN 2520	The nightingale, if she should sing by day	
FTLN 2521	When every goose is cackling, would be thought	
FTLN 2522	No better a musician than the wren.	115
FTLN 2523	How many things by season seasoned are	

FTLN 2524 To their right praise and true perfection!
FTLN 2525 Peace—how the moon sleeps with Endymion
FTLN 2526 And would not be awaked!

「*Music ceases.*」

LORENZO

FTLN 2527 That is the voice, 120
FTLN 2528 Or I am much deceived, of Portia.

PORTIA

FTLN 2529 He knows me as the blind man knows the cuckoo,
FTLN 2530 By the bad voice.

LORENZO

FTLN 2531 Dear lady, welcome home.

PORTIA

FTLN 2532 We have been praying for our husbands' welfare, 125
FTLN 2533 Which speed we hope the better for our words.
FTLN 2534 Are they returned?

LORENZO

FTLN 2535 Madam, they are not yet,
FTLN 2536 But there is come a messenger before
FTLN 2537 To signify their coming. 130

PORTIA

FTLN 2538 Go in, Nerissa.
FTLN 2539 Give order to my servants that they take
FTLN 2540 No note at all of our being absent hence—
FTLN 2541 Nor you, Lorenzo—Jessica, nor you.

「*A trumpet sounds.*」

LORENZO

FTLN 2542 Your husband is at hand. I hear his trumpet. 135
FTLN 2543 We are no tell-tales, madam, fear you not.

PORTIA

FTLN 2544 This night methinks is but the daylight sick;

FTLN 2545 It looks a little paler. 'Tis a day
FTLN 2546 Such as the day is when the sun is hid.

Enter Bassanio, Antonio, Gratiano, and their followers.

BASSANIO

FTLN 2547	We should hold day with the Antipodes	140
FTLN 2548	If you would walk in absence of the sun.	
	PORTIA	
FTLN 2549	Let me give light, but let me not be light,	
FTLN 2550	For a light wife doth make a heavy husband,	
FTLN 2551	And never be Bassanio so for me.	
FTLN 2552	But God sort all! You are welcome home, my lord.	145
	「 <i>Gratiano and Nerissa talk aside.</i> 」	
	BASSANIO	
FTLN 2553	I thank you, madam. Give welcome to my friend.	
FTLN 2554	This is the man, this is Antonio,	
FTLN 2555	To whom I am so infinitely bound.	
	PORTIA	
FTLN 2556	You should in all sense be much bound to him,	
FTLN 2557	For as I hear he was much bound for you.	150
	ANTONIO	
FTLN 2558	No more than I am well acquitted of.	
	PORTIA	
FTLN 2559	Sir, you are very welcome to our house.	
FTLN 2560	It must appear in other ways than words;	
FTLN 2561	Therefore I scant this breathing courtesy.	
	GRATIANO, 「 <i>to Nerissa</i> 」	
FTLN 2562	By yonder moon I swear you do me wrong!	155
FTLN 2563	In faith, I gave it to the judge's clerk.	
FTLN 2564	Would he were gelt that had it, for my part,	
FTLN 2565	Since you do take it, love, so much at heart.	
	PORTIA	
FTLN 2566	A quarrel ho, already! What's the matter?	
	GRATIANO	
FTLN 2567	About a hoop of gold, a paltry ring	160
FTLN 2568	That she did give me, whose posy was	

FTLN 2569	For all the world like cutler's poetry	
FTLN 2570	Upon a knife, "Love me, and leave me not."	
	NERISSA	
FTLN 2571	What talk you of the posy or the value?	
FTLN 2572	You swore to me when I did give 「it」 you	165
FTLN 2573	That you would wear it till your hour of death,	

FTLN 2574 And that it should lie with you in your grave.
FTLN 2575 Though not for me, yet for your vehement oaths,
FTLN 2576 You should have been respective and have kept it.
FTLN 2577 Gave it a judge's clerk! No, God's my judge, 170
FTLN 2578 The clerk will ne'er wear hair on 's face that had it.

GRATIANO

FTLN 2579 He will, an if he live to be a man.

NERISSA

FTLN 2580 Ay, if a woman live to be a man.

GRATIANO

FTLN 2581 Now, by this hand, I gave it to a youth,
FTLN 2582 A kind of boy, a little scrubbèd boy, 175
FTLN 2583 No higher than thyself, the judge's clerk,
FTLN 2584 A prating boy that begged it as a fee.
FTLN 2585 I could not for my heart deny it him.

PORTIA

FTLN 2586 You were to blame, I must be plain with you,
FTLN 2587 To part so slightly with your wife's first gift, 180
FTLN 2588 A thing stuck on with oaths upon your finger,
FTLN 2589 And so riveted with faith unto your flesh.
FTLN 2590 I gave my love a ring and made him swear
FTLN 2591 Never to part with it, and here he stands.
FTLN 2592 I dare be sworn for him he would not leave it 185
FTLN 2593 Nor pluck it from his finger for the wealth
FTLN 2594 That the world masters. Now, in faith, Gratiano,
FTLN 2595 You give your wife too unkind a cause of grief.
FTLN 2596 An 'twere to me I should be mad at it.

BASSANIO, 「*aside*」

FTLN 2597 Why, I were best to cut my left hand off 190
FTLN 2598 And swear I lost the ring defending it.

GRATIANO

FTLN 2599 My Lord Bassanio gave his ring away
FTLN 2600 Unto the judge that begged it, and indeed
FTLN 2601 Deserved it, too. And then the boy, his clerk,
FTLN 2602 That took some pains in writing, he begged mine, 195
FTLN 2603 And neither man nor master would take aught
FTLN 2604 But the two rings.

FTLN 2635 And begged the ring, the which I did deny him
FTLN 2636 And suffered him to go displeasèd away,
FTLN 2637 Even he that had held up the very life 230
FTLN 2638 Of my dear friend. What should I say, sweet lady?
FTLN 2639 I was enforced to send it after him.
FTLN 2640 I was beset with shame and courtesy.
FTLN 2641 My honor would not let ingratitude
FTLN 2642 So much besmear it. Pardon me, good lady, 235
FTLN 2643 For by these blessèd candles of the night,
FTLN 2644 Had you been there, I think you would have begged
FTLN 2645 The ring of me to give the worthy doctor.

PORTIA

FTLN 2646 Let not that doctor e'er come near my house!
FTLN 2647 Since he hath got the jewel that I loved, 240
FTLN 2648 And that which you did swear to keep for me,
FTLN 2649 I will become as liberal as you:
FTLN 2650 I'll not deny him anything I have,
FTLN 2651 No, not my body, nor my husband's bed.
FTLN 2652 Know him I shall, I am well sure of it. 245
FTLN 2653 Lie not a night from home. Watch me like Argus.
FTLN 2654 If you do not, if I be left alone,
FTLN 2655 Now by mine honor, which is yet mine own,
FTLN 2656 I'll have that doctor for 「my」 bedfellow.

NERISSA

FTLN 2657 And I his clerk. Therefore be well advised 250
FTLN 2658 How you do leave me to mine own protection.

GRATIANO

FTLN 2659 Well, do you so. Let not me take him, then,
FTLN 2660 For if I do, I'll mar the young clerk's pen.

ANTONIO

FTLN 2661 I am th' unhappy subject of these quarrels.

PORTIA

FTLN 2662 Sir, grieve not you. You are welcome 255
FTLN 2663 notwithstanding.

BASSANIO

FTLN 2664 Portia, forgive me this enforcèd wrong,
FTLN 2665 And in the hearing of these many friends

PORTIA

FTLN 2692 Speak not so grossly.—You are all amazed. 285

「*She hands a paper to Bassanio.*」

FTLN 2693 Here is a letter; read it at your leisure.

FTLN 2694 It comes from Padua from Bellario.

FTLN 2695 There you shall find that Portia was the doctor,

FTLN 2696 Nerissa there, her clerk. Lorenzo here

FTLN 2697 Shall witness I set forth as soon as you, 290

FTLN 2698 And even but now returned. I have not yet

FTLN 2699 Entered my house.—Antonio, you are welcome,

FTLN 2700 And I have better news in store for you

FTLN 2701 Than you expect. Unseal this letter soon.

「*Handing him a paper.*」

FTLN 2702 There you shall find three of your argosies 295

FTLN 2703 Are richly come to harbor suddenly.

FTLN 2704 You shall not know by what strange accident

FTLN 2705 I chancèd on this letter.

ANTONIO

FTLN 2706 I am dumb.

BASSANIO

FTLN 2707 Were you the doctor and I knew you not? 300

GRATIANO

FTLN 2708 Were you the clerk that is to make me cuckold?

NERISSA

FTLN 2709 Ay, but the clerk that never means to do it,

FTLN 2710 Unless he live until he be a man.

BASSANIO, 「*to Portia*」

FTLN 2711 Sweet doctor, you shall be my bedfellow.

FTLN 2712 When I am absent, then lie with my wife. 305

ANTONIO

FTLN 2713 Sweet lady, you have given me life and living;

FTLN 2714 For here I read for certain that my ships

FTLN 2715 Are safely come to road.

PORTIA

FTLN 2716 How now, Lorenzo?

FTLN 2717 My clerk hath some good comforts too for you. 310

NERISSA

FTLN 2718

Ay, and I'll give them him without a fee.

「Handing him a paper.」

FTLN 2719

There do I give to you and Jessica,

FTLN 2720

From the rich Jew, a special deed of gift,

FTLN 2721

After his death, of all he dies possessed of.

LORENZO

FTLN 2722

Fair ladies, you drop manna in the way

315

FTLN 2723

Of starvèd people.

PORTIA

FTLN 2724

It is almost morning,

FTLN 2725

And yet I am sure you are not satisfied

FTLN 2726

Of these events at full. Let us go in,

FTLN 2727

And charge us there upon inter'gatories,

320

FTLN 2728

And we will answer all things faithfully.

GRATIANO

FTLN 2729

Let it be so. The first inter'gatory

FTLN 2730

That my Nerissa shall be sworn on is

FTLN 2731

Whether till the next night she had rather stay

FTLN 2732

Or go to bed now, being two hours to day.

325

FTLN 2733

But were the day come, I should wish it dark

FTLN 2734

Till I were couching with the doctor's clerk.

FTLN 2735

Well, while I live, I'll fear no other thing

FTLN 2736

So sore as keeping safe Nerissa's ring.

They exit.
