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SHAKSPERE'S  
MERCHANT OF VENICE:

*THE SECOND (AND BETTER) QUARTO,*  
1600,

A FACSIMILE IN FOTO-LITHOGRAPHY

(FROM THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE'S COPY)

BY

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WITH FOREWORDS BY

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## 40 SHAKSPERE QUARTO FACSIMILES,

WITH INTRODUCTIONS, LINE-NUMBERS, &c., BY SHAKSPERE SCHOLARS,  
ISSUED UNDER THE SUPERINTENDENCE OF DR. F. J. FURNIVALL.

### 1. *Those by W. Griggs.*

No.	No.
1. Hamlet. 1603.	8. Henry IV. 1st Part. 1598.
2. Hamlet. 1604.	9. Henry IV. 2nd Part. 1600.
3. Midsummer Night's Dream. 1600. (Fisher.)	10. Passionate Pilgrim. 1599.
4. Midsummer Night's Dream. 1600. (Roberts.)	11. Richard III. 1597.
5. Loves Labor's Lost. 1598.	12. Venus and Adonis. 1593.
6. Merry Wives. 1602.	13. Troilus and Cressida. 1609.
7. Merchant of Venice. 1600. (Roberts.)	

### 2. *Those by C. Praetorius.*

14. Much Ado About Nothing. 1800.	26. Romeo and Juliet. 1599.
15. Taming of a Shrew. 1594.	27. Henry V. 1600.
16. Merchant of Venice. 1600. (I. R. for Thomas Heyes.)	28. Henry V. 1608.
17. Richard II. 1597. Duke of Devonshire's copy. ( <i>on stone.</i> )	29. Titus Andronicus. 1600.
18. Richard II. 1597. Mr. Huth. ( <i>fotograf.</i> )	30. Sonnets and Lover's Complaint. 1609.
19. Richard II. 1608. Brit. Mus. ( <i>fotograf.</i> )	31. Othello. 1622.
20. Richard II. 1634. ( <i>fotograf.</i> )	32. Othello. 1630.
21. Pericles. 1609. Q1.	33. King Lear. 1608. Q1. (N. Butter, <i>Pile Bull.</i> )
22. Pericles. 1609. Q2.	34. King Lear. 1608. Q2. (N. Butter.)
23. The Whole Contention. 1619. Part I. (for 2 Henry VI.).	35. Rape of Lucrece. 1594.
24. The Whole Contention. 1619. Part II. (for 3 Henry VI.).	36. Romeo and Juliet. Undated (1607).
25. Romeo and Juliet. 1597.	37. Contention. 1594. ( <i>fotograf.</i> )
	38. True Tragedy. 1595. ( <i>fotograf.</i> )
	39. The Famous Victories. 1598. ( <i>fotograf.</i> )
	40. The Troublesome Raigne. 1591. (For King John: <i>not yet done.</i> )

*The leaf p. xv-xvi can be cut off and put into No. 13, the Facsimile of 'Troilus and Cressida.' I have askt Mr. Griggs to issue a copy of the other Title-page of the 'Troilus' Quarto. It ought to have been sent out with No. 13.*

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FOREWORDS TO Q<sub>2</sub>, 1600.

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| <p>§ 1. This Heyes Q<sub>to</sub> 2 has later touches by Shakspeare than Q<sub>1</sub> has, p. iii.</p> <p>§ 2. 'The Merchant' in F<sub>1</sub> was printed from Q<sub>2</sub> or a copy of its original, p. iv.</p> | <p>§ 3. Shakspeare's borrowings from Sil-<br/>vayn's <i>Orator</i>, 1596, by the Rev.<br/>W. A. Harrison, p. xi.</p> <p>§ 4. This Facsimile, p. xiv.</p> |
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§ 1. As this Facsimile of the Second Quarto of *The Merchant* may fall into hands which have not the Facsimile of the First Quarto (Roberts's), I repeat from my Forewords to that, the two passages which show that this Q<sub>2</sub> is better than Q<sub>1</sub>, and has at least one touch of Shakspeare's that Q<sub>1</sub> has not:—

"1. Bassanio, in answer to the disguised Portia's request for her ring on his finger, answers:

Roberts Q<sub>1</sub>. *Bass.* There's more then this depends vpon the valew.

Heyes Q<sub>2</sub>. " " " depends on this then on " " "

2. *the* test passage: when Antonio first asks Shylock in I. iii. 64-6 about the loan, the Roberts Quarto has:

'Yet to supply the ripe wants of my friend

He breake a custome: *are you resolu'd*

*How much he would haue?*' [the italics are mine.]

And though you can mend the metre without introducing 'yet,' by printing:

'Are you resolu'd how much he would haue?'

yet few students will doubt that the Heyes Quarto has Shakspeare's reading—revis'd, if not original—when it makes Antonio turn to Bassanio, and say:

'is he yet possesst

How much ye would?'

This change cannot have been a copier's or printer's doing, but must have been got from Shakspeare directly, or thru his MS. In III. v. 75, the Heyes Quarto surely too recovers a Shakspeare word in 'how *cher'st* thou, Jessica?' for the Roberts 'far'st.'" (p. iv—v.)

Other evidence tending to prove the betterness of this second or Heyes Quarto—notwithstanding some worsenesses—is given in my above-quoted Forewords to Q<sub>1</sub>, p. v—vii, and need not be repeated here. Since they were written, I have edited the Play with my friend Mr. W. G. Stone for the *Old-Spelling Shakspeare*, and Mr. F. A. Marshall has also edited it for the modernized and illustrated edition of Shakspeare, which he is preparing (in some slight conjunction with Mr. Hy. Irving) for Messrs. Blackie. We all three hold the Heyes Quarto to be better than the Roberts.

§ 2. The next point is to show that the First Folio print of *The Merchant* was made from a copy of the Heyes Quarto, or a slightly varying copy of the MS. from which that Quarto was taken.

The Folio has certain readings special to itself, of which some are blunders, some right; but none (I think) show any later revision by Shakspeare. I ought to have myself collated F1 with Q2 and Q1 throughout, but time failed; and so I took the Cambridge Editors' collation, set the spelling right, compared their results with the Quartos and Folio, and here and there supplied a slight omission or corrected a slight mistake. (They don't leave much work of this kind for their followers to do.) The differences of text in the three versions are set in parallel columns below. Where Q1 and Q2 differ, and either has the Folio reading, the letters of that reading—and the words when in varying order—are printed in *italics*. When the Folio has an original reading of its own, the letters (or transposed words) of it are printed in **clarendon**. Any reader, by running his eye down the Folio column, noticing any clarendon words which he thinks important,—like, for instance, **other** for 'Scottish' in II. ii. 83, **wish** for 'pray God grant' in II. ii. 121, **but wel I know** for 'no, Gods my iudge' in V. i. 157,—can settle for himself whether they necessitate Shakspeare's hand. I don't think they do.

Qo 1 : Roberts. Act I. sc. i.	Qo 2 : Heyes. Act I. sc. i.	Folio 1. Act I. sc. i.
19 for Peeres	<i>and</i> peers	and peers
24 at sea, might doe	<i>might doe at sea</i>	might doe at sea
33 the spices	<i>her</i> spices	her spices
46 Then y' are	<i>Why</i> then <i>you</i> are	Why then you are
47 neither ?	neither :	neither :
64 the	th'	th'
72 Exit	[om.]	[om.]
78 one	<i>man</i>	man
87 tis	tis	<b>it</b> is
89 dreame	<i>creame</i>	creame
93 am sir	am sir	am sir <b>an</b>
95 those	these	these
103 farwell	<i>fary</i> well	faryewell
110 Farewell	Far <i>you</i> well	Far you well
151 backe	bake	backe
155 doe me now	doe me now	doe (A)
172 comes	<i>come</i>	come
I. ii.	I. ii.	I. ii.
2 a wearie	awearie	a wearie
7 meane happinesse	meane happines	<b>smal</b> happinesse
17 then to be	then to be	then (A) be
23 the fashion	the fashion	(A) fashion
25 who . . . who	who . . . who	whom . . . whom
27 is it	is it	<b>it</b> is
35 no doubt you wil	<i>will no doubt</i>	wil no doubt
36 who	who <i>you</i>	who you
39, 103 prethee	pray thee	pray thee
46 vnto	<i>to</i>	to
47 shoo	shoo <i>him</i>	shoo him



	Q1	Q2	F1
47	afeard	afeard	afraid
49	there is	<i>is there</i>	is there
49, 64	Palatine	Palentine	Palentine
51	if	<i>is</i>	and
56	be	be	to be
66	straight	straght	straight
70	shall	shall	should
83	Scottish	Scottish	other
108	ile	<i>I will</i>	I will
121	pray God grant	pray God graunt	wish
124	Scholler	<i>a Scholler</i>	a Scholler
128	he was so	<i>so was he</i>	so was he
134	How now, what newes?	How nowe, what newes	[omitted in F]
135	for you	for you	(Δ) you
147	gates	gate	gate
	I. iii.	I. iii.	I. iii.
40	Ryalto	Ryalto	Ryalta
51	well-won	well-wone	well-worne
53	Shylocke	Shyloch	Shylock
62	althrough	albeit	albeit
65-6	are you resolu'd . . . he would haue ?	<i>is hee yet possesst . . . ye would (Δ) ?</i>	is he yet possesst . . . he would?
70	Me-thought	Me thoughts	Me thoughts
82	In th' end	In (Δ) end	In end
85	pyld	pyld	pil'd
120	money	moneyes	moneyes
123	can	can	should
128	day another	day another	day ; another
135	breed for	breede for	breede of
138	penalty	penaltie	penalties
152	pleaseth	pleaseth	it pleaseth
153	ifaith	infaith	ifaith
179	The . . . so kinde	The (Δ) kinde	This . . . kinde
180	termes	termes	teames (blunder)
	II. i.	II. i.	II. i.
4	Bring	Bring <i>me</i>	Bring me
11	Hath	<i>Haue</i>	Haue
24	Semitaure	<i>Symitare</i>	Symitare
27	out-stare	<i>ore-stare</i>	ore-stare
43	to	<i>vnto</i>	vnto
	II. ii.	II. ii.	II. ii.
3, 4, 7, 8	Gobbo	<i>Iobbe</i>	Iobbe
18, 19	too . . . sayes	to . . . sayes <i>Launcelet</i>	too . . . sayes Lancelot
19	ill, to	<i>well, to</i>	well, to
29	incarnall	<i>incarnation</i>	incarnation
30	but a	but a	(Δ) a
33	command	<i>commaundement</i>	commandement
34	Master yong man	<i>Maister yong-man</i>	Maister yong-man
39	conclusions	confusions	confusions
54	say it	say 't	say 't
53-5	(as verse)	<i>(as prose)</i>	(as prose)
58	sir	sir	(Δ)
83	murther	muder	murder
84	at the length	<i>in the ende</i>	in the end

	Q1	Q2	F1
100	pillhorse	pillhorse	pillhorse
105	last	lost	lost
108	agree	(Δ) gree	gree
127	Exit one of his men	[om. Q2]	[om. F1]
166	ha . . head. Well	haue . . head, wel :	haue . . head, well :
171	cleuen	a leuen	a leuen
172	escape	scape	scape
177	of an eye	[om. Q2]	[om. F1]
180	go	goe	goe
182	Exit	Exit Leonardo.	Exit Le.
186	a sute	(Δ) sute	a sute
194	prethee	pray thee	pray thee
197	misconstred	misconstred	misconsterd
212	faryewell	far you well	far you well
	II. iii.	II. iii.	II. iii.
14	something	something	somewhat
	II. iv.	II. iv.	II. iv.
8	a	of	of
10	If it	And it shal	And it shall
10	it shall seeme	it shall seeme	shall it seeme
14	Is	Is	I (Δ)
22	prepare	prepare you	prepare you
	II. v.	II. v.	II. v.
St. D.	the Iew and Lance- let.	(Δ) Iew and <i>his man</i> <i>that was the Clowne.</i>	Iew, and his man that was the Clowne.
8	that I	(Δ) I	I
8, 9	[as prose]	[as verse]	[as verse]
25	in the	ith	ith
28	What, are there	What are there	What are their
28	Heare	heare you	heare you
29	squeaking	squealing	squealing
40	at a	at (Δ)	at
46	and he	and he	but he
53, 54	[as 2 lines]	[as 1 line]	[as 1 line]
	II. vi.	II. vi.	II. vi.
St. Dir.	Salarino	Salerno	Salino
2	stand	stand	a stand
6	seale	seale	steale
17	the	the	a
18	ouer-weatherd	ouer-wetherd	ouer-wither'd
25	Ho, whose	Howe whose	Hoa, who's
33	tis worth	it is worth	it is worth
44	are you	are you	you are
50	mo	mo	more
51	Gentile	gentle	gentle
52	Beshrew	Beshrow	Beshrew
58	gentleman	gentleman	gentlemen
60	Who's	Whose	Who's
66	[om.]	<i>I haue sent twentie out to</i> <i>seeke for you</i>	I haue sent twenty out to seeke for you
67	[om.]	Gra.	Gra.
	II. vii.	II. vii.	II. vii.
5	many men	many men	(Δ) men
10			[line repeated]

Q1	Q2	F1
41 vasty	vastie	vaste
51 rib	ribb	rib
69 do	doe	doe
II. viii.	II. viii.	II. viii.
St. Dir. Salanio	Solanio	Solanio
" [om.]	[om.]	<b>Flo. cornets</b>
4 Salan.	Sola.	Sol.
6 came	came	comes
9 armorous	amorous	amorous
39 Slubber	Slumber	Slubber
51 prethee	pray thee	pray thee
II. ix.	II. ix.	II. ix.
St. Dir. Seruitor	Seruiture	Seruiture
" Arragon	Arrogon	Arragon
7 you	you	thou
46 pezantry	peasantry	pleasantry
48 chaffe	chaft	chaffe
49 vernis't	varnist	varnisht
62 heere	is heere	is here
64 iudgement	iudment	iudement
73 Still	Arrag. Still	<b>Ar.</b> Still
79 Moth	moath	moath
81 their wisdome	the (Δ) wisdome	the wisdome
84-5 a Messenger	(Δ) Messenger	Messenger
III. i.	III. i.	III. i.
7 gossips report	gossip report	gossips report
9 as a lying	as lying a	as lying a
St. Dir. Enter . . . before l. 25	Enter . . . after l. 25	Enter . . . after l. 25
27 know	knew	knew
32 fledg'd	fidge	fledg'd
40 (Δ) blood	my blood	blood
45 at losse a	any losse a	anie losse at
60 his	his	<b>the</b>
93 O would she	(Δ) would she	would she
95 them, why so :	them, why so ?	them, why so ?
95 whats	whats	<b>how much is</b>
99 lights on	lights a	lights a
100 but of	but a	but a
103 Genoway	Genowa	Genowa
107-8 ist . . . ist	is it . . . is it	is it . . . is it
111 the	thee	thee
112, 113 Genoway	Genowa	Genowa
114 (Δ) one	in one	one
119 unto	(Δ) to	to
119 swear that hee	swear, (Δ) he	swear hee
122 on 't	of it	of it
134 I will go : go	I will (Δ) : goe	I will : goe
III. ii.	III. ii.	III. ii.
11 I am then	then I am	then I am
23 eck . . . out	ech . . . it out	ich . . . it out
33 do	doe	doth
61 much (Δ)	much much	much
62 To	I	I

	Q1	Q2	F1
62-3	St. Dir. [om.]	[om.]	<b>Here Musicke.</b>
67	eye	eye	eyes
82	Some	Some <i>marke</i>	Some marke
93	maketh	maketh	makes
101	Therefore	Therefore <i>then</i>	Therefore then
102	foole	<i>food</i>	food
110	shyddring	shyddring	shuddring
112	range	<i>raïne</i>	raïne
118	whither	whither	whether
123	t' intrap	tyntnap	t' intrap
146	pearles	<i>peales</i>	peales
150	me . . Bassanio	me . . Bassanio	my . . Bassiano
160	summe of something	sume of something	sum of <b>nothing</b>
173	<i>Lord</i>	Lords	Lord
186	Bassanio is	Bassanios	Bassanio's
198	haue	haue	<b>gane</b> (blunder)
203	casket	caskets	caskets
206	roofe	<i>rough</i>	rough
211	is, so	is, so	is <b>so</b> , so
222-3	St. Dir. a messenger from Venice	a messenger from Venice	[omits]
239-40	St. Dir. He opens	(Δ) Open (Δ)	(Δ) Opens
240, 246	yon	<i>yond</i>	yond
247	Bassanios	Bassanios	<b>Bassianos</b>
266	Heer 's	Here <i>is</i>	Here is
323	but see	but see	(Δ) see
326	O	<i>Por.</i> O	Por. O.
329	No	<i>Nor</i>	Nor
	III. iii.	III. iii.	III. iii.
St. Dir.	Salarino	Salerio	<b>Solanio</b>
7	fangs	<i>phangs</i>	phangs
11	prethee	pray thee	pray thee
29	of his	<i>of the</i>	of the
	III. iv.	III. iv.	III. iv.
13	equall	egall	egal
21	misery	<i>cruelty</i>	cruelty
32	will we	<i>we will</i>	we will
40	And so farewell	(Δ) So far <i>you</i> well	So far you well
44	farewell	far <i>you</i> well	faryouwell
56	Bai.	<i>Baltha.</i>	Baltha.
63	apparheld	<i>accoutered</i>	accoutered
81	<i>my</i> whole	my my whole	my whole
	III. v.	III. v.	III. v.
3	promise ye I	promise <i>you</i> , I	promise you, I
25	<i>e'ne</i>	in	e'ne
29	comes	come ?	comes
42	Moore 's	Moore <i>is</i>	Moore is
75	far'st	<i>cherst</i>	cheer'st
77	Bassanios	Bassanios	<b>Bassiano's</b>
79	prethee	pray thee	pray thee
82-3	then In	<i>it</i> In	it Is
88-9	[2 lines ending 'me . . wife']	[2 lines ending 'hus- <i>band</i> . . wife']	[2 lines ending 'husband . . . wife']
89	wife	wife	a wife

	Q1	Q2	F1
80	howsoere	how so <i>mere</i>	how som ere
81	disgest	disgest	digest
	Exit	Exit	Exeunt
	IV. i.	IV. i.	IV. i.
7, 8	[as 3 lines]	[As 2 lines]	[As 2 lines]
15	<i>Sal.</i>	Salerio	Sal.
22	exacts	exacts	exact'st
25	hum <del>ane</del>	humaine	humane
30	<i>his state</i>	this states	his state
36	<i>Sabbath</i>	Sabaoth	Sabbath
58	offend himselfe	offend himselfe	offend himselfe
65	answere.	answers?	answer.
73	You may as	[as Q1, Museum Qto] (Δ) omit. [Devon. Qto]	<b>Or euen</b> as
74	Why he hath made the Ewe bleake	[as Q1, Museum Qto] (Δ) the Ewe bleake [Devonshire Qto]	The Ewe bleate
75	of Pines	of Pines	(Δ) Pines
77	fretten	fretten	fretted
79	what's	what's	what (Δ)
100	<i>tis</i>	as	'tis
107	<i>Saler.</i>	Salerio.	Sal.
110	Messenger.	Messenger?	Messengers.
120	From both, my L.	From both? my L.	From both. My Lord
123	soule . . . soule	soule . . . soule	soale . . . soule
134	humane	humaine	humane
138	staru'd	staru'd	steru'd
142	curelesse	curelesse	endlesse
144	to	to	<b>in</b>
155	acquainted	acquainted	acquained
169	Come	Come	Came
179	impunge	impugne	impugne
180	ye not?	<i>you</i> not,	you not?
196	lik'st	likest	likest
220	precedent	precedent	President
224	I do	I doe	<b>do I</b>
230	No, not	Not not	No not
235	tenour	<i>tenure</i>	tenure
244	then	than	then
258	do	doe	<b>should</b>
259	Is it so	Is it so	<b>It is not</b>
263	You	You	Come
281	presently	<i>instantly</i>	instantly
290	who	who	whom
306	iote	iote	iot (Δ)
308	Take then	Take then	<b>Then take</b>
326	cut'st	<i>tak'st</i>	tak'st
327	be it but	be it but	be it (Δ)
334	you	you	<b>thee</b>
339	And	<i>hee</i>	He
344	so taken	so taken	<b>taken so</b>
346	heere in question	(Δ) question	question
349	any	<i>an</i>	an
353	seize on	seaze one	seaze one
354	coster	<i>coffer</i>	coffer

	Q1	Q2	F1
360	gainst	against	against
368	spirits	spirit	spirit
379	Gods sake	Godsake	Gods sake
398	shalt thou	shalt thou	<b>thou shalt</b>
400	not	not <i>to</i>	not to
401	home with me dinner	home with me <i>to</i> dinner	<b>with me home</b> to dinner
402	(Δ) desire	doe desire	desire
423	a fee	(Δ) fee	fee
430	then this depends vpon	<i>depends on this then on</i>	depends on this then on
435	I will	<i>will I</i>	will I
446	the	<i>this</i>	this
451	gainst	gainst	against
454	Exeunt	<b>Exit</b>	<b>Exit G</b>
	IV. ii.	IV. ii.	IV. ii.
	Enter Nerrissa	Enter Nerrissa	Enter <b>Portia</b> and Nerrissa
9	This	<i>his</i>	His
	V. i.	V. i.	V. i.
4	wals	walls	walls
6	Cressada	<i>Cressad</i>	Cressed
21	shrew	shrow	shrow
32	wedlockes	wedlock	wedlocke
34	is . . return'd	is . . returnd	<b>it . . rnturn'd</b>
37	vs	vs	vs <b>vs</b>
41-2	Lorenzo, M.	Lorenzo, & M.	Lorenzo, & M.
51	Stephano	<i>Stephen</i>	Stephen
51	I pray	I pray	(Δ) pray
59	pattents	<i>pattens</i>	pattens
65	<i>in it</i>	it in	in it
66	with him a	with (Δ) a	with a
68	Musicke playes	<i>play Musique</i>	Play musique
75	perchance but heare	<i>but heare perchance</i>	but heare perchance
82	for the	for the	for (Δ)
87	Terebus	Terebus	Erobus
88-9	Enter Nerrissa and Portia	Enter <i>Portia and Ner-</i> <i>rissa</i>	Enter Portia and Ner- rissa.
92	candle.	candle?	candle?
106	<i>Wren</i>	Renne	Wren
109	[om.]	[om.]	<b>Musicke ceases</b>
112-13	[as 2 verse lines]	[as 1½ prose lines]	[as 1½ prose lines]
114	husband health	husbands <i>welfare</i>	husbands welfare
121	[om.]	[om.]	<b>A Tucket sounds</b>
132	y'are	<i>you are</i>	you are
143, 151	poesie	posie	Poesie
152	giue <i>it</i>	giue	giue it
153	your	your	<b>the</b>
157	no God's my Iudge	no Gods my Iudge	<b>but wel I know</b>
166	too blame	to blame	too blame
209	my honor	my honour	mine honor
213	away displeasd	<i>displeasd away</i>	displeas'd away
214	did vphold	<i>had held vp</i>	had held vp
220	For	For	<b>And</b>
233	that . . <i>my</i>	that . . . mine	<b>the . . my</b>
239	[as 1 line]	[as 1 line]	[as 2 lines]

	Q1	Q2	Fr
249	his	his	thy
250	husband	husbands	husbands
258	pardon me	pardon me	pardon (Δ)
272	euen but	euen but	but eu'n
293	possesst off	possesst of	possesst of
297	Let's	Let vs	Let vs
298	intergotories	intergotories	intergotories
300	intergotory	intergotory	intergotory
303	bed now,	bed now	bed, now
305	That	till	Till
311	Clarke	Doctors Clarke	Doctors Clarke

§ 3. My friend and colleague, the Rev. W. A. Harrison, in comparing *The Merchant* with L. P.'s<sup>1</sup> englishing of Alex. Silvayn's short story 'Of a Jew, who would for his debt have a pound of the flesh of a Christian' (Hazlitt's Sh. Library, Pt. I, vol. i, p. 355—360), was struck by the way in which Shakspeare has used some of L. P.'s very words, as he has those of Holinshed, Plutarch, Sir T. More, &c. in other plays.<sup>2</sup> Mr. Harrison thence concludes that *The Merchant* was not written till the autumn of 1596, or early in 1597. The following extracts are from Mr. Harrison's Note-book:—

"The *Merchant's* position in Meres's list, *the last* of the Comedies, would point to the presumption that it was the latest written at the time when Meres composed his Book, *i. e.* in 1597, or early in 1598 (in which year it was printed and published). Hence we gather that the play was before this date, but not long before it. Now in 1596 was published *The Orator*, an English Translation made by Lazarus Piot of a French Book called the 'Cent histoires tragiques,' 100 Declamations written by *Alexander Silvayn*. At page 400 of the English translation is (*Declamation* 95), 'Of a Jew who would for his debt have a pound of the flesh of a Christian.' In this *Declamation* there are many expressions and turns of thought which are so remarkably like portions of the trial-scene in the *Merchant of Venice*, where the Jew and the Christian merchant stand in a similar relation, as to lead to the conclusion that Shakspeare must have used this Book of Silvayn's, and taken hints from it for some of the speeches. Now this Book was entered on the Register of the Stationers' Comp. as 'a Booke to be translated into English and printed,' on July 15th, 1596; and in 1596 it was published,—towards the close of the year one may presume. Thus we are brought to the irresistible conclusion, that if Shakspeare saw and used *The Orator* before writing the *Merchant of Venice*, then that play must have been composed some time in 1596-7, and produced some time in the same year.

<sup>1</sup> L. P., Lazarus Piot, was Anthony Munday.

<sup>2</sup> The reader can judge for himself; but if Silvayn's French was before Shakspeare, as it well may have been, I see no evidence that Sh. used Piot's englishing.

“The following are the parallels between *The M. of V.* and the *Declamation* 95 of Silvayn :

<sup>1</sup> “The ordinary Judge of that place appointed him to cut a *just pound* of the Christian's flesh, and if he *cut either more or less*, then his owne head should be smitten off.”

<sup>2</sup> “Impossible is it to breake the credite of trafficke amongst men without great *detriment unto the Commonwealth*; wherefore no man ought to bind himself unto such covenants which he cannot or will not accomplish,” &c.

<sup>3</sup> “*A man may aske why I would not rather take silver of this man, than his flesh.* I might allege many reasons . . . I might say that I have need of this flesh to cure a friend of mine of a certain maladie, which is otherwise incurable, or that I would have it, &c., &c., . . . but I will onelie say, that by his obligation he oweth it me . . .”

<sup>4</sup> “Is it then such a great matter to cause such a one to pay a *pound of his flesh*, that hath broken his promise manie times.”

“The tearme being past, the Jew refused to take his money, and demanded the pound of flesh.”

“I refuse it all, and require that the same which is *due* should bee delivered unto me.”

“If thou *cut'st more* / Or *less than a just pound*, be it but so much / As makes it light or heavy in the substance / Or the division of the twentieth part / Of one poor scruple . . . / Thou diest, and all thy goods are confiscate.”

“If you deny it, let the *danger light* / Upon your Charter and *your city's freedom*.”

“The pound of flesh which I demand of him / Is dearly bought; 'tis mine, and I will have it. / If you deny me, fie upon your law! / There is no force in the decrees of Venice.” Again,

“It must not be; there is no power in Venice / Can alter a decree established. / 'Twill be recorded for a precedent, / And *many an error* by the same example / *Will rush into the state*; it cannot be.”

“*You'll ask me why I rather choose to have / A weight of carrion flesh* than to receive / Three thousand ducats: I'll not answer that: / But, say, it is my humour: is it answered? / What if my house be troubled with a rat, / And I be pleased to give ten thousand ducats / To have it baned? &c. So I can give no reason, nor I will not.” /

“The *pound of flesh* which I demand of him / Is dearly bought; 'tis mine, and I will have it. . . My deede upon my head! I crave the law, / The penalty and forfeit of my bond.”

“By my soul I swear / There is no power in the tongue of man / To alter me: I stay here on my bond.”

“By our holy Sabbath have I sworn to have the *due* and forfeit of my bond.”

<sup>1</sup> Le Juge ordinaire ordonne que le Juif *couppera justement une livre* de la chair du Chrestien, et *s'il en coupe d'avantage ou moins*, que l'on luy couppera la teste à luy.—Silvayn.

<sup>2</sup> L'on ne peut oster la fidélité du commerce entre les hommes, sans grand *détriment de la république*.

<sup>3</sup> L'on pourrait demander *pourquoy je n'ayme point mieux prendre l'argent de cet homme que sa chair.* Je pourroy alléguer plusieurs raisons, . . . mais je diray seulement que par son obligation, il me la *doit*.

<sup>4</sup> Est-ce donc si grand fait, de faire payer *une livre de chair* à un qui plusieurs fois a faussé sa promesse, ou qui met un autre en danger de perdre avec son crédit son honneur encore, voir peustestre la vie, pour le regret qu'il aura?



<sup>5</sup> "It seemeth at the first sight that it is a thing no lesse strange than cruel, to bind a man to pay a pound of the flesh of his bodie for want of money . . . but there are divers others that are more cruel, which, *because they are in use, seeme* nothing terrible at all : as to bind all the bodie unto a most lothsome prison, or *unto an intollerable slavery*, where not only the whole bodie but also al the sences and spirits are tormented, *the which is commonly practised*, not only betwixt those which are either in sect or Nation contrary, but also *even amongst those that are all of one sect and nation.*"

<sup>6</sup> "This Jew is content to lose nine hundred crowns to have a pound of my flesh, <sup>7</sup> whereby is manifestly seen the ancient and cruel HATE which he beareth not only unto Christians, but unto all others which are not of his sect."

<sup>8</sup> "That he should be willing to be paid with man's flesh . . . is a thing *more natural for Tigers* than men ; the which also was never heard of."

"Grieve not that I am fallen to this for you, / For herein fortune shews herself more kind / Than is her custom : it is *still her use* / To let the wretched man outlive his wealth, / To view with hollow eye and wrinkled brow An age of poetry : from which lingering penance / Of such a misery she doth cut me off," &c.

"*You have amongst you* many a purchas'd slave, / Which, like your asses, and your dogs, and mules, / You use in *abject* and in *starvish* parts, / Because you bought them."

(2) "You may as well do anything most hard, / As seek to soften that— than which what's harder?— / His Jewish heart."

"A stony adversary, an inhuman wretch, / Uncapable of pity, void and empty / Of any dram of mercy."

(1) "No lawful means can carry me / Out of his envy's reach."

"I can give no reason, nor I will not, / More than a lodg'd HATE and a certain loathing," &c.

"Thou almost makst me waver in my faith / To hold opinion with Pythagoras, / That *souls of animals* infuse themselves / Into the trunks of men : thy currish spirit / Governed a wolf . . . For thy desires / Are wolfish, bloody, starved and ravenous."

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<sup>5</sup> Il semble de prime face que ce soit chose non moins estrange que cruelle, obliger un homme à payer une livre de la chair de son corps, par faute d'argent, Vrayement, cela donne quelque grande appréhension, d'autant que c'est chose inusitée ; mais d'autres plus cruelles, *pour estre en usage* ne semblent nullement terribles : comme obliger tout le corps à une prison cruelle ou d'une *servitude intollérable*, où non seulement le corps, mais tous les sens et l'esprit sont tourmentez ; ce qui *se fait ordinairement* non seulement entre ceux qui sont de secte ou nation diverse, mais *entre ceux qui sont de mesme secte, de mesme nation, voisins et parens.*

<sup>6</sup> Quelle raison y a-t-il qu'un homme doive, à son propos préjudice, désirer le dommage d'autrui ?

<sup>7</sup> Se void manifestement la *HAINÉ invétérée* et cruelle qu'il porte non seulement aux chrestiens, mais à tous autres qui ne sont de sa secte.

<sup>8</sup> Vouloir se payer de chair humaine, . . . est chose *plus naturelle aux tigres* qu'aux hommes.

<sup>9</sup> "This devil in shape of a man, seeing me oppressed with necessitie, propounded this accursed obligation unto me."

"To curb this cruel devil of his will,"  
"Indirectly and directly too Thou hast contrived against the very life of the defendant."

<sup>10</sup> "Although I knew the danger wherein I was to satisfy the couetise of this mischievous man with the price of my flesh and blood, yet did I not flee away, but submitted myself unto the discretion of the Judge . . . Behold I will present a part of my bodie unto him, that he may pay himself, according to the contents of the Judgment."

"I would lose all, ay, sacrifice them all / Here to this devil, to deliver you."

"You stand within his danger, do you not? Ay, so he says."

*Do you confess the bond?*

*I do.*

Make no more offers, use no further means . . . Let me have judgment, and the Jew his will.

Most heartily I do beseech the court / To give the judgment."

"Most rightful Judge."

<sup>11</sup> "It may please you then, most righteous Judge, to consider all these circumstances, having pitie of him who doth wholly submit himself unto your just clemency, hoping thereby to be delivered from this monster's cruelty."

"O upright Judge! mark, Jew, a learned Judge."

"I have heard / your Grace hath ta'en great pains to qualify / His rigorous course."

"To excuse the current of thy cruelty."

"To sum up, then : Lazarus Piot's translation of Silvayn's *Epitomes de Cent histoires tragiques* was entered on the Stationers' Register on July 15th, 1596, and published soon after in the same year. Meres's *Wyttes Treasurye* was entered on the Registers, September the 7th, 1598. Assuming, then, that the latter volume was written some time early in 1598, and that the *M. of V.*, as being the last-mentioned on Meres's list, was then a new play, this gives us a date early in 1597 as the time of its production."

§ 4. This Facsimile is from negatives taken by Mr. Griggs from the Duke of Devonshire's copy of the Heyes Quarto,<sup>1</sup> save its last page, the duplicate and complete page 54, Sign. G<sub>4</sub> (see IV. i. 74), which was fotograft by Mr. Praetorius from the British Museum copy, C. 12. g. 32.<sup>2</sup> The lithografy was done in Hamburg. The side-marks note some of the places where Q<sub>2</sub> differs from Q<sub>1</sub>. (On p. 7, strike out the † to l. 169. On p. 22, l. 189, read 'you ;' and on p. 30, l. 57, 'stamp.')

The line-nos., &c. are those of the Globe Shakspeare.

22 Dec., 1886.

<sup>9</sup> Ce que jamais aussi ne fut ouy sinon ce diable en forme d'homme, me voyant accablé de nécessité, me propose cette maudite obligation.

<sup>10</sup> Cognitoissant le danger ou j'estoy de satisfaire à la cruauté de ce ma liu . . . n'ay prius la fuite, mais me suis remis à la discrétion du juge.

<sup>11</sup> Vous plaise donc, ô juge équitable, bien considérer toutes ces circonstances, ayant pitié de celui qui du tout se remet en vostre juste clémence, aspirant d'icelle sa rédemption.

<sup>1</sup> Mr. Griggs's stock of the printed sheets of the former Facsimile were burnt in his fire, owing to my delay in writing the Forewords.

<sup>2</sup> The class-mark at the top of the duplicate page, C. 34, k. 22, is a mistake. I askt Mr. Praetorius to correct the class-mark, but he faild to do so in time.

# TROILOUS AND CRESSIDA.

ADDITIONAL MARKINGS FOR THE MARGINS OF THE  
FACSIMILE OF THE Qo. 1609.

*Place daggers [†] against the following lines.*

p. 4. I. i. ... 20	p. 34. II. iii. ... 90	p. 61. IV. ii. ... 89
” ” ... 24	p. 35. ” ... 95	” ” ... 111
p. 5. ” ... 45	” ” ... 96	p. 62. IV. iv. ... 19
” ” ... 53	” ” ... 131	p. 63. ” ... 66
” ” ... 66	p. 36. ” ... 169	p. 64. ” ... 103
” ” ... 72	p. 37. ” ... 178	p. 65. ” ... 121
p. 8. I. ii. ... 36	” ” ... 182	p. 69. IV. v. ... 103
p. 11. ” ... 184	p. 39. ” ... 261	p. 70. ” ... 144
p. 12. ” ... 255	p. 40. III. i. ... 33	” ” ... 161
p. 13. ” ... 268	” ” ... 37	p. 71. ” ... 188
” ” ... 280	” ” ... 39	p. 72. ” ... 235
p. 15. I. iii. ... 59	p. 41. ” ... 87	p. 73. ” ... 284
” ” ... 61	” ” ... 106	p. 74. V. i. ... 4 <sup>5</sup>
p. 17. ” ... 118	p. 44. III. ii. ... 40	p. 75. ” ... 66
” ” ... 132	p. 45. ” ... 88	” ” ... 71
p. 18. ” ... 156	p. 46. ” ... 128	” ” ... 73
p. 19. ” ... 190	p. 47. ” ... 183	” ” ... 74
” ” ... 207	” ” ... 190	p. 76. V. ii. ... 3
p. 21. ” ... 259	p. 48. III. iii. Entrance	” ” ... 16
” ” ... 262	” ” ... 2	p. 77. ” ... 27
p. 22. ” ... 336	p. 49. ” ... 39	” ” ... 34
p. 23. ” ... 373	p. 50. ” ... 51	” ” ... 36
p. 24. II. i. ... 8	p. 51. ” ... 112	” ” ... 42
” ” ... 19	” ” ... 115	p. 78. ” ... 72
” ” ... 21	” ” ... 119	” ” ... 78
” ” ... 31	” ” ... 120	p. 79. ” ... 114
p. 25. ” ... 35	p. 52. ” ... 141 <sup>3</sup>	p. 80. ” ... 136
” ” ... 59	p. 54. ” ... 233	p. 82. V. iii. ... 29
p. 27. II. ii. ... 3	p. 55. ” ... 251	p. 84. ” ... 84
” ” ... 27	p. 56. ” ... 300	” ” ... 90
p. 28. ” ... 48	” ” ... 309	p. 85. V. iv. Entrance
” ” ... 50	p. 57. IV. i. ... 36	p. 87. V. v. ... 25
p. 29. ” ... 67	p. 58. ” ... 52	” ” ... 42
p. 32. ” ... 185 <sup>1</sup>	” ” ... 76	” ” V. vi. ... 1
p. 33. II. iii. ... 27	p. 59. IV. ii. ... 20	” ” ... 2
” ” ... 35	p. 60. ” ... 57	p. 88. ” ... 13
” ” ... 39	” ” ... 65 <sup>4</sup>	” ” V. vii. ... 1
” ” ... 40	” ” ... 67	p. 89. V. viii. ... 22
p. 34. II. iii. ... 69 <sup>2</sup>	” ” ... 68	p. 90. V. x. ... 17
” ” ... 76		

<sup>1</sup> [The † wrongly placed under 184.]

<sup>3</sup> [The † wrongly placed under 140.]

<sup>5</sup> [The † placed on wrong side of page.]

Note. pp. 39, 40., III. i. The speeches having in the Qo. the prefix “Man” have in the Fo., throughout, the prefix “Ser.”

The blotch on p. 12, I. ii. 262, should be “*Pan. Affes*”

<sup>2</sup> [The † wrongly placed under 68.]

<sup>4</sup> [The † wrongly placed under 64.]

ON THE QUARTO AND FOLIO OF  
'TROIILUS AND CRESSIDA,'

BY F. J. FURNIVALL.

I TAKE the opportunity of the issue of these 'Corrections' by a friend, to state my experience as to the Qo. and Fo. of *Troilus*.

Before Mr. Griggs's fire, I markt the mounted silver prints of the Qo. for printing, collated it with the Folio, and came to the conclusion that the Fo. had, plainly, later touches by Shakspeare, tho many of its archaic words, &c., had been altered by an after reviser. Then I forgot all about this; and when I had to edit the play for the 'Comedies'<sup>1</sup> of our *Old-Spelling Shakspeare*, I began to work on the Qo. text, and went gaily on till I came to the Folio change of the glorious Planet Sol . . . whose med'cinable eye

'Corrects the *ill aspects of Planets euill*,'

from the Quarto:

'Corrects the *influence of euill Planets*.'

In this change, I of course recognized Shakspeare's hand, and my former work and conclusion came back to mind. I again saw that F.'s insertion of Agamemnon's speech, I. iii. 70-4, was Shakspeare's, deliberate after breaking-up of Ulysses's long speech, and not a chance omission of the Qo., as I had for the time supposed it might be; and when I lookt on to the further determining changes of IV. ii. 74:

'the secrets of *nature* Haue not more gift in taciturnitie,'

from the Quarto:

'the secrets of *neighbour Pandar* Haue not more guift,' &c.,

and recollected that F. had several more lines than Q. (tho it leaves out some of Q.'s), I had no hesitation in deciding that F. showd corrections of Q. by Shakspeare's hand, and ought to be used as the basis of the text of the play, tho it had evidently been revised afterwards by another man, who had weakend many of Sh.'s strong archaic and other words, which an Editor now is bound to restore from the Quarto.

<sup>1</sup> We follow the 'neuer Writer' of the Forewords of 1609, in making the play a comedy.

18th January, 1887.

1.  
+  
The most excellent  
Historie of the *Merchant*  
of *Venice*.

VWith the extreame crueltie of *Shylocke* the Iewe  
towards the sayd Merchant, in cutting a iust pound  
of his flesh: and the obtaining of *Portia*  
by the choyse of three  
chefts.

*As it hath bene diuers times acted by the Lord  
Chamberlaine his Seruants.*

\*  
\*

Written by William Shakepeare.



AT LONDON,  
Printed by *I. R.* for Thomas Heyes,  
and are to be sold in Paules Church-yard, at the  
signe of the Greene Dragon.

1600.





# The comicall History of the Merchant of Venice.

Enter *Antonio*, *Salaryno*, and *Salanio*.

Act I.  
Sc.I.

*An.* **S**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 stuffe tis made of, whereof it is borne,  
 I am to learne : and such a want-wit sadness  
 makes of mee,

4

That I haue much adoe to know my selfe.

*Salario.* Your minde is tossing on the Ocean,  
 There where your Argosies with portlie sayle  
 Like Signiors and rich Burgars on the flood,  
 Or as it were the Pageants of the sea,  
 Doe ouer-peere the petty traffiquers  
 That curse to them do them reuerence  
 As they flie by them with theyr woucn wings.

8

*Salanio.* Beleeue mee sir, had I such venture forth,  
 The better part of my affections would  
 Be with my hopes abroad. I should be still  
 Plucking the grasse to know where sits the wind,  
 Piring in Maps for ports, and peers and rodes:  
 And eucry obiect that might make me feare  
 Mis-fortune to my ventures, out of doubt  
 Would make me sad.

12

16

*Salario.* My wind cooling my broth,  
 wvould blow me to an ague when I thought  
 vvhat harme a winde too great might doe at sea.  
 I should not see the sandie howre-glasse runne  
 But I should thinke of shallowes and of flatts,  
 And see my wealthy *Andrew* docks in sand

†

20

24†

The comickall Historie of

28 Vayling her high top lower then her ribs  
 To kisse her buriall; should I goe to Church  
 And see the holy edifice of stone  
 And not bethinke me straight of dangerous rocks,  
 32 vvhich touching but my gentle vessels side  
 † vvould scatter all her spices on the streame,  
 Enrobe the roring waters with my silkes,  
 And in a word, but euen now worth this,  
 36 And now worth nothing. Shall I haue the thought  
 To thinke on this, and shall I lack the thought  
 That such a thing bechaunc'd would make me sad?  
 But tell not me, I know *Antonio*  
 40 Is sad to thinke vpon his merchandize.

*Anth.* Beleue me no, I thanke my fortune for it  
 My ventures are not in one bottome trusted,  
 Nor to one place; nor is my whole estate  
 44 Vpon the fortune of this present yeere:  
 Therefore my merchandize makes me not sad.

*Sola.* Why then you are in loue.

*Anth.* Fie, fie.

*Sola.* Not in loue neither: then let vs say you are sad  
 48 Because you are not merry; and twere as easie  
 For you to laugh and leape, and say you are merry  
 Because you are not sad. Now by two-headed *Ianus*,  
 Nature hath framd strange fellows in her time:  
 52 Some that will euermore peepe through their eyes,  
 And laugh like Parrats at a bagpyper.  
 And other of such vinigar aspect,  
 That theyle not shew theyr teeth in way of smile  
 56 Though *Nestor* sweare the iest be laughable.

Enter *Bassanio*, *Lorenzo*, and *Gratiano*.

*Sola.* Here comes *Bassanio* your most noble kinsman,  
*Gratiano*, and *Lorenzo*. Fareyewell,  
 We leaue you now with better company.

60 *Sola.* I would haue staid till I had made you merry,  
 If worthier friends had not preuented me.

*Anth.* Your worth is very deere in my regard.



*the Merchant of Venice.*

I take it your owne busines calls on you,  
And you embrace th' occasion to depart.

*Sal.* Good morrow my good Lords.

*Bass.* Good signiors both when shal we laugh : say, when ?  
You grow exceeding strange : must it be so ?

*Sal.* Weele make our leysures to attend on yours.

*Exeunt Salarino, and Solanio.*

*Lor.* My Lord *Bassanio*, since you haue found *Antonio*  
We two will leaue you, but at dinner time  
I pray you haue in minde where we must meete.

*Bass.* I will not faile you.

*Grat.* You looke not well signior *Antonio*,  
You haue too much respect vpon the world :  
They loose it that doe buy it with much care,  
Beleeue me you are meruailously changd.

*Ant.* I hold the world but as the world *Gratiano*,  
A stage, where euery man must play a part,  
And mine a sad one.

*Grati.* Let me play the foole,  
With mirth and laughter let old wrinckles come,  
And let my liuer rather heate with wine  
Then my hart coole with mortifying grones.  
Why should a man whose blood is warme within,  
Sit like his grandfire, cut in Alabaster ?  
Sleepe when he wakes ? and creepe into the Iaundies  
By beeing peeuish ? I tell thee what *Antonio*,  
I loue thee, and tis my loue that speakes :  
There are a sort of men whose visages  
Doe creame and mantle like a standing pond,  
And doe a wilful stilnes entertaine,  
With purpose to be drest in an opinion  
Of wisedome grauitie, profound conceit,  
As who should say, I am sir Oracle,  
And when I ope my lips, let no dogge barke.  
O my *Antonio* I doe know of these  
That therefore onely are reputed wise

A 3.

For

64

68.

72†

76

80

84

88

†

92

†

96

*The comicall Historie of*

97 For saying nothing; when I am very sure  
If they should speake, would almost dam those eares  
vvhich hearing them would call their brothers fooles,  
100 Ile tell thee more of this another time.

But fish not with this melancholy baite

For this foole gudgin, this opinion:

+ Come good *Lorenso*, faryewell a while,

104 Ile end my exhortation after dinner.

*Loren.* Well we will leaue you then till dinner time.

I must be one of these same dumbe wise men,

For *Gratiano* neuer lets me speake.

108 *Gra.* Well keepe me company but two yeeres moe  
Thou shalt not know the sound of thine owne tongue.

+ *An.* Far you well, Ile grow a talker for this geare.

*Gra.* Thanks yfaith, for silence is onely commendable  
112 In a neates togue dried, and a mayde not vendable. *Exeunt.*

*An.* It is that any thing now.

*Bass.* *Gratiano* speakes an infinite deale of nothing more then any  
116-7 man in all Venice, his reasons are as two graines of wheate hid in  
two bushels of chaffe: you shall seeke all day ere you finde them,  
and when you haue them, they are not worth the search.

*An.* VVell, tell me now what Lady is the same  
120 To whom you swore a secrete pilgrimage  
That you to day promised to tell me of.

*Bass.* Tis not vnknowne to you *Antonio*  
124 How much I haue disabled mine estate,  
By something showing a more swelling port  
Then my faint meanes would graunt continuance:  
Nor doe I now make mone to be abridg'd  
From such a noble rate, but my cheefe care  
128 Is to come fairely of from the great debts  
vvherein my time something too prodigall

+ Hath left me gagd: to you *Antonio*

132 I owe the most in money and in loue,  
And from your loue I haue a warrantie  
To vnburthen all my plots and purposes  
How to get cleere of all the debts I owe.

*the Merchant of Venice.*

*An.* I pray you good *Bassanio* let me know it,  
And if it stand as you your selfe still doe,  
vwithin the eye of honour, be assur'd  
My purse, my person, my extreamest meanes  
Lie all vnlockt to your occasions.

*Bass.* In my schoole dayes, when I had lost one shaft,  
I shot his fellow of the selfe same flight  
The selfe same way, with more aduised watch  
To finde the other forth, and by aduenturing both,  
I oft found both: I vrge this child-hood prooffe  
Because what followes is pure innocence.  
I owe you much, and like a wilfull youth  
That which I owe is lost, but if you please  
To shoote another arrow that selfe way  
vvhich you did shoote the first, I doe not doubt,  
As I will watch the ayme or to find both,  
Or bring your latter hazzard bake againe,  
And thankfully rest debter for the first.

*An.* You know me well, and herein spend but time  
To wind about my loue with circumstance,  
And out of doubt you doe me now more wrong  
In making question of my vttermost  
Then if you had made wast of all I haue:  
Then doe but say to me what I should doe  
That in your knowledge may by me be done,  
And I am prest vnto it: therefore speake.

*Bass.* In *Belmont* is a Lady richly left,  
And she is faire. and fairer then that word,  
Of wondrous vertues, sometimes from her eyes  
I did receaue faire speechlesse messages:  
Her name is *Portia*, nothing vnderallewd  
To *Catos* daughter, *Brutus Portia*,  
Nor is the wide world ignorant of her worth,  
For the foure winds blow in from euery coast  
Renowned sutors, and her funny locks  
Hang on her temples like a golden fleece,  
vvhich makes her seat of *Belmont Cholchos* strand,

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## I. i.

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172 And many *Iasons* come in quest of her.  
 † O my *Antonio*, had I but the meanes  
 To hold a riual place with one of them,  
 I haue a minde presages me such thrift  
 176 That I should questionlesse be fortunate.

*Anth.* Thou knowst that all my fortunes are at sea,  
 Neither haue I money, nor commoditie  
 To raise a present summe, therefore goe forth  
 180 Try what my credite can in Venice doe,  
 That shall be rackt euen to the vttermost  
 To furnish thee to *Belmont* to faire *Portia*.  
 Goe presently enquire and so will I  
 vwhere money is, and I no question make  
 185 To haue it of my trust, or for my sake. *Exeunt.*

## I. ii.

Enter *Portia* with her wayting woman *Nerrissa*.

*Portia.* By my troth *Nerrissa*, my little body is awearie of this  
 great world.

3 *Ner.* You would be sweet Madam, if your miseries were in the  
 same aboundance as your good fortunes are: and yet for ought I  
 7 see, they are as sicke that surfeite with too much, as they that starue  
 with nothing; it is no meane happines therefore to be seated in the  
 10 meane, superfluitie comes sooner by white haire, but competencie  
 liues longer.

*Portia.* Good sentences, and well pronounc'd.

*Ner.* They would be better if well followed.

13 *Portia.* If to do were as easie as to know what were good to do,  
 Chappels had beene Churches, and poore mens cottages Princes  
 16 Pallaces, it is a good diuine that followes his owne instructions, I  
 can easier teach twentie what were good to be done, then to be one  
 21 of the twentie to follow mine owne teaching: the braine may deuise  
 lawes for the blood, but a hote temper leapes ore a colde de-  
 cree, such a hare is madnes the youth, to skippe ore the meshes of  
 good counsaile the cripple; but this reasoning is not in the fashion  
 26 to choose mee a husband, ô mee the word choose, I may neyther  
 choose who I would, nor refuse who I dislike, so is the will of a ly-  
 uing daughter curbd by the will of a deade father: is it not harde  
*Nerrissa,*

*the Merchant of Venice.*

*Nerrissa*, that I cannot choose one, nor refuse none.

*Ner.* Your Father was euer vertuous, and holy men at theyr death haue good inspirations, therefore the lottrie that he hath deuised in these three chests of gold, siluer, and leade, whereof who chooses his meaning chooses you, will no doubt neuer be chosen by any rightlie, but one who you shall rightly loue: But what warmth is there in your affection towards any of these Princelie suters that are already come?

*Por.* I pray thee ouer-name them, and as thou namest them, I will describe them, and according to my description leuell at my affection.

*Ner.* First there is the Neopolitane Prince.

*Por.* I thats a colt indcede, for he doth nothing but talke of his horse, & he makes it a great appropriation to his owne good parts that he can shoo him himselfe: I am much afeard my Ladie his mother plaid false with a Smyth.

*Ner.* Than is there the Countie Palentine.

*Por.* Hee doth nothing but frowne (as who should say, & you will not haue me, choose, he heares merry tales and smiles not, I feare hee will prooue the weeping Phylosopher when hee growes old, beeing so full of vnmanerly ladnes in his youth.) I had rather be married to a deaths head with a bone in his mouth, then to eyther of these: God defend me from these two.

*Ner.* How say you by the French Lord, Mounsier *Le Bonne*?

*Por.* God made him, and therefore let him passe for a man, in truth I knowe it is a sinne to be a mocker, but hee, why hee hath a horse better then the Neopolitans, a better bad habite of frowning then the Count Palentine, he is euery man in no man, if a Trassell sing, he falls straght a capring, he will fence with his owne shadow. If I should marry him, I should marry twenty husbands: if hee would despise me, I would forgiue him, for if he loue me to madnes, I shall neuer requite him,

*Ner.* What say you then to Fauconbridge, the young Barron of England?

*Por.* You know I say nothing to him, for hee vnderstands not me, nor I him: he hath neither Latine, French, nor Italian, & you will come into the Court and sweare that I haue a poore pennie-

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worth in the English : hee is a proper mans picture, but alas vvho can conuerse with a dumbe show ? how odly hee is suted, *I* thinke he bought his doublet in *Italie*, his round hose in *Fraunce*, his bonnet in *Germanie*. and his behaiour euery where.

*Nerrissa.* What thinke you of the Scottish Lorde his neighbour ?

*Portia.* That hee hath a neyghbourlie charitie in him, for hee borrowed a boxe of the care of the Englishman , and swore hee would pay him againe when he was able : *I* thinke the Frenchman became his suretie, and seald vnder for another.

*Ner.* How like you the young Germaine, the Duke of Saxones nephew ?

*Por.* Very vildlie in the morning when hee is sober , and most vildly in the afternoone when he is drunke : when he is best, he is a little worfe then a man, & when he is worst he is little better then a beast, and the worst fall that euer fell , *I* hope *I* shall make shift to goe without him.

*Ner.* Yf hee shoulde offer to choose, and choose the right Casket, you should refuse to performe your Fathers will, if you should refuse to accept him.

*Portia.* Therefore for feare of the worst, *I* pray thee set a deepe glasse of Reynishe vvine on the contrarie Casket , for if the deuill be within, and that temptation without, *I* knowe hee will choose it . *I* will doe any thing *Nerrissa* ere *I* will be married to a sponge.

*Nerrissa.* You neede not feare Ladie the hauing anie of these Lords, they haue acquainted me wih theyr determinations, which is indeede to returne to theyr home , and to trouble you with no more sute, vnlesse you may be wonne by some other sort the your Fathers imposition, depending on the Caskets.

*Por.* Yf *I* liue to be as old as *Sibilla*, *I* will die as chaste as *Diana*, vnlesse *I* be obtained by the maner of my Fathers will : *I* am glad this parcell of wooers are so reasonable, for there is not one among them but *I* doate on his very absence : & *I* pray God graunt them a faire departure.

*Nerrissa* Doe you not remember *Lady* in your Fathers time, a *Venecian* a *Scholler* & a *Souldiour* that came hether in companie of the *Marquesse* of *Mountferat* ?

*Portia.*

*the Merchant of Venice.*

*Portia.* Yes, yes, it was *Bassanio*, as I thinke so was he calld.

*Ner.* True maddam, hee of all the men that euer my foolish eyes look'd vpon, was the best deseruing a faire Ladie.

*Portia.* I remember him well, and I remember him worthie of thy prayse.

How nowe, vvhath newes?

Enter a Seruingman.

*Ser.* The foure strangers seeke for you maddam to take their leaue: and there is a fore-runner come from a fift, the Prince of *Moroco*, who brings word the Prince his Maister will be heere to night.

*Por.* Yf I could bid the fift welcome with so good hart as I can bid the other foure farewell, I should bee glad of his approch: if he haue the condition of a Saint, and the complexion of a deuill, I had rather he should shriue mee then wiuie mee. Come *Nerrissa*, sirra goe before: whiles we shut the gate vpon one wooer, another knocks at the doore.

*Exeunt.*

Enter *Bassanio* with *Shylocke* the Iew.

*Shy.* Three thousand ducates, well.

*Bass.* I sir, for three months.

*Shy.* For three monthis, well.

*Bass.* For the which as I told you,

*Antonio* shall be bound.

*Shy.* *Antonio* shall become bound, well.

*Bass.* May you sted me? Will you pleasure me?

Shall I know your aunswere.

*Shy.* Three thousand ducats for three months, and *Antonio* bound.

*Bass.* Your aunswere to that.

*Shy.* *Antonio* is a good man.

*Bass.* Haue you heard any imputation to the contrary.

*Shylocke.* Ho no, no, no, no: my meaning in saying hee is a good man, is to haue you vnderstand mee that hee is sufficient, yet his meanes are in supposition: hee hath an Argosie bound to Tripolis, another to the Indies, I vnderstand moreover vpon the Ryalta, hee hath a third at Mexico, a fourth for England,

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and other ventures he hath squandred abroade, but ships are but boordes, Sayers but men, there be land rats, and water rats, water theeues, and land theeues, I meane Pyrats, and then there is the perrill of waters, windes, and rockes: the man is notwithstanding sufficient, three thousand ducats, I thinke I may take his bond.

*Bass.* Be assur'd you may.

*Jew.* I will be assur'd I may: and that I may bee assur'd, I will bethinke mee, may I speake with *Antonio*?

*Bass.* Yf it please you to dine with vs.

*Jew.* Yes, to smell porke, to eate of the habitation which your Prophet the Nazarit coniured the deuill into: I will buy with you, sell with you, talke with you, walke with you, and so following: but I will not eate with you, drinke with you, nor pray with you. What newes on the Ryalto, who is he comes heere?

*Enter Antonio.*

*Bass.* This is signior *Antonio*.

*Jew.* How like a fawning publican he lookes.

I hate him for he is a Christian:

But more, for that in low simplicitie

He lends out money gratis, and brings downe

The rate of vsance heere with vs in Venice.

Yf I can catch him once vpon the hip,

I will feede fat the auncient grudge I beare him.

He hates our sacred Nation, and he rayles

Euen there where Merchants most doe congregate

On me, my bargaines, and my well-wone thrift,

vhich hee calls interest: Cursed be my Trybe

if I forgiue him.

*Bass.* *Shylock*, doe you heare.

*Shyl.* I am debating of my present store,

And by the neere gesse of my memorie

I cannot instantly raise vp the grosse

Of full three thousand ducats: what of that,

*Tuball* a wealthy Hebrew of my Tribe

Will furnish me; but soft, how many months

Doe you desire? Rest you faire good signior,

Your worship was the last man in our mouthes.

*Shylocke*



*the Merchant of Venice.*

*An. Shylocke,* albeit I neither lend nor borrow  
By taking nor by giuing of excesse,  
Yet to supply the ripe wants of my friend,  
*Ile* breake a custome: is hee yet posselt  
How much ye would ?

*Shy. I, I,* three thousand ducats.

*Ant.* And for three months.

*Shyl.* I had forgot, three months, you told me so.  
Well then, your bond: and let me see, but heare you,  
Me thoughts you said, you neither lend nor borrow  
Vpon aduantage.

*Ant.* I doe neuer vse it.

*Shy.* When *Iacob* grazd his Vncle *Labans* Sheepe,  
This *Iacob* from our holy *Abram* was  
(As his wife mother wrought in his behalfe)  
The third posseller; *I,* he was the third.

*Ant.* And what of him, did he take interest ?

*Shyl.* No, not take interest, not as you would say  
Directly intrest, marke what *Iacob* did,  
VVhen *Laban* and himselfe were compremyzd  
That all the eanelings which were streakt and pied  
Should fall as *Iacobs* hier, the Ewes being ranck  
In end of Autume turned to the Rammes,  
And when the worke of generation was  
Betweene these wolly breeders in the act,  
The skilful sheeheard pyld me certaine wands,  
And in the dooing of the deede of kind  
He stuck them vp before the fulsome Ewes,  
Who then conceauing, did in eaning time  
Fall party-colourd lambs, and those were *Iacobs*.  
This was a way to thriue, and he was blest:  
And thrift is blessing if men steale it not.

*An.* This was a venture sir that *Iacob* serud for.  
A thing not in his power to bring to passe,  
But swayd and fashioned by the hand of heauen.  
Was this inserted to make interest good ?  
Or is your gold and siluer ewes and rammes ?

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*Shyl.* I cannot tell, I make it breede as fast,  
but note me signior.

*Anth.* Marke you this *Bassanio*,  
The deuill can cite Scripture for his purpose,  
An euill soule producing holy witnes  
Is like a villaine with a smiling cheeke,  
A goodly apple rotten at the hart.  
O what a goodly out-side falshood hath.

*Shy.* Three thousand ducats, tis a good round summe.  
Three months from twelue, then let me see the rate.

*Ant.* Well *Shylocke*, shall we be beholding to you ?

*Shyl.* Signior *Antonio*, manie a time and oft  
In the Ryalto you haue rated me  
About my moncyes and my vsances :

Still haue I borne it with a patient shrug,  
(For suffrance is the badge of all our Trybe)

You call me misbeleeuer, cut-throate dog,  
And spet vpon my Iewish gaberdine,  
And all for vse of that which is mine owne.

Well then, it now appeares you neede my helpe :

Goe to then, you come to me, and you say,  
*Shylocke*, we would haue moneyes you say so :

You that did voyde your rume vpon my beard,  
And foote me as you spurne a stranger curre

Ouer your threhold, moneyes is your fute.

What should I say to you ? Should I not say  
Hath a dog money ? is it possible

A curre can lend three thousand ducats ? or

Shall I bend low, and in a bond-mans key  
With bated breath, and whispring humblenes

Say this : Faire sir, you spet on me on Wednesday last,

You spurnd me such a day another time,  
You calld me dogge : and for these curtesies  
He lend you thus much moneyes.

*Ant.* I am as like to call thee so againe,  
To spet on thee againe, to spurne thee to.  
Yf thou wilt lend this money, lend it not

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As to thy friends, for when did friendship take  
A breede for barraine mettaile of his friend ?  
But lend it rather to thine enemy,  
Who if he breake, thou maist with better face  
Exact the penaltie.

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*Shy.* Why looke you how you storme,  
I would be friends with you, and haue your loue,  
Forget the shames that you haue staine me with,  
Supply your present wants, and take no doyte  
Of vsance for my moneyes, and youle not heare mee,  
this is kinde I offer.

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*Bass.* This were kindnesse.

*Shyl.* This kindnesse will I showe,  
Goe with me to a Notarie, seale me there  
Your single bond, and in a merrie sport  
if you repay me not on such a day  
in such a place, such summe or summes as are  
expressed in the condition, let the forfaitie  
be nominated for an equall pound  
of your faire flesh, to be cut off and taken  
in what part of your bodie pleaseth me.

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*Ant.* Content in faith, yle seale to such a bond,  
and say there is much kindnes in the Iew.

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*Bass.* You shall not seale to such a bond for me,  
He rather dwell in my necessitie.

156

*An.* Why feare not man, I will not forfaitie it,  
within these two months, thats a month before  
this bond expires, I doe expect returne  
of thrice three times the valew of this bond.

160

*Shy.* O father Abram, what these Christians are,  
Whose owne hard dealings teaches them suspect  
the thoughts of others : Pray you tell me this,  
if he should breake his day what should I gaine  
by the exaction of the forfeiture ?

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A pound of mans flesh taken from a man,  
is not so estimable, profitable neither  
as flesh of Muttons, Beefes, or Goates, I say

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## I. iii

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169 To buy his fauour, I extend this friendship,  
Yf he wil take it, fo, if not adiew,  
And for my loue I pray you wrong me not.

172 *An.* Yes *Shylocke*, I will seale vnto this bond.

*Sby.* Then meete me forthwith at the Noteries,  
Giue him direction for this merry bond  
And I will goe and purse the ducats fraite,  
176 See to my house left in the fearefull gard  
Of an vnthriftie knaue : and presently  
Ile be with you. *Exit.*

† *An.* Hie thee gentle Iewe. The Hebrew will turne  
Christian, he growes kinde.

180 *Bassa.* I like not faire termes, and a villaines minde.

182 *An.* Come on, in this there can be no difmay,  
My ships come home a month before the day.

*Exeunt.*

## II. i.

Enter *Morocho*s a tawnie Moore all in white, and three  
or foure followers accordingly, with *Portia*,  
*Nerrissa*, and their traine.

† 4 *Morocho.* Mislike me not for my complexion,  
The shadowed liuerie of the burnisht sunne,  
To whom I am a neighbour, and neere bred.  
Bring me the fayrest creature North-ward borne,  
Where *Phabus* fire scarce thawes the yficles,  
And let vs make incyzion for your loue,  
To proue whose blood is reddest, his or mine.  
8 I tell thee Lady this aspect of mine  
Hath feard the valiant, (by my loue I sweare)  
The best regarded Virgins of our Clyme  
Haue lou'd it to : I would not change this hue,  
12 Except to steale your thoughts my gentle Queene.

16 *Portia.* In termes of choysfe I am not soly led  
By nice direction of a maydens eyes :  
Besides, the lottrie of my destenie  
Barrs me the right of voluntary choosing :  
But if my Father had not scanted me,

And

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And hedgd me by his wit to yeeld my selfe  
His wife, who winnes me by that meanes I told you,  
Your selfe (renowned Prince) than stood as faire  
As any commer I haue look'd on yet  
For my affection

*Mor.* Euen for that I thanke you,  
Therefore I pray you leade me to the Caskets  
To try my fortune : By this Symitare  
That slewe the Sophy, and a Persian Prince  
That wone three fields of Sultan Solyman,  
I would ore-stare the sternest eyes that looke :  
Out-braue the hart most daring on the earth :  
Pluck the young sucking Cubs from the she Beare,  
Yea, mock the Lyon when a rores for pray  
To win the Lady . But alas, the while  
If *Hercules* and *Lycbas* play at dice  
Which is the better man, the greater throw  
May turne by fortune from the weaker hand :  
So is *Alcides* beaten by his rage,  
And so may I, blind Fortune leading me  
Misse that which one vnworthier may attaine,  
And die with greeuing.

*Portia.* You must take your chance,  
And eyther not attempt to choose at all,  
Or sweare before you choose, if you choose wrong  
Neuer to speake to Lady afterward  
In way of marriage, therefore be aduis'd.

*Mor.* Nor will not, come bring me vnto my chance.

*Portia.* First forward to the temple, after dinner  
Your hazard shall be made.

*Mor.* Good fortune then,  
To make me blest or cursed'st among men.

*Exeunt.*

*Enter the Clowne alone.*

*Clowne.* Certainly, my conscience will serue me to runne from  
this Iewe my Maister : the fiend is at mine elbow, and tempts me,  
saying to me, *Iobbe, Launcelet Iobbe, good Launcelet, or good Iobbe,*

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or

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† or good *Launcelet Iobbe*, vse your legges, take the start, runne a-  
 way, my conscience sayes no; take heede honest *Launcelet*, take  
 † 8 heede honest *Iobbe*, or as afore-saide honest *Launcelet Iobbe*, doe  
 not runne, scorne running with thy heeles; well, the most cora-  
 12 gious fiend bids me packe, *sia* sayes the fiend, away sayes the fiend,  
 for the heauens roufe vp a braue minde sayes the fiend, and runne;  
 16 well, my conscience hanging about the necke of my heart, sayes  
 very wisely to mee: my honest friend *Launcelet* beeing an honest  
 † mans sonne, or rather an honest womans sonne, for indeede my  
 † 20 Father did something smacke, something grow to; he had a kinde  
 of tast; well, my conscience sayes *Launcelet* bouge not, bouge sayes  
 † the fiend, bouge not sayes my conscience, conscience say I you  
 24 counsaile wel, fiend say I you counsaile well, to be ruld by my con-  
 science, I should stay with the Iewe my Maister, (who God blesse  
 the marke) is a kinde of deuill; and to runne away from the Iewe I  
 † 28 should be ruled by the fiend, who sauing your reuerence is the de-  
 uill himselfe: certainly the Iewe is the very deuill incarnation, and  
 in my conscience, my conscience is but a kinde of hard consci-  
 32 ence, to offer to counsaile mee to stay with the Iewe; the fiend  
 giues the more friendly counsaile: I will runne fiend, my heeles  
 † 33 are at your commaundement, I will runne.

*Enter old Gobbo with a basket.*

34 *Gobbo.* Maister young-man, you I pray you, which is the way  
 to Maister Iewes?

36 *Launcelet.* O heauens, this is my true begotten Father, who be-  
 † ing more then sand blinde, high grauell blinde, knowes me not, I  
 will try confusions with him.

40 *Gobbo.* Maister young Gentleman, I pray you which is the way  
 to Maister Iewes.

† *Launcelet.* Turne vp on your right hand at the next turning,  
 44 but at the next turning of all on your left; marry at the very next  
 turning turne of no hand, but turne downe indirectly to the Iewes  
 † house.

*Gobbo.* Be Gods fonties twill be a hard way to hit, can you tell  
 † me

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mee whether one *Launcelet* that dwels with him, dwell with him or no.

*Launcelet.* Talke you of young Maister *Launcelet*, marke mee nowe, nowe will I raise the waters; talke you of young Maister *Launcelet*.

*Gobbo.* No Maister sir, but a poore mans Sonne, his Father though I say't is an honest exceeding poore man, and God bee thanked well to liue.

*Launce.* Well, let his Father be what a will, wee talke of young Maister *Launcelet*.

*Gob.* Your worships friend and *Launcelet* sir.

*Launce.* But I pray you *ergo* olde man, *ergo* I beseech you, talke you of young Maister *Launcelet*.

*Gob.* Of *Launcelet* ant please your maistership.

*Launce.* *Ergo* Maister *Launcelet*, talke not of maister *Launcelet* Father, for the young Gentleman according to fates and destenies, and such odd sayings, the sisters three, and such braunches of learning, is indeede deceased, or as you would say in plaine termes, gone to heauen.

*Gobbo.* Marry God forbid, the boy was the very staffe of my age, my very prop.

*Launcelet.* Doe I looke like a cudgell or a houell post, a staffe, or a prop: doe you know me Father.

*Gobbo.* Alacke the day, I knowe you not young Gentleman, but I pray you tell mee, is my boy G O D rest his soule aliuie or dead.

*Launcelet.* Doe you not know me Father.

*Gobbo.* Alack sir I am sand blind, I know you not.

*Launcelet.* Nay, in deede if you had your eyes you might sayle of the knowing mee: it is a wise Father that knowes his ovvne childe. Well, olde man, I will tell you newes of your sonne, giue mee your blessing, trueth will come to light, muder cannot bee hidde long, a mannes Sonne may, but in the ende trueth vwill out.

*Gobbo.* Pray you sir stand vp, I am sure you are not *Launcelet* my boy.

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88 *Launce.* Pray you let's haue no more fooling, about it, but giue mee your blessing: I am *Launcelet* your boy that was, your sonne that is, your child that shall be.

92 *Gob.* I cannot thinke you are my sonne.

*Launce.* I know not what I shall think of that: but I am *Launcelet* the Jewes man, and I am sure *Margerie* your wife is my mother.

96 *Gob.* Her name is *Margerie* in deede, ile be sworne if thou bee *Launcelet*, thou art mine owne flesh and blood: Lord worshipt might he be, what a beard hast thou got; thou hast got more haire on thy chinne, then Dobbins my philhorfe hafe on his taile.

100 *Launce.* It should seeme then that Dobbins taile growes backward. I am sure hee had more haire of his taile then I haue of my face when I lost saw him.

106 *Gob.* Lord how art thou changd: how doost thou and thy Maister agree, I haue brought him a present; how gree you now?

109 *Launce.* Well, well, but for mine owne part, as I haue set vp my rest to runne away, so I will not rest till I haue runne some ground; my Maister's a very Iewe, giue him a present, giue him a halter, I am famisht in his seruice. You may tell euery finger I haue with my ribs: Father I am glad you are come, giue me your present to one Maister *Bassanio*, who in deede giues rare newe Lyuories, if I serue not him, I will runne as farre as God has any ground. O rare fortune, heere comes the man, to him Father, for I am a Iewe if I serue the Iewe any longer.

*Enter Bassanio with a follower or two.*

121 *Bass.* You may doe so, but let it be so halsted that supper be ready at the farthest by siue of the clocke: see these Letters deliuered, put the Lyueries to making, and desire *Gratiano* to come anone to my lodging.

126 *Launce.* To him Father.

*Gob.* God bleffe your worship.

*Bass.* Gramercie, wouldst thou ought with me.

*Gobbe.* Heere's my sonne sir, a poore boy.

130 *Launce.* Not a poore boy sir, but the rich Jewes man that would sir as my Father shall specifie.

*Gob.*



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*Gob.* He hath a great infection sir, as one would fay to serue.

*Lau.* Indeede the short and the long is, I serue the Iewe, & haue a desire as my Father shall specifie. 135

*Gob.* His Maister and he (sauing your worships reuerence) are scarce catercolins. 138

*Lau.* To be brieft, the very truth is, that the Iewe hauing done me wrong, dooth cause me as my Father being I hope an old man shall frutifie vnto you. 140

*Gob.* I haue heere a dish of Doues that I would bestow vpon your worship, and my sute is. 144

*Lau.* In very brieft, the sute is impertinent to my selfe, as your worship shall knowe by this honest old man, and though I say it, though old man, yet poore man my Father. 148

*Bass.* One speake for both, what would you ? 150

*Lau.* Serue you sir.

*Gob.* That is the very defect of the matter sir.

*Bass.* I know thee well, thou hast obtaind thy sute,  
*Shylocke* thy Maister spoke with me this day,  
And hath preferd thee, if it be preferment  
To leaue a rich Iewes seruice, to become  
The follower of so poore a Gentleman. 153

*Clowne.* The old prouerb is very well parted betweene my Maister *Shylocke* and you sir, you haue the grace of God sir, and hee hath enough. 156

*Bass.* Thou speakest it well; goe Father with thy Sonne  
Take leaue of thy old Maister, and enquire  
My lodging out, giue him a Lyuerie  
More garded then his fellowes : see it done. 160

*Clowne.* Father in, I cannot get a seruice, no, I haue nere a tong in my head, wel : if any man in Italy haue a fayrer table which dooth offer to sweare vpon a booke, I shall haue good fortune; goe too, heere s a simple lyne of life, heeres a small tryfle of wiues, alas, fiftene wiues is nothing, a leuen widdowes and nine maydes is a simple comming in for one man, and then to scape drowning thrice, and to be in perrill of my life with the edge of a featherbed, heere are simple scapes : vvell, if Fortune be a woman she's a good wench for this gere : Father come, ile take my leaue of the Iewe in 164

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the twinkling. *Exit Clowne.*

178 *Bass.* I pray thee good *Leonardo* thinke on this,  
These things being bought and orderly bestowed  
Returne in hast, for I doe feast to night  
My best esteemd acquaintance, hie thee goe.

182 *Leon.* My best endeouours shall be done heerein. *Exit Leonardo.*  
*Enter Gratiano.*

*Grati.* Where's your Maister.

*Leonar.* Yonder sir he walkes.

184 *Grati.* Signior *Bassanio*.

*Bass.* *Gratiano*.

*Gra.* I haue sute to you.

*Bass.* You haue obtained it.

186 *Gra.* You must not deny me, I must goe with you to Belmont.

190 *Bass.* Why then yon must but heare thee *Gratiano*,  
Thou art to wild, to rude, and bold of voyce,  
Parts that become thee happily enough,  
And in such eyes as ours appeare not faults  
193 But where thou art not knöwne; why there they show  
Something too liberall, pray thee take paine  
To allay with some cold drops of modestie  
196 Thy skipping spirit, least through thy wild behaiour  
I be misconstr'd in the place I goe to,  
And loose my hopes.

*Gra.* Signor *Bassanio*, heare me,  
Yf I doe not put on a sober habire,  
200 Talke with respect, and sweare but now and than,  
Weare prayer bookes in my pocket, looke demurely,  
Nay more, while grace is saying hood mine eyes  
Thus with my hat, and sigh and say amen :

204 Vse all the obseruance of ciuillity  
Like one well studied in a sad ostent  
To please his Grandam, neuer trust me more.

*Bass.* Well, we shall see your bearing.

208 *Gra.* Nay but I barre to night, you shall not gage me  
By what we doe to night.

*Bass.* No that were pittie,

I would

*the Merchant of Venice.*

I would intreate you rather to put on  
Your boldest sute of mirth, for we haue friends  
That purpose merriment : but far you well,  
I haue some busines.

*Gra.* And I must to *Lorenzo* and the rest,  
But we will visite you at supper time.

*Exeunt.*

*Enter Iessica and the Clowne.*

*Iessica.* I am sorry thou wilt leaue my Father so,  
Our house is hell, and thou a merry deuill  
Didst rob it of some tast of tediousnes,  
But far thee well, there is a ducat for thee,  
And *Launcelet*, soone at supper shalt thou see  
*Lorenzo*, who is thy new Maisters guest,  
Gue him this Letter, doe it secretly,  
And so farwell : I would not haue my Father  
See me in talke with thee.

*Clowne.* Adiew, teares exhibit my tongue, most beautifull Pa-  
gan, most sweete Iewe, if a Christian doe not play the knaue and  
get thee, I am much deceaued ; but adiew, these foolish drops doe  
somthing drowne my manly spirit : adiew.

*Iessica.* Farwell good *Launcelet*.  
Alack, what heynous sinne is it in me  
To be ashamed to be my Fathers child,  
But though I am a daughter to his blood  
I am not to his manners : ô *Lorenzo*  
Yf thou keepe promise I shall end this strife,  
Become a Christian and thy louing wife.

*Exit.*

*Enter Gratiano, Lorenzo, Salaryno, and Salanio.*

*Loren.* Nay, we will sinke away in supper time,  
Disguise vs at my lodging, and returne all in an houre.

*Gratia.* We haue not made good preparation.

*Salari.* We haue not spoke vs yet of Torch-bearers,

*Solanio.* Tis vile vnlesse it may be quaintly ordered,  
And better in my minde not vnderooke.

*Loren.* Tis now but foure of clocke, we haue two houres

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II. iii.

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II. iv.

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## II. iv.

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To furnish vs; friend *Launcelet* whats the newes. *Enter Launcelet.*  
*Launcelet.* And it shal please you to breake vp this, it shal seeme  
 to signifie.

*Loren.* I know the hand, in faith tis a faire hand,  
 And whiter then the paper it writ on  
 Is the faire hand that writ.

*Gratia.* Loue, newes in faith.

*Launce.* By your leaue sir.

*Loren.* Whither goest thou.

*Launce.* Marry sir to bid my old Maister the *Iewe* to sup to night  
 with my new Maister the Christian.

*Loren.* Hold heere take this, tell gentle *Jessica*  
 I will not faile her, speake it priuatly,

Goe Gentlemen, will you prepare you for this maske to night,  
 I am prouided of a Torch-bearer. *Exit Clowne.*

*Sal.* I marry, ile be gone about it straite.

*Sol.* And so will I.

*Loren.* Meete me and *Gratiano* at *Gratianos* lodging  
 Some houre hence.

*Sal.* Tis good we doe so. *Exit.*

*Gratia.* Was not that Letter from faire *Jessica.*

*Loren.* I must needs tell thee all, she hath directed  
 How I shall take her from her Fathers house,  
 What gold and iewels she is furnisht with,  
 What Pages sute she hath in readines,  
 Yf ere the Iewe her Father come to heauen,  
 Yt will be for his gentle daughters sake,  
 And neuer dare misfortune crosse her foote,  
 Vnlesse she doe it vnder this excuse,  
 That she is issue to a faithlesse Iewe:  
 Come goe with me, peruse this as thou goest,  
 Faire *Jessica* shall be my Torch-bearer. *Exit.*

## II. v†

*Enter Iewe and his man that was the Clowne.*

*Iewe.* Well, thou shalt see, thy eyes shall be thy iudge,  
 The difference of old *Shylocke* and *Bassanio*;  
 What *Jessica*, thou shalt not gurmardize

As

*the Merchant of Venice.*

As thou hast done with mee : vvhhat *Ieffica*,  
and sleepe, and shone, and rend apparraile out.  
Why *Ieffica* I say.

*Clowne.* Why *Ieffica*.

*Shy.* Who bids thee call ? I doe not bid thee call.

*Clow.* Your vvorship was wont to tell me,  
I could doe nothing without bidding.

Enter *Ieffica*.

*Ieffica.* Call you ? vvhhat is your will ?

*Shy.* I am bid forth to supper *Ieffica*,

There are my keyes : but wherefore should I goe ?

I am not bid for loue, they flatter me,

But yet Ile goe in hate, to feede vpon

The prodigall Christian. *Ieffica* my girle,

looke to my house, I am right loth to goe,

There is some ill a bruïng towards my rest,

For I did dreame of money baggs to night.

*Clowne.* I beseech you sir goe, my young Maister  
doth expect your reproch.

*Shy.* So doe I his.

*Clowne.* And they haue conspired together, I vwill not say  
you shall see a Maske, but if you doe, then it was not for nothing  
that my nose fell a bleeding on black monday last, at fixe a clocke  
ith morning, falling out that yeere on ashwensday was foure yeere  
in thafternoone.

*Shy.* What are there maskes ? heare you me *Ieffica*,  
lock vp my doores, and when you heare the drumme  
and the vile squealing of the wry-neckt Fiffe  
clamber not you vp to the casements then  
Nor thrust your head into the publique streete  
To gaze on Christian fooles with varnisht faces :  
But stop my houses eares, I meane my casements,  
let not the sound of shallow fopprie enter  
my sober house. By *Jacobs* staffe I sweare  
I haue no minde of feasting forth to night ;  
but I will goe : goe you before me sirra,  
say I will come.

D.

*Clowne*

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## II. v.

## The comickall Historie of

*Clowne.* I will goe before sir.

†40 *Mistres* looke out at window for all this,  
there will come a Christian by  
vwill be worth a Jewes eye.

44 *Sbyl.* What sayes that foole of *Hagars* ofspring? ha.

*Ieffica.* His words were farewell mistris, nothing els.

*Sby.* The patch is kinde enough, but a huge feeder  
Snaike slow in profit, and he sleeps by day  
48 more then the vvild-cat: drones hue not with me,  
therefore I part with him and part with him  
to one that I would haue him helpe to waft  
his borrowed purse. Well *Ieffica* goe in,  
52 perhaps I will returne immediatlly,  
do as I bid you, shut dores after you, fast bind, fast find.  
a prouerbe neuer stale in thrifitie minde. *Exit.*

56 *Ief.* Farewell, and if my fortune be not crost,  
I haue a Father, you a daughter lost. *Exit.*

## II. vi.

Enter the maskers, *Gratiano* and *Salerino*.

*Grat.* This is the penthouse vnder which *Lorenzo*  
desired vs to make stand.

*Sal.* His howre is almost past.

4 *Gra.* And it is meruaile he out-dwells his howre.  
for louers euer runne before the clocke.

*Sal.* O tenne times faster *Venus* pidgions flie  
to seale loues bonds new made, then they are wont  
to keepe obliged faith vnforfaited.

8 *Gra.* That euer holds: who riseth from a feast  
vvith that keene appetite that he sits downe?  
vvhere is the horse that doth vntread againe  
his tedious measures with the vnbated fire  
that he did pace them first: all things that are  
12 are with more spirit chased then enioyd.

16 How like a younger or a prodigall  
the skarfed barke puts from her natiue bay  
bugd and embraced by the strumpet wind,  
how like the prodigall doth she returne

vwith

*the Merchant of Venice.*

vvith ouer-wetherd ribbs and ragged sailes  
leane, rent, and beggerd by the strumpet wind ?

*Enter Lorenzo.*

*Sal.* Heere comes *Lorenzo*, more of this hereafter.

*Lor.* Sweet freends, your patience for my long abode  
not I but my affaires haue made you waite :

vvhhen you shall please to play the theeces for uiues  
Ile watch as long for you then : approach  
here dwels my father Iew. Howe whose within ?

*Jessica* aboue.

*Jess.* Who are you ? tell me for more certainty,  
Albeit Ile sweare that I doe know your tongue.

*Lor.* *Lorenzo* and thy loue.

*Jessica.* *Lorenzo* certaine, and my loue indeed,  
for who loue I so much ? and now who knowes  
but you *Lorenzo* whether I am yours ?

*Lor.* Heauen & thy thoughts are witnes that thou art.

*Jes.* Heere catch this casket, it is worth the paines,  
I am glad tis night you doe not looke on me,  
for I am much ahamde of my exchange :  
But loue is blinde, and louers cannot see  
The pretty follies that themselues commit,  
for if they could, *Cupid* himselve would blush  
to see me thus transf ormed to a boy.

*Lor.* Descend, for you must be my torch-bearer.

*Jes.* What, must I hold a candle to my shames,  
they in themselues goodsooth are too too light.  
Why, tis an office of discouery loue,  
and I should be obscurd.

*Lor.* So are you sweet  
euen in the louely garnish of a boy, but come at once,  
for the close night doth play the runaway,  
and we are staid for at *Bassanios* feast.

*Jes.* I will make fast the doores & guild my selfe  
with some mo ducats, and be with you straight.

*Gra.* Now by my hooce a gentle, and no Iew.

*Lor.* Beshrow me but I loue her hartilie,

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*The comicall Historie of*

For she is wise, if I can iudge of her,  
 and faire she is, if that mine eyes be true,  
 and true she is, as she hath proou'd herselfe:  
 And therefore like herselfe, wise, faire, and true,  
 shall she be placed in my constant soule. Enter *Iessica*.  
 What, art thou come, on gentleman, away,  
 our masking mates by this time for vs stay. *Exit.*

Enter *Anthonio*.

*An.* VVhose there?

*Gra.* Signior *Anthonio*?

*Anth.* Fie, fie Gratiano, where are all the rest?

Tis nine a clocke, our friends all stay for you,  
 No maske to night, the wind is come about  
*Bassanio* presently will goe aboard,  
 I haue sent twentie out to seeke for you.

*Gra.* I am glad ont, I desire no more delight  
 then to be vnder saile, and gone to night. *Exeunt.*

Enter *Portia* with *Morrocho* and both  
 theyr traines.

*Por.* Goe, draw aside the curtaines and discover  
 the feuerall caskets to this noble Prince:  
 Now make your choyse.

*Mor.* This first of gold, who this inscription beares,  
 Who chooseth me, shall gaine what many men desire.  
 The second siluer, which this promise carries,  
 Who chooseth me, shall get as much as he deserues.  
 This third, dull lead, with warning all as blunt,  
 Who chooseth me, must giue and hazard all he hath.  
 How shall I know if I doe choose the right?

*Por.* The one of them contains my picture Prince,  
 if you choose that, then I am yours withall.

*Mor.* Some God direct my iudgement, let me see,  
 I will suruay th'inscriptions, back againe,  
 What saies this leaden casket?

Who chooseth me, must giue and hazard all he hath,  
 Must giue, for what? for lead, hazard for lead?  
 This casket threatens men that hazard all



*the Merchant of Venice.*

doe it in hope of faire aduantages :

A golden minde stoopes not to shoues of drosse,  
He then nor giue nor hazard ought for lead.

What sayes the siluer with her virgin hue ?

Who chooseth me, shal get as much as he deserues.

As much as he deserues, pause there *Morocho*,

and weigh thy valew with an euen hand,

If thou beest rated by thy estimation

thou doost deserue enough, and yet enough

May not extend so farre as to the Ladie :

And yet to be afeard of my deseruing

vvere but a weake disabling of my selfe.

As much as I deserue, why thats the Ladie.

¶ doe in birth deserue her, and in fortunes,

in graces, and in qualities of breeding :

but more then these, in loue I doe deserue,

vwhat if I straid no farther, but chose heere ?

Lets see once more this saying grau'd in gold :

Who chooseth me shall gaine what many men desire :

Why thats the Ladie, all the world desires her.

From the foure corners of the earth they come

to kisse this shrine, this mortall breathing Saint.

The Hircanion deserts, and the vastie wildes

Of wide Arabia are as throughfares now

for Princes to come view faire *Portia*.

The waterie Kingdome, whose ambitious head

Spets in the face of heauen, is no barre

To stop the forraine spirits, but they come

as ore a brooke to see faire *Portia*.

One of these three containes her heauenly picture.

It like that leade containes her twere damnation

to thinke so base a thought, it were too grosse

to ribb her serecloth in the obscure graue,

Or shall I thinke in siluer shees immurd

being tenne times vnderualewed to tride gold,

O sinful thought, neuer so rich a *Zem*

vvas set in worfe then gold. They haue in England

*The comicall Historie of*

56 A coyne that beares the figure of an Angell  
stamp'd in gold, but thats inculpt vpon :  
But heere an Angell in a golden bed  
lies all vvithin. Deliuer me the key :  
60 heere doe I choole, and thriue I as I may.

*Por.* There take it Prince, and if my forme lie there  
then I am yours ?

64 *Mor.* O hell ! what haue wee heare, a carrion death,  
vvithin whose emptie eye there is a written scroule,  
Hee reade the writing.

65 *All that glisters is not gold,  
Ofien haue you heard that told,  
Many a man his life hath sold  
68 But my outside to behold,  
Guildd timber doe wormes infold :  
Had you beene as wise as bold,  
Young in limbs, in iudgement old,  
72 Your answers had not beene in scrold,  
Fareyouwell, your sute is cold.*

*Mor.* Cold indeede and labour lost,  
Then farewell heare, and welcome frost :

76 *Portia* adiew, I haue too greeu'd a hart

To take a tedious leaue: thus loofers part. *Exit.*

79 *Por.* A gentle riddance, draw the curtaines, go,  
Let all of his complexion choole me so. *Exeunt.*

*Enter Salarino and Solanio.*

*Sal.* Why man I saw *Bassanio* vnder sayle,  
vvith him is *Gratiano* gone along ;  
and in theyr ship I am sure *Lorenzo* is not.

84 *Sola.* The villaine Iew with outcries raifd the Duke,  
vvho went with him to searck *Bassanios* ship.

*Sal.* He came too late, the ship was vnderfaile,  
But there the Duke was giuen to vnderstand  
8 that in a Gondylo were seene together  
*Lorenzo* and his amorous *Iessica*.

Besides, *Antonio* certified the Duke  
they were not with *Bassanio* in his ship.

*the Merchant of Venice.*

*Sol.* I neuer heard a passion so confuld,  
 So strange, outrageous, and so variable  
 as the dogge Iew did vtter in the streets,  
 My daughter, ô my ducats, ô my daughter,  
 Fled with a Christian, ô my Christian ducats.  
 Iustice, the law my ducats, and my daughter,  
 A sealed bag, two sealed bags of ducats  
 of double ducats, stolne from me by my daughter,  
 and Iewels. two stones, two rich and precious stones,  
 Stolne by my daughter: iusticce; find the girle,  
 shee hath the stones vpon her, and the ducats.

*Sal.* Why all the boyes in Venice follow him,  
 crying his stones, his daughter and his ducats.

*Sola.* Let good *Antonio* looke he keepe his day  
 or he shall pay for this.

*Sal.* Marry well remembred,  
 I reasond with a Frenchman yestherday,  
 vwho told me, in the narrow seas that part  
 the French and English, there miscaried  
 a vessell of our country richly fraught:  
 I thought vpon *Antonio* when he told me,  
 and wisht in silence that it were not his.

*Sal.* You were best to tell *Antonio* what you heare,  
 Yet doe not suddainely, for it may greeue him.

*Sal.* A kinder gentleman treads not the earth,  
 I saw *Bassanio* and *Antonio* part,  
*Bassanio* told him he would make some speede  
 of his returne: he aunswered, doe not so,  
 slumber not busines for my sake *Bassanio*,  
 but stay the very riping of the time,  
 and for the Iewes bond which he hath of me  
 let it not enter in your minde of loue:  
 be merry, and imploy your cheefest thoughts  
 to courtship, and such faire ostents of loue  
 as shall conueniently become you there,  
 And euen there his eye being big with teares,  
 turning his face, he put his hand behind him,  
 and with affection wondrous sensible

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II. viii.

*The comicall Historie of*  
 Hewrung *Bassanios* hand, and so they parted.

*Sol.* I thinke hee onely loues the world for him,  
 I pray thee let vs goe and finde him out  
 and quicken his embraced heauines  
 vvith some delight or other.

*Sol.* Doe we so.

*Exeunt.*

II. ix.

Enter *Nerrissa* and a Seruiture.

*Ner.* Quick, quick I pray thee, draw the curtain strait,  
 The Prince of Arragon hath tane his oath,  
 and comes to his election presently.

Enter *Arrogon*, his trayne, and *Portia*.

*Por.* Behold there stand the caskets noble Prince,  
 yf you choose that wherein I am containd  
 straight shall our nuptiall rights be solemniz'd :  
 but if you faile, without more speecn my Lord  
 you must be gone from hence immediatly.

*Arro.* I am enioynd by oath to obserue three things,  
 Firſt, neuer to vnfold to any one  
 vvhich casket twas I chose : next, if I faile  
 of the right casket, neuer in my life  
 to wooe a maide in way of marriage :  
 lastly, if I doe faile in fortune of my choyse  
 immediatly to leaue you, and be gone.

*Por.* To these iniunctions euery one doth swear  
 that comes to hazard for my worthlesse selfe.

*Arro.* And so haue I adrest me, fortune now  
 To my harts hope : gold, siluer, and base lead.  
 Who chooseth me, must giue and hazard all he hath.  
 You shall looke fairer ere I giue or hazard.  
 What saies the golden chest, ha, let me see,  
 Who chooseth me, shall gaine what many men desire,  
 What many men desire, that many may be meant  
 by the foole multitude that choose by show,  
 not learning more then the fond eye doth teach,  
 which pries not to thinteriour, but like the Martlet

builds

*the Merchant of Venice.*

Builds in the weather on the outward wall,  
 Even in the force and rode of casualty.  
 I will not choose what many men desire,  
 Because I will not jumpe with common spirits,  
 And ranke me with the barbarous multitudes.  
 Why then to thee thou siluer treasure house,  
 Tell me once more what tittle thou doost beare;  
 Who chooseth me shall get as much as he deserues,  
 And well sayde to; for who shall goe about  
 To cofen Fortune, and be honourable  
 vvithout the stampe of merrit, let none presume  
 To weare an vnderferued dignity:  
 O that estates, degrees, and offices,  
 vvere not deriu'd corruptly, and that cleare honour  
 vvere purchast by the merrit of the wearer,  
 How many then should couer that stand bare?  
 How many be commaunded that commaund?  
 How much low peasantry would then be gleaned  
 From the true seede of honour? and how much honour  
 Pickt from the chaff and ruin of the times,  
 To be new varnist; well but to my choise.  
 Who chooseth me shall get as much as he deserues,  
 I will assume desert; giue me a key for this,  
 And instantly vnlocke my fortunes heere.

*Portia.* Too long a pause for that which you finde there.  
*Arrag.* What's heere, the pourtrait of a blinking idiot  
 Presenting me a shedule, I will reade it:  
 How much vnlike art thou to *Portia*?  
 How much vnlike my hopes and my deseruings.  
 Who chooseth me, shall haue as much as he deserues?  
 Did I deserue no more then a fooles head,  
 Is that my prize, are my deserts no better?

*Portia.* To offend and iudge are distinct offices,  
 And of opposed natures.

*Arrag.* What is heere?

*The fier seauen times tried this,  
 Seauen times tried that iudement is,*

E.

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The comicall Historie of

65 *That did neuer choose amis,  
Some there be that shadowes kis.  
Such haue but a shadowes blis :*  
68 *There be fooles aliue I wis  
Siluerd o're, and so was this.  
Take what wife you will to bed,  
I will euer be your head :*  
72 *So be gone, you are sped.*

*Arrag.* Still more foole I shall appeare  
By the time I linger heere,  
With one fooles head I came to woo,  
76 But I goe away with two.  
Sweet adiew, ile keepe my oath,  
Patiently to beare my wroath.

*Portia.* Thus hath the candle singd the moath :  
80 O these deliberate fooles when they doe choose,  
They haue the wisedome by their wit to loofe.

*Nerriss.* The auncient saying is no herisie,  
Hanging and wiuing goes by destinie.

84 *Portia.* Come draw the curtaine *Nerrissa.*  
† *Enter Messenger.*

*Mess.* Where is my Lady.

*Portia.* Heere, what would my Lord ?

*Mess.* Madame, there is a-lighted at your gate  
88 A young Venetian, one that comes before  
To signifie th'approching of his Lord,  
From whom he bringeth sensible regreets ;  
To wit, (besides commends and curtious breath)  
92 Gifts of rich valiew ; yet I haue not seene  
Solikely an Embassador of loue.

A day in Aprill neuer came so sweete  
To show how costly Sommer was at hand,  
As this fore-spurrer comes before his Lord.

96 *Portia.* No more I pray thee, I am halfe a-feard  
Thou wilt say anone he is some kin to thee,  
Thou spendst such high day wit in praying him :

Come

*the Merchant of Venice.*

Come come *Nerryssa*, for I long to see  
Quick *Cupids* Post that comes so mannerly.

*Nerryss. Bassanio* Lord, loue if thy will it be.

*Exeunt.*

*Solanio and Salarino.*

*Solanio.* Now what newes on the Ryalto ?

*Salari.* Why yet it liues there vncheckt, that *Anthonio* hath a ship  
of rich lading wrackt on the narrow Seas; the Goodwins I thinke  
they call the place, a very dangerous flat, and fatall, where the car-  
casses of many a tall ship lie buried, as they say, if my gossip report  
be an honest woman of her word.

*Solanio.* I would she were as lying a gossip in that, as euer knapt  
Ginger, or made her neighbours belecue she wept for the death of  
a third husband: but it is true, without any slips of prolixity, or  
crossing the plaine high way of talke, that the good *Anthonio*, the  
honest *Anthonio*; ô that I had a tytle good enough to keepe his  
name company.

*Salari.* Come, the full stop.

*Solanio.* Ha, what sayest thou, why the end is, he hath lost a ship.

*Salari.* I would it might proue the end of his losses.

*Solanio.* Let me say amen betimes, least the deuill crosse my prai-  
er, for heere he comes in the likenes of a Jewe. How now *Shylocke*,  
what newes among the Merchants? *Enter Shylocke.*

*Shy.* You knew, none so well, none so well as you, of my daugh-  
ters flight.

*Salari.* Thats certaine, I for my part knew the Taylor that made  
the wings she flew withall.

*Solan.* And *Shylocke* for his own part knew the bird was flidge,  
and then it is the complexion of them all to leaue the dam.

*Shy.* She is damnd for it.

*Salari.* Thats certaine, if the deuill may be her Iudge.

*Shy.* My owne flesh and blood to rebell.

*Sola.* Out vpon it old carrion. rebels it at these yecres.

*Shy.* I say my daughter is my flesh and my blood.

*Salari.* There is more difference betweene thy flesh and hers,  
then betweene Jet and Iuorie, more betweene your bloods, then  
there is betweene red vvine and rennish: but tell vs, doe you heare  
whether *Anthonio* haue had any losse at sea or no?

E 2

*Shy.* There

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The comicall Historie of

46 *Sby.* There I haue another bad match, a bankrout, a prodigall,  
who dare scarce shewe his head on the Ryalto, a begger that was  
yfd to come so smug vpon the Mart: let him looke to his bond,  
50 he was wont to call me vsurer, let him looke to his bond, hee was  
wont to lendemoney for a Christian curse, let him looke to his  
bond.

53 *Salari.* Why I am sure if he forsaite, thou wilt not take his flesh,  
what's that good for?

55 *Sbyl.* To baite fish with all, if it will feede nothing else, it will  
feede my reuenge; hee hath disgrac'd me, and hindred me halfe a  
million, laught at my losses, mockt at my gaines, scorned my Na-  
tion, thwarted my bargaines, cooled my friends, heated mine ene-  
60 mies, and whats his reason, I am a Iewe: Hath not a Iewe eyes,  
hath not a Iewe hands, organs, dementions, senses, affections, pas-  
64 sions, fed with the same foode, hurt with the same weapons, sub-  
iect to the same diseases, healed by the same meanes, warmed and  
cooled by the same Winter and Sommer as a Christian is: if you  
68 pricke vs doe we not bleede, if you tickle vs doe wee not laugh, if  
you poyson vs doe wee not die, and if you wrong vs shall wee not  
reuenge, if we are like you in the rest, we will resemble you in that.  
12 If a Iewe wrong a Christian, what is his humillity, reuenge? If a  
Christian wrong a Iewe, what should his sufferance be by Christi-  
an example, why reuenge? The villanie you teach me I will exe-  
76 cute, and it shall goe hard but I will better the instruction.

*Enter a man from Anthonio.*

77 Gentlemen, my maister *Anthonio* is at his house, and desires to  
speake with you both.

*Salari.* We haue beene vp and downe to seeke him.

*Enter Tuball.*

+80 *Solanio.* Heere comes another of the Tribe, a third cannot bee  
match, vnlesse the deuill himselfe turne Iewe. *Exeunt Gentlemen.*

*Enter Tuball.*

84 *Sby.* How now *Tuball*, what newes from Genowa, hast thou  
found my daughter?

*Tuball.* I often came where I did heare of her, but cannot finde  
her.

*Sby.*



*the Merchant of Venice.*

*Shylocke.* Why there, there, there, there, a diamond gone cost me two thousand ducats in Franckford, the curse neuer fell vpon our Nation till now, I neuer felt it till now, two thousand ducats in that, & other precious precious iewels; I would my daughter were dead at my foote, and the iewels in her care: would she were hearst at my foote, and the ducats in her coffin: no newes of them, why so? and I know not whats spent in the search: why thou losse vpon losse, the theefe gone with so much, and so much to finde the theefe and no satisfaction, no reuenge, nor no ill lucke stirring but what lights a my shoulders, no sighs but a my breathing, no teares but a my shedding.

*Tuball.* Yes, other men haue ill lucke to, *Antonio* as I heard in Genowa?

*Shy.* What, what, what, ill lucke, ill lucke.

*Tuball.* Hath an Argosie cast away comming from Tripolis.

*Shy.* I thank God, I thank God, is it true, is it true.

*Tuball.* I spoke with some of the Sayers that escaped the wrack.

*Shy.* I thank thee good *Tuball*, good newes, good newes: ha ha, heere in Genowa.

*Tuball.* Your daughter spent in Genowa, as I heard, one night fourescore ducats.

*Shy.* Thou stickst a dagger in me, I shall neuer see my gold againe. foure score ducats at a sitting, foure score ducats

*Tuball.* There came diuers of *Antonios* creditors in my company to Venice that sweare, he cannot choose but breake.

*Shy.* I am very glad of it, ile plague him, ile torture him, I am glad of it.

*Tuball.* One of them shewed mee a ring that hee had of your daughter for a Monke.

*Shy.* Out vpon her, thou torturest mee *Tuball*, it was my Turkeys, I had it of *Leab* when I was a Batcheler: I would not haue giuen it for a Wildernes of Monkeys.

*Tuball.* But *Antonio* is certainly vndone.

*Shy.* Nay, that's true, that's very true, goe *Tuball* see me an Officer, bespeake him a fortnight before, I will haue the hart of him if he forfeite, for were he out of Venice I can make what merchandize I will: goe *Tuball*, and meete me at our Sinagogue, goe good

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*The comickall Historie of*  
*Tuball, at our Sinagogue Tuball.* *Exeunt.*

*Enter Bassanio, Portia, Gratiano, and all  
their traynes.*

*Portia.* I pray you tarry, pause a day or two  
Before you hazard, for in choosing wrong  
I loose your companie; therefore forbear a while,  
Theres something tells me (but it is not loue)  
I would not loose you, and you know your selfe,  
Hate counsailes not in such a quallity;  
But least you should not vnderstand me well,  
And yet a mayden hath no tongue, but thought,  
I would detaine you heere some moneth or two  
before you venture for me. I could teach you  
how to choose right, but then I am forsworne,  
So will I neuer be, so may you misse me,  
But if you doe, youle make me wish a sinne,  
That I had beene forsworne: Behrow your eyes,  
They haue ore-lookt me and deuided me,  
One halfe of me is yours, the other halfe yours,  
Mine owne I would say: but if mine then yours,  
And so all yours; ô these naughty times  
puts barres betweene the ovvners and their rights,  
And so though yours, not yours, (proue it so)  
Let Fortune goe to hell for it, not I.  
I speake too long, but tis to peize the time,  
To ech it, and to draw it out in length,  
To stay you from election.

*Bass.* Let me choose,  
For as I am, I liue vpon the racke.

*Por.* Vpon the racke *Bassanio*, then confesse  
vwhat treason there is mingled with your loue.

*Bass.* None but that vgly treason of mistrust,  
vvhich makes me feare th' inioying of my Loue,  
There may as well be amity and life  
Tweene snow and fire, as treason and my loue.

*Por.* I but I feare you speake vpon the racke  
vwhere men enforced doe speake any thing.

*Bass.*

*the Merchant of Venice.*

*Bass.* Promise me life, and ile confesse the truth.

*Portia.* Well then, confesse and liue.

*Bass.* Confesse and loue  
had beene the very sum of my confession:  
O happy torment, when my torturer  
doth teach me aunsweres for deliuerance:  
But let me to my fortune and the caskets.

*Portia.* Away then, I am lockt in one of them,  
If you doe loue me, you will finde me out.  
*Nerryssa* and the rest, stand all aloofe,  
Let musique sound while he doth make his choyse,  
Then if he loofe he makes a Swan-like end,  
Fading in musique. That the comparifon  
may stand more proper, my eye shall be the streame  
and watry death-bed for him: he may win,  
And what is musique than? Than musique is  
euen as the flourish, when true subiects bowe  
to a new crowned Monarch: Such it is,  
As are those dulcet sounds in breake of day,  
That creepe into the dreaming bride-groomes eare,  
And summon him to marriage. Now he goes  
vvith no lesse presence, but with much more loue  
Then young Alcides, when he did redeeme  
The virgine tribute, payed by howling Troy  
To the Sea-monster: I stand for sacrifice,  
The rest aloofe are the Dardanian vviues:  
With bleared visages come forth to view  
The issue of th'exploit: Goe Hercules,  
Liue thou, I liue with much much more difmay,  
I view the fight, then thou that mak'st the fray.

*A Song the whilst Bassanio comments on the caskets  
to himselfe.*

*Tell me where is fancie bred,  
Or in the hart, or in the head,  
How begot, how nourished?*

*Replie, replie.*

The comickall Historie of

It is engendred in the eye,  
 With gazing fed, and Fancie dies :  
 In the cradle where it lies  
 Let vs all ring Fancies knell.

Ille begin it.

*Ding, dong, bell.*

All. *Ding, dong, bell.*

*Bass.* So may the outward shoues be leaft themselues,  
 The world is still deceau'd with ornament  
 In Law, what pleã so tainted and corrupt,  
 But being season'd with a gracious voyce,  
 Obscures the show of euill. In religion  
 What damned error but some sober brow  
 vvill blesse it, and approue it with a text,  
 Hiding the grosnes with faire ornament :  
 There is no voyce so simple, but assumes  
 Some marke of vertue on his outward parts ;  
 How many cowards whose harts are all as false  
 As stayers of sand, weare yet vpon their chins  
 The beards of *Hercules* and frowning *Mars*,  
 vvho inward searcht, haue lyuers white as milke,  
 And these assume but valours excrement  
 To render them redoubted. Looke on beauty,  
 And you shall see tis purchast by the weight,  
 vvhich therein works a miracle in nature,  
 Making them lightest that weare most of it :  
 So are those crisped snaky golden locks  
 vvhich maketh such wanton gambols with the wind  
 Vpon supposed fairenes, often knowne  
 To be the dowry of a second head,  
 The scull that bred them in the Sepulcher.  
 Thus ornament is but the guiled shore  
 To a most dangerous sea : the beautious scarfe  
 vailing an Indian beauty ; In a word,  
 The seeming truth which cunning times put on  
 To intrap the wisest. Therefore then thou gaudy gold,  
 Hard food for *Midas*, I will none of thee,

Nor

*the Merchant of Venice.*

Nor none of thee thou pale and common drudge  
 tweene man and man : but thou, thou meager lead  
 vvhich rather threatenst then dost promise ought,  
 thy palenes moues me more then eloquence,  
 and heere choose I, ioy be the consequence.

*Por.* How all the other passions fleet to ayre,  
 As doubtfull thoughts, and rash imbrac'd despaire :  
 And shyddring feare, and greene-eyed ieaoulouie.  
 O loue be moderate, allay thy extalie,  
 In measure raine thy ioy, scant this excesse,  
 I feele too much thy blessing, make it lesse  
 for feare I surfeit.

*Bas.* What finde I heere ?  
 Faire *Portias* counterfeit. What demy God  
 hath come so neere creation ? moue these eyes ?  
 Or whither riding on the balls of mine  
 seeme they in motion ? Heere are seuerd lips  
 parted with suger breath, so sweet a barre  
 should sunder such sweet friends : heere in her haire  
 the Paynter playes the Spyder, and hath wouen  
 a golden mesh tyntrap the harts of men  
 faster then gnats in cobwebs, but her eyes  
 how could he see to doe them ? hauing made one,  
 me thinkes it should haue power to steale both his  
 and leaue it selfe vnfurnisht : Yet looke how farre  
 the substance of my praise doth wrong this shadow  
 in vnderpryng it, so farre this shadow  
 doth limpe behind the substance. Heeres the scroule,  
 the continent and summarie of my fortune.

*You that choose not by the view  
 Chaunce as faire, and choose astrue :  
 Since this fortune falls to you,  
 Be content, and seeke no new.  
 If you be well pleas'd with this,  
 and hold your fortune for your blisse,  
 Turne you where your Lady is,  
 And claime her with a louing kis.*

F.

*Bass.*

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*The comicall Historie of*

140 A gentle scroule : Faire Lady, by your leauē,  
 I come by note to giue, and to receauē,  
 Like one of two contending in a prize  
 That thinks he hath done well in peoples eyes :  
 144 Hearing applause and vniuersall shoutē,  
 Giddy in spirit, still gazing in a doubt  
 † vvhether those peales of praīse be his or no,  
 So thrice faire Lady stand I euen so,  
 148 As doubtfull whether what I see be true,  
 Vntill confirmd, signd, ratified by you.

*Por.* You see me Lord *Bassanio* where I stand,  
 such as I am ; though for my selfe alone  
 152 I would not be ambitious in my wish  
 to wish my selfe much better, yet for you,  
 I would be trebled twentie times my selfe,  
 a thousand times more faire, tenne thousand times  
 156-7 more rich, that onely to stand high in your account,  
 I might in vertues, beauties, liuings, friends  
 exceede account : but the full summe of me  
 160 is fume of something : which to terme in grosse,  
 is an vnlessond girle, vnschoold, vnpractized,  
 happy in this, she is not yet so old  
 but she may learne : happier then this,  
 164 shee is not bred so dull but she can learne ;  
 happiest of all, is that her gentle spirit  
 commits it selfe to yours to be directed,  
 as from her Lord, her gouernour, her King.  
 168 My selfe, and what is mine, to you and yours  
 is now conuerted. But now I was the Lord  
 of this faire mansion, maister of my seruants,  
 Queene ore my selfe : and euen now, but now,  
 172 this house, these seruants, and this same my selfe  
 are yours, my Lords, I giue them with this ring,  
 vvhich when you part from, loose, or giue away,  
 let it presage the ruine of your loue,  
 176 and be my vantage to exclaime on you.

*Bass.* Maddam, you haue bereft me of all words,

*the Merchant of Venice.*

onely my blood speakes to you in my vaines,  
 and there is such confusion in my powers,  
 as after some oration fairely spoke  
 by a beloued Prince, there doth appeare  
 among the buzzing pleased multitude.  
 Where euery somthing beeing blent together,  
 turnes to a wild of nothing, saue of ioy  
 exprest, and not exprest : but when this ring  
 parts from this finger, then parts life from hence,  
 ô then be bold to lay *Bassanios* dead.

*Ner.* My Lord and Lady, it is now our time  
 that haue stoode by and seene our wishes prosper,  
 to cry good ioy, good ioy my Lord and Lady.

*Gra.* My Lord *Bassanio*, and my gentle Lady,  
 I wish you all the ioy that you can wish:  
 for I am sure you can wish none from me :  
 and when your honours meane to solemnize  
 the bargaine of your fayth : I doe beseech you  
 euen at that time I may be married to.

*Bass.* With all my hart, so thou canst get a wife.

*Gra.* I thanke your Lordship, you haue got me one.  
 My eyes my Lord can looke as swift as yours :  
 you saw the mistres, I beheld the mayd :  
 You lou'd, I lou'd for intermission,  
 No more pertaines to me my lord then you ;  
 your fortune stood vpon the caskets there,  
 and so did mine to as the matter falls :  
 for wooing heere vntill I swet againe,  
 and swearing till my very rough was dry  
 with oathes of loue, at last, if promise last  
 I got a promise of this faire one heere  
 to haue her loue: prouided that your fortune  
 atchiu'd her mistres.

*Por.* Is this true *Nerrissa* ?

*Ner.* Maddam it is, so you stand pleas'd withall.

*Bass.* And doe you *Gratiano* meane good fayth ?

*Gra.* Yes faith my Lord.

The comick Historie of

*Bass.* Our feast shall be much honored in your marriage.

216 *Gra.* Wele play with them the first boy for a thousand ducats.

*Ner.* What and stake downe?

220 *Gra.* No, we shall nere win at that sport and stake downe.

But who comes heere? *Lorenzo* and his infidell?  
vwhat, and my old Venecian friend *Salerio*?

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

224 *Bassa.* *Lorenzo* and *Salerio*, welcome hether,  
if that the youth of my newe intrest heere  
haue power to bid you welcome: by your leaue  
I bid my very friends and countrymen  
sweet *Portia* welcome.

228 *Por.* So doe I my Lord, they are intirely welcome.

*Lor.* I thanke your honour, for my part my Lord  
my purpose was not to haue seene you heere,  
but meeting with *Salerio* by the way  
232 he did entreate me past all saying nay  
to come with him along.

*Sal.* I did my Lord,  
and I haue reason for it, Signior *Antonio*  
commends him to you.

*Bass.* Ere I ope his Letter  
236 I pray you tell me how my good friend doth.

*Sal.* Not sicke my Lord, vnlesse it be in mind,  
nor well, vnlesse in mind: his letter there  
will show you his estate. *open the letter.*

240 *Gra.* *Nerrissa*, cheere yond stranger, bid her welcom.

Your hand *Salerio*, what's the newes from Venice?

How doth that royall Merchant good *Antonio*?

I know he will be glad of our successe,

244 We are the *Iasons*, we haue wone the fleece.

*Sal.* I would you had won the fleece that he hath lost.

*Por.* There are some shrowd contents in yond same paper  
That steales the colour from *Bassanios* checke,  
248 Some deere friend dead, else nothing in the world  
could turne so much the constitution



*the Merchant of Venice.*

of any constant man : what worse and worse ?  
 With leaue *Bassanio* I am halfe your selfe,  
 and I must freely haue the halfe of any thing  
 that this same paper brings you.

252

*Bass.* O sweete *Portia*,  
 heere are a few of the vnpleasant'ft words  
 that euer blotted paper. Gentle Lady  
 when I did first impart my loue to you,  
 I freely told you all the wealth I had  
 ranne in my vaines, I was a gentleman,  
 and then I told you true : and yet deere Lady  
 rating my selfe at nothing, you shall see  
 how much I was a Braggart, when I told you  
 my state was nothing, I should then haue told you  
 that I was worse then nothing ; for indeede  
 I haue ingag'd my selfe to a deere friend,  
 ingag'd my friend to his meere enemy  
 to feede my meanes. Heere is a letter Lady,  
 the paper as the body of my friend,  
 and euery word in it a gaping wound  
 issuing life blood. But is it true *Salerio*  
 hath all his ventures faild, what not one hit,  
 from Tripolis, from Mexico and England,  
 from Lisbon, Barbary, and India,  
 and not one vessell scape the dreadfull touch  
 of Merchant-marring rocks ?

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*Sal.* Not one my Lord.

Besides, it should appeare, that if he had  
 the present money to discharge the Iew,  
 hee would not take it : neuer did I know  
 a creature that did beare the shape of man  
 so keene and greedie to confound a man.  
 He plies the Duke at morning and at night,  
 and doth impeach the freedome of the state  
 if they deny him iustice. Twentie Merchants,  
 the Duke himselfe, and the Magnificoes  
 of greatest port haue all perswaded with him,

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*The comick Historie of*

but none can driue him from the enuious plea  
of forfeiture, of iustice, and his bond.

286

*Ieffi.* When I was with him, I haue heard him sweare  
to *Tuball* and to *Chus*, his country-men,  
that he would rather haue *Anthonios* flesh  
then twentie times the value of the summe  
that he did owe him : and I know my lord,  
if law, authoritie, and power denie not,  
it will goe hard with poore *Anthonio*.

290

294

*Por.* Is it your deere friend that is thus in trouble ?

297

*Bass.* The deereft friend to me, the kindest man,  
the best conditiond and vnwearied spirit  
in dooing curteties : and one in whom  
the auncient Romaine honour more appears  
then any that drawes breath in *Italie*.

300

*Por.* What summe owes he the Jew ?

*Bass.* For me three thousand ducats.

304

*Por.* What no more, pay him six thousand, & deface the bond:  
double sixe thousand and then treble that,

304

before a friend of this discription  
shall lose a haire through *Bassanios* fault.

308

First goe with me to Church, and call me wife,  
and then away to Venice to your friend :

312

for neuer shall you lie by *Portias* side  
vwith an vnquiet soule. You shall haue gold  
to pay the petty debt twenty times ouer.

316

When it is payd, bring your true friend along,  
my mayd *Nerrissa*, and my selfe meane time  
vwill liue as maydes and widdowes; come away,  
for you shall hence vpon your wedding day :  
bid your freends welcome, show a merry cheere,  
since you are deere bought, I will loue you deere.  
But let me heare the letter of your friend.

320

*Sweet Bassanio, my ships haue all miscaried, my Creditors growe  
cruell, my estate is very low, my bond to the Iewe is forsaite, and since in  
paying it, it is imposible I should liue, all debts are cleerd betweene you  
and*

*the Merchant of Venice.*

*and if I might but see you at my death; notwithstanding, use your pleasure, if your loue do not perswade you to come, let not my letter.*

324

*Por.* O loue! dispatch all busines and be gone.

*Bass.* Since I haue your good leaue to goe away,  
I will make hast; but till I come againe,  
no bed shall ere be guiltie of my stay,  
nor rest be interpoles twixt vs twaine.

327

330

*Exeunt.*

Enter the *Jew*, and *Salerio*, and *Antonio*,  
and the *Taylor*.

*Jew.* *Taylor*, looke to him, tell not me of mercie,  
this is the foole that lent out money gratis.  
*Taylor*, looke to him.

*Ant.* Heare me yet good *Shylock*,

*Jew.* Ile haue my bond, speake not against my bond,  
I haue sworne an oath, that I will haue my bond:  
thou call'dst me dogge before thou hadst a cause,  
but since I am a dog, beware my phanges,  
the Duke shall graunt me iustice, I do wonder  
thou naughtie *Taylor* that thou art so fond  
to come abroade with him at his request.

4

8

*An.* I pray thee heare me speake.

*Jew.* Ile haue my bond. I will not heare thee speake,  
Ile haue my bond, and therefore speake no more.  
Ile not be made a soft and dull eyde foole,  
to shake the head, relent, and sigh, and yeeld  
to christian intercessers: follow not,  
Ile haue no speaking, I will haue my bond.

12

16

*Exit Jew.*

*Sol.* It is the most impenitrable curre  
that euer kept with men.

18

*An.* Let him alone,  
Ile follow him no more with bootlesse prayers.

20

hee

## III. iii.

*The comicall Historie of*

hee seekes my life, his reason well I know,  
I oft deliuerd from his forfeitures  
many that haue at times made mone to me,  
therefore he hates me,

*Sal.* I am sure the Duke will neuer grant  
this forfeiture to hold.

*An.* The Duke cannot denie the course of law:  
for the commoditie that strangers haue  
vvith vs in Venice, if it be denyed,  
will much impeach the iustice of the state,  
since that the trade and profit of the citty  
consisteth of all Nations. Therefore goe,  
these griefes and losses haue so bated me  
that I shall hardly spare a pound of flesh  
to morrow, to my bloody Creditor.

Well Taylor on, pray God *Bassanio* come  
to see me pay his debt, and then I care not. *Exeunt.*

Enter *Portia, Nerriſſa, Lorenzo, Ieſſica,* and a  
man of *Portias.*

*Lor.* Maddam, although I speake it in your presence,  
you haue a noble and a true conceite  
of god-like amitie, which appears most strongly  
in bearing thus the absence of your Lord.  
But if you knew to whom you show this honour,  
how true a gentleman you send releefe,  
how deere a louer of my Lord your husband,  
I know you would be prouder of the worke  
then customarie bountie can enforce you.

*Por.* I neuer did repent for dooing good,  
nor shall not now: for in companions  
that doe conuerſe and waſt the time together,  
vvhoſe ſoules doe beare an egall yoke of loue,  
there muſt be needes a like proportion  
of lymaments, of manners, and of ſpirit;  
vvhich makes me thinke that this *Anthonyo*  
beeing the beſome louer of my Lord,  
muſt needes be like my Lord. If it be ſo,

how

*the Merchant of Venice.*

How little is the cost I haue bestowed  
 in purchasing the semblance of my soule;  
 From out the state of hellish cruelty, 20  
 This comes too neere the praising of my selfe,  
 Therefore no more of it: heere other things  
*Lorenso* I commit into your hands, 24  
 The husbandry and mannage of my house,  
 Vntill my Lords returne: for mine owne part  
 I haue toward heauen breath'd a secret vowe,  
 To liue in prayer and contemplation, 28  
 Onely attended by *Nerrissa* heere,  
 Vntill her husband and my Lords returne,  
 There is a Monastrey two miles off,  
 And there we will abide. I doe desire you 32†  
 not to denie this imposition,  
 the which my loue and some necessity  
 now layes vpon you.

*Lorenso.* Madame, with all my hart,  
 I shall obey you in all faire commaunds. 36

*Por.* My people doe already know my mind,  
 And will acknowledge you and *Iessica*  
 in place of Lord *Bassanio* and my selfe.  
 So far you well till we shall meete againe. 40†

*Lor.* Faire thoughts and happy houres attend on you.

*Iessi.* I wish your Ladiship all harts content.

*Por* I thank you for your wish, and am well pleas'd  
 to wish it back on you: far you well *Iessica.* *Exeunt.* 44

Now *Balthasar*, as I haue euer found thee honest true,  
 So let me find thee still: take this same letter,  
 and vse thou all th'indeuour of a man, 48  
 In speede to Mantua, see thou render this  
 into my cofin hands Doctor *Belario*,  
 And looke what notes and garments he doth giue thee,  
 bring them I pray thee with imagin'd speede 52  
 vnto the Tranest, to the common Ferrie  
 vvhich trades to Venice; vvas't no time in words  
 but get thee gone, I shall be there before thee. 55

G.

*Baltha.*

## III. iv.

*The comicall Historie of*

† 56 *Baltha.* Madam, I goe with all conuenient speede.  
*Portia* Come on *Nerrissa*, I haue worke in hand  
 That you yet know not of; wee le see our husbands  
 before they thinke of vs ?

*Nerrissa.* Shall they see vs ?

60 *Portia.* They shall *Nerrissa*: but in such a habite,  
 that they shall thinke we are accomplished  
 † vwith that we lacke; Ile hold thee any wager  
 64 vwhen we are both accoutered like young men,  
 ile proue the prettier fellow of the two,  
 and weare my dagger with the brauer grace,  
 and speake betweene the change of man and boy,  
 vwith a reede voyce, and turne two minsing steps  
 68 into a manly stride; and speake of frayes  
 like a fine bragging youth: and tell quaint lyes  
 how honorable Ladies fought my loue,  
 vvhich I denying, they fell sicke and dyed.  
 72 I could not doe withall: then ile repent,  
 and wish for all that, that I had not killd them;  
 And twenty of these punie lies ile tell,  
 that men shall sweare I haue discontinued schoole  
 76 aboute a twelue-moneth: I haue within my minde  
 a thousand raw tricks of these bragging Iacks,  
 vvhich I will practise.

*Nerriss.* Why, shall we turne to men ?

80 *Portia.* Fie, what a question's that,  
 † if thou wert nere a lewd interpreter:  
 But come, ile tell thee all my my whole deuice  
 vwhen I am in my coach, which staves for vs  
 at the Parke gate; and therefore hast away,  
 84 for we must measure twenty miles to day

*Exeunt.*

*Enter Clowne and Iessica.*

## III. v.

4 *Clowne.* Yes truly, for looke you, the sinnes of the Father are to  
 be laid vpon the children, therefore I promise you, I feare you, I  
 was alwaies plaine with you, and so now I speake my agitation of  
 the matter: therefore be a good chere, for truly I thinke you are  
 damnd, there is but one hope in it that can doe you any good, and  
 that

*the Merchant of Venice.*

that is but a kinde of bastard hope neither.

*Iessica.* And what hope is that I pray thee ?

*Clowne.* Marry you may partly hope that your Father got you not, that you are not the Iewes daughter.

*Iessica.* That were a kind of bastard hope in deede, so the sinnes of my mother should be visited vpon me.

*Clowne.* Truly then I feare you are damnd both by father and mother : thus when I shun *Scilla* your father, I fall into *Caribdis* your mother ; well, you are gone both wayes.

*Iessica.* I shall be sau'd by my husband, he hath made me a Christian :

*Clowne.* Truly the more to blame he, we were Christians enow before, in as many as could well liue one by another : this making of Christians will raise the price of Hogs, if we grow all to be pork eaters, we shall not shortly haue a rasher on the coles for mony.

*Enter Lorenzo.*

*Iessi.* He tell my husband *Launcelet* what you say, here he come ?

*Loren.* I shall grow icialous of you shortly *Launcelet*, if you thus get my wife into corners ?

*Iessica.* Nay, you neede not feare vs *Lorenzo*, *Launcelet* and I are out, he tells me flatly there's no mercy for mee in heauen, because I am a Iewes daughter : and he sayes you are no good member of the common-wealth, for in conuerting Iewes to Christians, you raise the price of porke.

*Loren.* I shall aunswere that better to the common-wealth than you can the getting vp of the Negroes belly : the Moore is vvith child by you *Launcelet* ?

*Clowne.* It is much that the Moore should be more then reason : but if she be lesse then an honest woman, she is indeede more then I tooke her for.

*Loren.* How euery foole can play vpon the word, I thinke the best grace of wit will shortly turne into silence, and discourse grow commendable in none onely but Parrats : goe in sirra, bid them prepare for dinner ?

*Clowne.* That is done sir, they haue all stomachs ?

*Loren.* Goodly Lord what a wit snapper are you, than bid them prepare dinner ?

8-9

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*The comical Historie of*

*Clowne.* That is done to sir, onely couer is the word.

*Loren.* Will you couer than sir ?

60 *Clowne.* Not so sir neither, I know my duty.

*Loren.* Yet more quarrelling with occasion, wilt thou shewe the whole wealth of thy wit in an instant; I pray thee vnderstand a plaine man in his plaine meaning : goe to thy fellowes, bid them couer the table, serue in the meate, and we will come in to dinner.

65-6 *Clowne.* For the table sir, it shall be seru'd in, for the meate sir, it shall be couerd, for your comming in to dinner sir, why let it be as humors and conceites shall gouerne. *Exit Clowne.*

70 *Loren.* O deare discretion, how his words are suted,

73 The foole hath planted in his memorie an Armie of good words, and I doe know

a many fooles that stand in better place, garnisht like him, that for a trickie word defie the matter : how cherst thou *Iessica,*

†  
77 And now good sweet say thy opinion, How doost thou like the Lord *Bassanio* wife ?

80 *Iessi.* Past all expressing, it is very meete the Lord *Bassanio* liue an vpright life For hauing such a blessing in his Lady, he findes the ioyes of heauen heere on earth,

†  
84 And if on earth he doe not meane it, it in reason he should neuer come to heauen ?

Why; if two Gods should play some heauenly match, and on the wager lay two earthly women,

88 And *Portia* one : there must be somthing else paund with the other, for the poore rude world hath not her fellow.

*Loren.* Euen such a husband hast thou of me, as she is for wife.

*Iessi.* Nay, but aske my opinion to of that ?

92 *Loren.* I will anone, first let vs goe to dinner ?

*Iessi.* Nay, let me praise you while I haue a stomack .

†  
96 *Loren.* No pray thee, let it serue for table talke, Then how so mere thou speakst mong other things, I shall digest it ?

*Iessi.*



*the Merchant of Venice.*

*Ieffi.* Well, ile set you forth.

*Exit.*

*Enter the Duke, the Magnificoes, Anthonio, Bassanio,  
and Gratiano.*

*Duke.* What, is *Anthonio* heere ?

*Antho.* Ready, so please your grace ?

*Duke.* I am sorry for thee, thou art come to aunfwere  
a stonie aduerfarie, an inhumaine wretch,  
vncapable of pittie, voyd, and empty  
from any dram of mercie.

*Antho.* I haue heard

your grace hath tane great paines to quallicke  
his rigorous course; but since he stands obdurate,  
And that no lawfull meanes can carry me  
out of his enuies reach, I doe oppose  
my patience to his furie, and am armd  
to suffer with a quietnes of spirit,  
the very tyranny and rage of his.

*Duke.* Goe one and call the Iew into the Court.

*Salerio.* He is ready at the dore, he comes my Lord.

*Enter Shylocke.*

*Duke.* Make roome, and let him stand before our face.

*Shylocke* the world thinks, and I thinke so to  
that thou but ledest this fashon of thy mallice  
to the last houre of act, and then tis thought  
thowlt shew thy mercy and remorse more strange,  
than is thy strange apparant cruelty;  
and where thou now exacts the penalty,  
vvhich is a pound of this poore Merchants flesh,  
thou wilt not onely loose the forfaiture,  
but toucht with humane gentlenes and loue:  
Forgiue a moytie of the principall,  
glauncing an eye of pittie on his losses  
that haue of late so hudled on his backe,  
Enow to presse a royall Merchant downe;  
And pluck comiseration of this states  
from brassie bosomes and rough harts of flints,  
from stubborne Turkes, and Tartars neuer traind

The comickall Historie of

to offices of tender curtesie :

We all expect a gentle aunswere Iewe ?

*Iewe.* I haue possess't your grace of what I purpose,

and by our holy Sabaoth haue I sworne

to haue the due and forset of my bond,

if you deny it, let the danger light

vpon your charter and your Citties freedome ?

Youle aske me why I rather choose to haue

a weight of carrion flesh, then to receaue

three thousand ducats : Ile not aunswer that ?

But say it is my humour, is it aunswerd ?

What if my house be troubled with a Rat,

and I be pleas'd to giue ten thousand ducats

to haue it baird ? vvhath, are you aunswerd yet ?

Some men there are loue not a gaping pigge ?

Some that are mad if they behold a Cat ?

And others when the bagpipe sings ith nose,

cannot containe their vrine for affection.

Maisters of passion swayes it to the moode

of what it likes or loathes, now for your aunswer :

As there is no firme reason to berendred

vwhy he cannot abide a gaping pigge :

vwhy he a harmelesse necessarie Cat ?

vwhy he a woollen bagpipe : but of force

must yeeld to such in euitable shame,

as to offend himselfe being offended :

So can I giue no reason, nor I will not,

more then a lodgd hate, and a certaine loathing

I beare *Antonio*, that I follow thus

a loosing sute against him ? are you aunswered ?

*Bass.* This is no aunswer thou vnfeeling man,

to excuse the currant of thy cruelty ?

*Iewe.* I am not bound to please thee with my answers?

*Bass.* Doe all men kill the things they do not loue ?

*Iewe.* Hates any man the thing he would not kill ?

*Bass.* Euey offence is not a hate at first ?

*Iewe.* What wouldst thou haue a serpent sting thee twice ?

*Antho.*

*the Merchant of Venice.*

*Anth.* I pray you think you question with the Jewe,  
 you may as well goe stand vpon the Beach  
 and bid the maine flood bate his vsuall height,  
 vvell vse question with the Woolfe,  
 the Ewe bleake for the Lambe :

You may as well forbid the mountaine of Pines  
 to wag their high tops, and to make no noife  
 vwhen they are fretten with the gusts of heauen:  
 You may as well doe any thing most hard  
 as seeke to soften that then which what's harder :  
 his Jewish hart ? therefore I doe beseech you  
 make no moe offers, vse no farther meanes,  
 but with all brieve and plaine conueniencie  
 let me hauc iudgement, and the Jewe his will ?

*Bass.* For thy three thousand ducats heere is fixe ?

*Jewe.* If euery ducat in fixe thousand ducats  
 vvere in fixe parts, and euery part a ducat,  
 I would not draw them, I would haue my bond ?

*Duk.* How shalt thou hope for mercy rendring none ?

*Jewe.* What iudgment shall I dread doing no wrong?  
 you haue among you many a purchast slaue,  
 vvhich like your Asses, and your Dogs and Mules  
 you vse in abiect and in slauish parts,  
 because you bought them, shall I say to you,  
 let them be free, marry them to your heires ?  
 vvhy sweat they vnder burthens, let their beds  
 be made as soft as yours, and let their pallats  
 be seafond with such viands, you will aunswer  
 the slaues are ours, so doe I aunswer you :  
 The pound of flesh which I demaund of him  
 is deerely bought, as mine and I will haue it :  
 if you deny me, fie vpon your Law,  
 there is no force in the decrees of Venice :  
 I stand for iudgement, aunswer, shall I haue it ?

*Duke.* Vpon my power I may dismisse this Court,  
 vnlesse *Bellario* a learned Doctor,  
 whom I haue sent for to determine this

Come

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. *The comicall Historie of*

Come heere to day ?

*Salerio.* My Lord, heere staves without  
a messenger with letters from the Doctor,  
new come from Padua ?

*Duke.* Bring vs the letters ? call the Messenger ?

*Bass.* Good cheere *Anthonio* ? what man, courage yet :  
The Iew shall haue my flesh, blood, bones and all,  
ere thou shalt loose for me one drop of blood ?

*Antho.* I am a tainted vweather of the flocke,  
meetest for death, the weakest kind offruite  
drops earliest to the ground, and so let me ;  
You cannot better be imployd *Bassanio*,  
then to liue still and write mine Epitaph ?

*Enter Nerrissa.*

*Duke.* Came you from Padua from *Bellaris* ?

*Ner.* From both ? my L. *Bellaris* greetes your grace ?

*Bass.* Why doost thou whet thy knife so earnestly ?

*Iewe.* To cut the forfeiture from that bankrout there ?

*Gratia.* Not on thy soule : but on thy soule harsh Iew  
thou makst thy knife keene : but no mettell can,  
no, not the hangmans axe beare halfe the keenenesse  
of thy sharpe enuie : can no prayers pearce thee ?

*Iewe.* No, none that thou hast witenough to make,

*Gratia.* O bethou damnd, inexecrable dogge,  
And for thy life let iustice be accusd ;  
Thou almost mak'st me wauer in my faith,  
to hold opinion with *Pythagoras*,  
that soules of Animalls infuse themselues  
into the trunks of men : Thy currish spirit  
gouernd a Woolfe, who hangd for humane slaughter  
euen from the gallowes did his fell soule steete,  
and whilest thou layest in thy vnhalloved dam ;  
infusd it selfe in thee : for thy desires  
are vvoulish, bloody, staru'd, and rauenuous.

*Iewe.* Till thou canst raile the seale from off my bond,  
Thou but offendst thy lungs to speake so loud :  
Repaire thy wit good youth, or it will fall

*the Merchant of Venice.*

to curelesse ruine. I stand heere for law.

*Duke.* This letter from *Bellario* doth commend  
a young and learned Doctor to our Court:  
Where is he?

*Ner.* He attendeth here hard by  
to know your aunswer whether youle admit him.

*Duke.* With all my hart: some three or foure of you  
goe giue him curteous conduct to this place,  
meane time the Court shall heare *Bellarios* letter.

Your Grace shall vnderstand, that at the receipt of your letter I  
am very sicke, but in the instant that your messenger came, in lo-  
uing visitation was with me a young Doctor of Rome, his name is  
*Balthazer*: I acquainted him with the cause in cōtrouerfie between  
the Jew and *Anthonio* the Merchant, wee turnd ore many bookes  
together, hee is furnished with my opinion, which bettered vvith  
his owne learning, the greatnes whereof I cannot enough com-  
mend, comes with him at my importunitie, to fill vp your graces  
request in my stead. I beseech you let his lacke of yeeres be no im-  
pediment to let him lacke a reuerend estimation, for I neuer knew  
so young a body with so olde a head: I leaue him to your gracious  
acceptance, whose tryall shall better publish his commendation.

Enter *Portia* for *Balthazer*.

*Duke.* You heare the learnd *Bellario* what he writes,  
and heere I take it is the doctor come.

Giue me your hand, come you from old *Bellario*?

*Portia.* I did my Lord.

*Duke.* You are welcome, take your place:  
are you acquainted with the difference  
that holds this present question in the Court.

*Por.* I am enformed throughly of the cause,  
vvhich is the Merchant here? and which the Jew?

*Duke.* *Anthonio* and old *Shylocke*, both stand forth.

*Por.* Is your name *Shylocke*?

*Jew.* *Shylocke* is my name.

*Por.* Of a strange nature is the sute you follow,  
yet in such rule, that the Venetian law

H.

cannot

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cannot impugne you as you doe proceed.  
You stand within his danger, doe you not.

*An.* I, so he sayes.

*Por.* Doe you confesse the bond ?

*An.* I doe.

*Por.* Then must the Jew be mercifull.

*Shy.* On what compulsion must I, tell me that.

*Por.* The qualitie of mercie is not straind,  
it droppeth as the gentle raine from heauen  
vpon the place beneath : it is twife blest,  
it blesteth him that giues, and him that takes,  
tis mightiest in the mightiest, it becomes  
the throned Monarch better then his crowne,  
His scepter shoves the force of temporall power,  
the attribut to awe and maiestie,  
vvherein doth sit the dread and feare of Kings :  
but mercie is aboute this sceptred sway,  
it is enthroned in the harts of Kings,  
it is an attribut to God himselfe ;  
and earthly power doth then show likest gods  
vvhhen mercie seasons iustice : therefore Jew,  
though iustice be thy plea, consider this,  
that in the course of iustice, none of vs  
should see saluation : vve doe pray for mercy,  
and that same prayer, doth teach vs all to render  
the deedes of mercie. I haue spoke thus much  
to mittigate the iustice of thy plea,  
vvhich if thou follow, this strict Court of Venice  
must needs giue sentence gainst the Merchant there.

*Shy.* My deedes vpon my head, I craue the law.  
the penalty and forsaite of my bond.

*Por.* Is he not able to discharge the money ?

*Bass.* Yes, heere I tender it for him in the Court,  
yea, twife the summe, if that will not suffise,  
I will be bound to pay it ten times ore  
on forfait of my hands, my head, my hart,  
if this will not suffise, it must appeare

that

*the Merchant of Venice.*

that malice beares downe truth. And *I* beseech you  
wrest once the law to your authoritie,  
to doe a great right, doe a little wrong,  
and curbe this cruell deuill of his will.

216

*Por.* It must not be, there is no power in Venice  
can altar a decree established :

it will be recorded for a precedent,  
and many an error by the same example  
will rush into the state, it cannot be.

220

*Shy.* A Daniell come to iudgement : yea a Daniell.  
O wise young Iudge how *I* doe honour thee.

224

*Por.* I pray you let me looke vpon the bond.

*Shy.* Heere tis most reuerend doctōr, here it is.

*Por.* *Shylocke* theres thrice thy money offred thee.

*Shy.* An oath, an oath, I haue an oath in heauen,  
shall I lay periurie vpon my soule ?  
Not not for Venice.

228

†

*Por.* Why this bond is forsaït,  
and lawfully by this the Iew may claime  
a pound of flesh, to be by him cut off  
neerest the Merchants hart : be mercifull,  
take thrice thy money, bid me teare the bond.

232

*Shy.* When it is payd, according to the tenure.  
It doth appeare you are a worthy iudge,  
you know the law, your exposition  
hath beene most found : *I* charge you by the law,  
vwhereof you are a well deseruing pillar,  
proceede to iudgement : by my soule I sweare,  
there is no power in the tongue of man  
to alter me, <sup>?</sup> stay here on my Bond,

236

*An.* Most hartelie *I* doe beseech the Court  
to giue the iudgement.

240

*Por.* Why than thus it is,  
you must prepare your bosome for his knife.

244

*Shy.* O noble Iudge, ô excellent young man.

*Por.* For the intent and purpose of the law  
hath full relation to the penaltie,

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vvhich heere appeareth due vpon the bond.

*Jew.* Tis very true: ô wise and vpright Iudge,  
how much more elder art thou then thy lookes.

*Por.* Therefore lay bare your bosome.

*Jew.* I, his breast,

so sayes the bond, doth it not noble Iudge?

Neereft his hart, those are the very words.

*Por.* It is so, are there ballance here to weigh the flesh?

*Jew.* I haue them ready.

*Por.* Haue by some Surgion *Shylocke* on your charge,  
to stop his wounds, leaft he doe bleede to death.

*Jew.* Is it so nominated in the bond?

*Por.* It is not so exprest, but what of that?

Twere good you doe so much for charitie.

*Jew.* I cannot finde it, tis not in the bond.

*Por.* You Merchant, haue you any thing to say?

*Ant.* But little; I am armd and well prepard,  
give me your hand *Bassanio*, far you well,  
greeue not that I am false to this for you:  
for heerein Fortune shoves her selfe more kind  
then is her custome: it is still her vse  
to let the wretched man out-liue his wealth,  
to view with hollow eye and wrinkled brow  
an age of pouertie: from which lingring pennance  
of such misery doth she cut me of.

Commend me to your honourable wife,

tell her the processe of *Antonios* end,

say how I lou'd you, speake me faire in death:

and when the tale is told, bid her be iudge

vvhether *Bassanio* had not once a loue:

Repent but you that you shall loose your friend

and he repents not that he payes your debt.

For if the *Jew* doe cut but deepe enough,

He pay it instantly with all my hart.

*Bass.* *Antonio*, I am married to a wife

which is as deere to me as life it selfe,

but life it selfe, my wife, and all the world,



*the Merchant of Venice.*

are not with me esteemd about thy life.

I would loose all, I sacrificize them all

heere to this deuill, to deliuer you.

*Por.* Your wife would giue you little thanks for that  
if she were by to heare you make the offer.

*Gra.* I haue a wife who I protest I loue,  
I would she were in heauen, so she could  
intreate some power to change this currish Iew.

*Ner.* Tis well you offer it behind her back,  
the wish would make else an vnquiet house.

*Iew.* These be the christian husbands, I haue a daughter  
vould any of the stocke of Barrabas  
had bene her husband, rather then a Christian.  
We trifle time, I pray thee pursue sentence.

*Por.* A pound of that same Merchants flesh is thine,  
the Court awards it, and the law doth giue it.

*Iew.* Most rightfull Iudge.

*Por.* And you must cut this flesh from off his breast,  
the law alowes it, and the court awards it.

*Iew.* Most learned Iudge, a sentence, come prepare.

*Por.* Tarry a little, there is some thing else,  
this bond doth giue thee heere no iote of blood,  
the words expresly are a pound of flesh:  
take then thy bond, take thou thy pound of flesh,  
but in the cutting it, if thou doost shed  
one drop of Christian blood, thy lands and goods  
are by the lawes of Venice confiscate  
vnto the state of Venice.

*Gra.* O vpright Iudge,  
Marke Iew, o learned Iudge.

*Shy.* Is that the law?

*Por.* Thy selfe shalt see the Act:  
for as thou vrgeest iustice, be absurd  
thou shalt haue iustice more then thou desirst.

*Gra.* O learned iudge, mark Jew, a learned iudge.

*Iew.* I take this offer then, pay the bond thrice  
and let the Christian goe.

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*The comicall Historie of*

*Bass.* Heere is the money,

320-1 *Por.* Soft, the Jew shal haue all iustice, soft no hast,  
he shall haue nothing but the penalty.

*Gra.* O Jew, an vpriht Iudge, a learned Iudge.

324 *Por.* Therefore prepare thee to cut of the flesh,

† Shed thou no blood, nor cut thou lesse nor more  
but iust a pound of flesh: if thou tak'st more

328 or lesse then a iust pound, be it but so much  
as makes it light or heauy in the substance,

or the deuision of the twentieth part  
of one poore scruple, nay if the scale doe turne

332 but in the estimation of a hayre,  
thou dyest, and all thy goods are confiscate.

*Gra.* A second Daniell, a Daniell Jew,  
now infidell I haue you on the hip.

*Por.* Why doth the Jew pause, take thy forfeiture.

336 *Shy.* Giue me my principall, and let me goe.

*Bass.* I haue it ready for thee, here it is.

*Por.* Hee hath refusd it in the open Court,  
hee shall haue meerely iustice and his bond.

340 *Gra.* A Daniell still say I, a second Daniell,  
I thanke thee Jew for teaching me that word.

*Shy.* Shall I not haue barely my principall?

344 *Por.* Thou shalt haue nothing but the forfeiture  
to be so taken at thy perrill Jew.

*Shy.* Why then the deuill giue him good of it:  
He stay no longer question.

*Por.* Tarry Jew,  
the law hath yet another hold on you.

348 It is enacted in the lawes of Venice,

† if it be proued against an alien,

that by direct, or indirect attempts  
he seeke the life of any Cittizen,

352 the party gainst the which he doth contriue,

shall seaze one halfe his goods, the other halfe

comes to the priuie coffer of the State,

† and the offenders life lies in the mercy

*the Merchant of Venice.*

of the Duke onely, gainst all other voyce.  
 In which predicament I say thou standst :  
 for it appeares by manifest proceeding,  
 that indirectly, and directly to  
 thou hast contriued against the very life  
 of the defendant : and thou hast incurd  
 the danger formerly by me rehearst.

Downe therefore, and beg mercie of the Duke.

*Gra.* Beg that thou maist haue leauē to hang thy selfe,  
 and yet thy wealth being forfait to the state,  
 thou hast not left the value of a cord,  
 therefore thou must be hangd at the states charge.

*Duke.* That thou shalt see the difference of our spirit  
 I pardon thee thy life before thou aske it :  
 for halfe thy wealth, it is *Anthemos*,  
 the other halfe comes to the generall state,  
 vvhich humblenes may driue vnto a fine.

*Por.* I for the state, not for *Anthonio*.

*Sby.* Nay, take my life and all, pardon not that,  
 you take my house, when you doe take the prop  
 that doth sustaine my house : you take my life  
 vvhē you doe take the meanes whereby I liue.

*Por.* What mercy can you render him *Anthonio*?

*Gra.* A halter gratis, nothing else for Godsake.

*Anth.* So please my Lord the Duke, & all the Court  
 to quit the fine for one halfe of his goods,  
 I am content : so he will let me haue  
 the other halfe in vse, to render it  
 vpon his death vnto the Gentleman  
 that lately stole his daughter.

Two things prouided more, that for this fauour  
 he presently become a Christian :  
 the other, that he doe record a gift  
 heere in the Court of all he dies posselt  
 vnto his sonne *Lorenzo* and his daughter.

*Duke.* He shall doe this, or else I doe recant  
 the pardon that I late pronounced heere.

*Por.*

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*The comicall Historie of*

393 *Por.* Art thou contented Jew? what dost thou say?

*Shy.* I am content.

*Por.* Clarke, draw a deede of gift.

396 *Shy.* I pray you giue me leaue to goe from hence,  
I am not well, send the deede after me,  
and I will signe it.

*Duke.* Get thee gone, but doe it.

†400 *Shy.* In christning shalt thou haue two Godfathers,  
had I beene iudge, thou shouldst haue had ten more,  
to bring thee to the gallowes, not to the font. *Exit.*

† *Duke.* Sir I entreate you home with me to dinner.

† *Por.* I humbly doe desire your Grace of pardon,  
404 I must away this night toward Padua,  
and it is meete I presently set forth.

*Duke.* I am sorry that your leysure serues you not.  
*Anthonio,* gratifie this gentleman,  
for in my mind you are much bound to him.

*Exit Duke and his traine.*

408 *Bass.* Most worthy gentleman, I and my friend  
haue by your wisedome been this day acquitted  
of greuous penalties, in lewe whereof,  
three thousand ducats due vnto the Jew  
412 wee freely cope your curtiuous paines withall.

*An.* And stand indebted ouer and aboue  
in loue and seruice to you euer-more.

416 *Por.* Hee is well payd that is well satisfied,  
and I deliuering you, am satisfied,  
and therein doe account my selfe well payd,  
my minde was neuer yet more mercinarie.  
I pray you know me when we meete againe,  
420 I wish you well, and so I take my leaue.

† *Bass.* Deere sir, of force I must attempt you further,  
take some remembrance of vs as a tribute,  
not as fee: graunt me two things I pray you,  
424 not to deny me, and to pardon me.

*Por.* You presse me farre, and therefore I wil yeeld,  
giue mee your gloues, Ile weare them for your sake,

and

*the Merchant of Venice.*

and for your loue ile take this ring from you,  
doe not draw back your hand, ile take no more,  
and you in loue shall not denie me this?

*Bass.* This ring good sir, alas it is a trifle,  
I will not shame my selfe to giue you this?

*Por.* I will haue nothing else but onely this,  
and now me thinks I haue a minde to it?

*Bass.* There's more depends on this then on the valew,  
the dearest ring in Venice will I giue you,  
and finde it out by proclamation,  
onely for this I pray you pardon me?

*Por.* I see sir you are liberall in offers,  
you taught me first to beg, and now me thinks  
you teach me how a begger should be aunswerd.

*Bass.* Good sir, this ring was giuen me by my wife,  
and when she put it on, she made me vowe  
that I should neither sell, nor giue, nor loose it.

*Por.* That scufe serues many men to saue their gifts,  
and if your wife be not a mad woman,  
and know how well I haue deseru'd this ring,  
she would not hold out enemy for euer  
for giuing it to me: vvell, peace be with you. *Exeunt.*

*Anth.* My *L. Bassanio*, let him haue the ring,  
let his deseruings and my loue withall  
be valued gainst your wiuers commaundement.

*Bass.* Goe *Gratiano*, runne and ouer-take him,  
giue him the ring, and bring him if thou canst  
vnto *Antonios* house, away, make hast. *Exit Gratiano.*  
Come, you and I will thither presently,  
and in the morning early will we both  
flie toward Belmont, come *Antonio*.

*Exeunt.*

*Enter Nerriſſa.*

*Por.* Enquire the Iewes house out, giue him this deed,  
and let him signe it, weele away to night,  
and be a day before our husbands home:  
this deed will be well welcome to *Lorenzo*?

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*Enter*

IV. i.

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IV. ii.

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## IV. ii.

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Enter Gratiano.

Grati. Faire sir, you are well ore-tane:  
My L. Bassanio vpon more aduice,  
hath sent you heere this ring, and doth intreate  
your company at dinner.

Por. That cannot be;  
his ring I doe accept most thankfully,  
and so I pray you tell him: furthermore,  
I pray you shew my youth old *Shylockes* house.

Gra. That will I doe.

Ner. Sir, I would speake with you:  
Ile see if I can get my husbands ring  
vvhich I did make him sweare to keepe for euer.

Por. Thou maist I warrant, we shal haue old swearing  
that they did giue the rings away to men;  
but wele out-face them, and out-sweare them to:  
away, make hast, thou knowst where I will tarry.

Ner. Come good sir, will yov shew me to this house.

Enter Lorenzo and Iessica.

Lor. The moone shines bright. In such a night as this,  
vvhhen the sweet winde did gently kisse the trees,  
and they did make no noyse, in such a night  
*Troylus* me thinks mounted the Troian walls,  
and sigh'd his soule toward the Grecian tents  
vvhhere *Cressed* lay that night.

Iessi. In such a night  
did *Thibie* fearefully ore-trip the dewe,  
and saw the Lyons shadow ere him selfe,  
and ranne dismayed away.

Loren. In such a night  
stoode *Dido* with a willow in her hand  
vpon the wilde sea banks, and wast her Loue  
to come againe to Carthage.

Iessi. In such a night  
*Medea* gathered the enchanted hearbs  
that did renew old *Eson*.

Loren. In such a night

did

*the Merchant of Venice.*

did *Iessica* steale from the wealthy *Iewe*,  
and with an vnthrifit loue did runne from Venice,  
as farre as Belmont. 16

*Iessi.* In such a night  
did young *Lorenzo* sweare he loued her well,  
stealing her soule with many vowes of faith,  
and nere a true one.

*Loren.* In such a night  
did pretty *Iessica* (like a little shrow)  
slander her Loue, and he forgaue it her. 20

*Iessi.* I would out-night you did no body come:  
But harke, I heare the footing of a man. 24

*Enter a Messenger.*

*Loren.* Who comes so fast in silence of the night ?

*Messen.* A friend ?

*Loren.* A friend, what friend, your name I pray you friend ?

*Mess.* *Stephano* is my name, and I bring word  
my Mistres will before the breake of day  
be heere at Belmont, she doth stray about  
by holy crosses where she kneeles and prayes  
for happy wedlock houres. 28

*Loren.* Who comes with her ?

*Mess.* None but a holy Hermit and her mayd :  
I pray you is my Maister yet returnd ? 32

*Loren.* He is not, nor we haue not heard from him,  
But goe we in I pray thee *Iessica*,  
and ceremoniously let vs prepare  
some welcome for the Mistres of the house. *Enter Clowne.* 36

*Clowne.* Sola, sola : wo ha, ho sola, sola.

*Loren.* Who calls ?

*Clow.* Sola, did you see *M. Lorenzo* & *M. Lorenzo* sola, sola. 40

*Loren.* Leauè hollowing man, heere.

*Clowne.* Sola, where, where ? 44

*Loren.* Heere ?

*Clow.* Tell him there's a Post come from my Maister, with his  
horne full of good newes, my Maister will be heere ere morning  
sweete soule. 48

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49 *Loren.* Let's in, and there expect their comming.  
 And yet no matter : why should we goe in.  
 † My friend *Stephen*, signifie I pray you  
 52 vwithin the house, your mistres is at hand,  
 and bring your musique foorth into the ayre.  
 How sweet the moone-light sleepes vpon this banke,  
 heere will we sit, and let the founds of musique  
 56 creepe in our eares soft stilnes, and the night  
 become the tutches of sweet harmonie :  
 sit *Iessica*, looke how the floore of heauen  
 † is thick inlayed with pattens of bright gold,  
 60 there's not the smallest orbe which thou beholdst  
 but in his motion like an Angell sings,  
 still quiring to the young eyde Cherubins ;  
 such harmonie is in immortall soules,  
 64 but whilst this muddy vesture of decay  
 dooth grossly close it in, we cannot heare it :  
 † Come hoe, and wake *Diana* with a himne,  
 vvith sweetest tutches pearce your mistres eare,  
 † 68 and draw her home with musique. *play Musique.*

*Iessi.* I am neuer merry when I heare sweet musique.

*Loren.* The reason is, your spirits are attentive :  
 for doe but note a wild and wanton heard  
 72 or race of youthfull and vnhandled colts  
 fetching mad bounds, bellowing and neghing loude,  
 vvhich is the hote condition of their blood,  
 † if they but heare perchance a trumpet sound,  
 76 or any ayre of musique touch their eares,  
 you shall perceauce them make a mutuall stand,  
 their sauage eyes turn'd to a modest gaze,  
 by the sweet power of musique: therefore the Poet  
 80 did faine that Orpheus drew trees, stones, and floods.  
 Since naught so stockish hard and full of rage,  
 but musique for the time doth change his nature,  
 the man that hath no musique in himselfe,  
 84 nor is not moued with concord of sweet sounds,  
 is fit for treasons, stratagems, and spoiles,



*the Merchant of Venice.*

the motions of his spirit are dull as night,  
and his affections darke as *Terebus* :  
let no such man be trusted : marke the musique.

*Enter Portia and Nerrissa.*

*Por.* That light we see is burning in my hall :  
how farre that little candell throwes his beames,  
so shines a good deede in a naughty world.

*Ner.* When the moone shone we did not see the candle ?

*Por.* So dooth the greater glory dim the lesse,  
a substitute shines brightly as a King  
vntill a King be by, and then his state  
empties it selfe, as doth an inland brooke  
into the maine of waters : musique harke.

*Ner.* It is your musique Madame of the house ?

*Por.* Nothing is good I see without respect,  
me thinks it sounds much sweeter then by day ?

*Ner.* Silence bestowes that vertue on it Madam ?

*Por.* The Crow doth sing as sweetly as the Lark  
vwhen neither is attended : and I thinke  
the Nightingale if she should sing by day  
vwhen euery Goose is cackling, would be thought  
no better a Musition then the Renne ?  
How many things by season, seasond are  
to their right prayse, and true perfection :  
Peace, how the moone sleeps with Endimion,  
and would not be awak'd.

*Loren.* That is the voyce,  
or I am much deceau'd of *Portia*.

*Por.* He knowes me as the blind man knowes the Cuckoe  
by the bad voyce ?

*Loren.* Deere Lady welcome home ?

*Por.* We haue bin praying for our husbands welfare,  
vwhich speed we hope the better for our words :  
are they return'd ?

*Loren.* Madam, they are not yet :  
but there is come a Messenger before  
to signifie their comming ?

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*Por.* Goe in *Nerrissa*.

Giue order to my seruants, that they take  
no note at all of our being absent hence,  
nor you *Lorenzo*, *Jessica* nor you.

*Loren.* Your husband is at hand, I heare his trumpet,  
we are no tell-tales Madame, feare you not.

*Por.* This night me thinks is but the day light sicke,  
it lookes a little paler, tis a day,  
such as the day is when the sunne is hid.

*Enter Bassanio, Anthonio, Gratiano, and their  
followers.*

*Bass.* We should hold day with the Antipodes,  
if you would walke in absence of the sunne.

*Por.* Let me giue light, but let me not be light,  
for a light wife doth make a heauie husband,  
and neuer be *Bassanio* so for me,  
but God fort all: you are welcome home my Lord.

*Bass.* I thank you Madam, giue welcome to my friend,  
this is the man, this is *Anthonio*,  
to whom I am so infinitely bound.

*Por.* You should in all sence be much bound to him,  
for as I heare he was much bound for you.

*Anth.* No more then I am well acquitted of.

*Por.* Sir, you are very welcome to our house:  
it must appeare in other wayes then words,  
therefore I scant this breathing curtesie.

*Gra.* By yonder moone I sweare you doe me wrong,  
infaith I gaue it to the Iudges Clarke,  
vvould he were gelt that had it for my part,  
since you doe take it Loue so much at hart.

*Por.* A quarrell hoe already, what's the matter?

*Grati.* About a hoope of gold, a paltry ring  
that she did giue me, whose posie was  
for all the world like Cutlers poetry  
vpon a knife, *Loue me, and leaue me not.*

*Ner.* What talke you of the posie or the valed:  
You swore to me when I did giue you,

that

*the Merchant of Venice.*

that you would weare it till your houre of death,  
and that it should lie with you in your graue,  
though not for me, yet for your vehement oathes,  
you should haue beene respectiue and haue kept it.  
Gae it a Iudges Clarke: no Gods my Iudge  
the Clarke will nere weare haire ons face that had it.

*Gra.* He will, and if he liue to be a man.

*Nerrissa.* I, if a woman liue to be a man.

*Gra.* Now by this hand I gae it to a youth,  
a kind of boy, a little scrubbed boy,  
no higher then thy selfe, the Iudges Clarke,  
a prating boy that begd it as a fee,  
I could not for my hart deny it him.

*Por.* You were to blame, I must be plaine with you,  
to part so slightly with your wiues first gift,  
a thing stuck on with oaths vpon your finger,  
and so riueted with faith vnto your flesh.  
I gae my Loue a ring, and made him sweare  
neuer to part with it, and heere he stands:  
I dare be sworne for him he would not leaue it,  
nor pluck it from his finger, for the wealth  
that the world maisters. Now in faith *Gratiano*  
you giue your wife too vnkind a cause of grieffe,  
and twere to me I should be mad at it.

*Bass.* Why I were best to cut my left hand off,  
and sweare I lost the ring defending it.

*Gra.* My Lord *Bassanio* gae his ring away  
vnto the Iudge that begd it, and indeede  
deseru'd it to: and then the boy his Clarke  
that tooke some paines in writing, he begd mine,  
and neither man nor maister would take ought  
but the two rings.

*Por.* What ring gae you my Lord?  
Not that I hope which you receau'd of me.

*Bass.* If I could add a lie vnto a fault,  
I would deny it: but you see my finger  
hath not the ring vpon it, it is gone.

*Por.*

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*Por.* Euen so voyd is your false hart of truth.  
By heauen I will nere come in your bed  
vntill I see the ring ?

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*Ner.* Nor I in yours  
till I againe see mine ?

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*Bass.* Sweet *Portia*,  
if you did know to whom I gaue the ring,  
if you did know for whom I gaue the ring,  
and would conceaue for what I gaue the ring,  
and how vnwillingly I left the ring,  
vwhen naught would be accepted but the ring,  
you would abate the strength of your displeasure ?

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*Por.* If you had knowne the vertue of the ring,  
or halfe her worthines that gaue the ring,  
or your owne honour to containe the ring,  
you would not then haue parted with the ring :

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vwhat man is there so much vnreasonable  
if you had pleas'd to haue defended it  
vwith any termes of zeale: wanted the modesty  
to vrge the thing held as a ceremonie :

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*Nerrissa* teaches me what to beleue,  
ile die for't, but some woman had the ring ?

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*Bass.* No by my honour Madam, by my soule  
no woman had it, but a ciuill Doctor,  
vwhich did refuse three thousand ducats of me,  
and begd the ring, the which I did denie him,  
and sufferd him to goe displeas'd away,  
euen he that had held vp the very life  
of my deere friend. What should I say sweet Lady,  
I was inforc'd to send it after him,

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I was beset with shame and curtesie,  
my honour would not let ingratitude  
so much besmere it : pardon me good Lady,  
for by these blessed candels of the night,  
had you been there, I think you would haue begd  
the ring of me to giue the worthy Doctor ?

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*Por.* Let not that Doctor ere come neere my house

since

*the Merchant of Venice.*

since he hath got the ieuell that I loued,  
and that which you did sweare to keepe for me,  
I will become as liberall as you,  
He not deny him any thing I haue,  
no, not my body, nor my husbands bed :  
Know him I shall, I am well sure of it.

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Lie not a night from home. Watch me like Argos,  
if you doe not, if I be left alone,  
now by mine honour which is yet mine owne,  
ile haue that Doctor for mine bedfellow.

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*Nerrissa.* And I his Clark : therefore be well aduisd  
how you doe leaue me to mine owne protection.

*Gra.* Well doe you so : let not me take him then,  
for if I doe, ile mar the young Clarks pen.

236

*Anth.* I am th'vnhappy subiect of these quarrells.

*Por.* Sir, greeue not you, you are welcome notwithstanding.

*Bass.* *Portia*, forgiue me this enforced wrong,  
and in the hearing of these many friends  
I sweare to thee, euen by thine owne faire eyes  
vvherein I see my selfe.

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*Por.* Marke you but that ?

In both my eyes he doubly sees himselfe :  
In each eye one, sweare by your double selfe,  
and there's an oath of credite.

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*Bass.* Nay, but heare me.

Pardon this fault, and by my soule I sweare  
I neuer more will breake an oath with thee.

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*Anth.* I once did lend my body for his wealth,  
vvhich but for him that had your husbands ring  
had quite miscaried. I dare be bound againe,  
my soule vpon the forfet, that your Lord  
vwill neuer more breake faith aduisedly.

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*Por.* Then you shall be his surety . giue him this,  
and bid him keepe it better then the other.

*Antho.* Here Lord *Bassanio*, sweare to keepe this ring.

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*Bass.* By heauen it is the same I gaue the Doctor.

*Por.* I had it of him : pardon me *Bassanio*,

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for

*The comicall Historie of*

for by this ring the Doctor lay with me.

260 *Nerrissa.* And pardon me my gentle *Gratiano*,  
for that same scrubbed boy the Doctors Clarke  
in lieu of this, last night did lie with me.

264 *Grati.* Why this is like the mending of high wayes  
in Sommer where the wayes are faire enough?  
What, are we cuckolds ere we haue deseru'd it.

268 *Por.* Speake not so grossly, you are all amaz'd;  
Heere is a letter, reade it at your leasure,  
It comes from Padua from *Bellario*,  
there you shall finde that *Portia* was the Doctor,  
*Nerrissa* there her Clarke. *Lorenzo* heere  
272 shall witnes I set foorth as soone as you,  
and euen but now returnd: *I* haue not yet  
enterd my house. *Anthonio* you are welcome,  
and I haue better newes in store for you  
than you expect: vnseale this letter soone,  
276 there you shall finde three of your Argosies  
are richly come to harbour sodainly.  
You shall not know by what strange accident  
*I* chaunced on this letter.

*Antho.* I am dumb?

280 *Bass.* Were you the Doctor, and *I* knew you not?

*Gra.* Were you the Clark that is to make me cuckold.

*Ner.* *I* but the Clarke that neuer meanes to doe it,  
vnlesse he liue vntill he be a man.

284 *Bass.* (Sweet Doctor) you shall be my bedfellow,  
when *I* am absent then lie with my wife.

*An.* (Sweet Lady) you haue giuen me life and lyuings  
for heere *I* reade for certaine that my ships  
are safely come to Rode.

288 *Por.* How now *Lorenzo*?

my Clarke hath some good comforts to for you.

*Ner* *I*, and ile giue them him without a fee.

292 There doe *I* giue to you and *Iessica*  
from the rich *Iewe*, a speciall deede of gift  
after his death, of all he dies posselt of.

*Loren.*

*the Merchant of Venice.*

*Loren.* Faire Ladies, you drop Manna in the way  
of starued people.

*Por.* It is almost morning,  
and yet I am sure you are not satisfied  
of these euent at full. Let vs goe in,  
and charge vs there vpon intergotories,  
and we will aunswer all things faithfully.

*Gra.* Let it be so, the first intergory  
that my *Nerrissa* shall be sworne on, is,  
vvhether till the next night she had rather stay,  
or goe to bed now being two houres to day :  
But were the day come, I should wish it darke  
till I were couching with the Doctors Clarke.  
Well, while I liue, ile feare no other thing  
so sore, as keeping safe *Nerrissas* ring.

*Exeunt.*

**F I N I S.**



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*the Merchant of Venice.*

*Antb.* I pray you think you question with the Jewe,  
 you may as well goe stand vpon the Beach  
 and bid the maine flood bate his vsuall height,  
 you may as vvell vse question with the Woolfe  
 vvhy he hath made the Ewe bleake for the Lambe:  
 You may as well forbid the mountaine of Pines  
 to wag their high tops, and to make no noise  
 vvhen they are fretten with the gusts of heauen:  
 You may as well doe any thing most hard  
 as seeke to soften that then which what's harder:  
 his Jewish hart? therefore I doe beseech you  
 make no moe offers, vse no farther meanes,  
 but with all brieve and plaine conueniencie  
 let me haue iudgement, and the Jewe his will?

*Bass.* For thy three thousand ducats heere is sixe?

*Jewe.* If euery ducat in sixe thousand ducats  
 vvere in sixe parts, and euery part a ducat,  
 I would not draw them, I would haue my bond?

*Duk.* How shalt thou hope for mercy rendring none?

*Jewe.* What iudgment shall I dread doing no wrong?  
 you haue among you many a purchaft slaue,  
 vvchich like your Asses, and your Dogs and Mules  
 you vse in abiect and in slauish parts,  
 because you bought them, shall I say to you,  
 let them be free, marry them to your heires?  
 vvhy sweat they vnder burthens, let their beds  
 be made as soft as yours, and let their pallats  
 be seasond with such viands, you will aunswer  
 the slaues are ours, so doe I aunswer you:  
 The pound of flesh which I demaund of him  
 is deerey bought, as mine and I will haue it:  
 if you deny me, fie vpon your Law,  
 there is no force in the decrees of Venice:  
 I stand for iudgement, aunswer, shall I haue it?

*Duke.* Vpon my power I may dismisse this Court,  
 vnlesse *Bellario* a learned Doctor,  
 whom I haue sent for to determine this

Come

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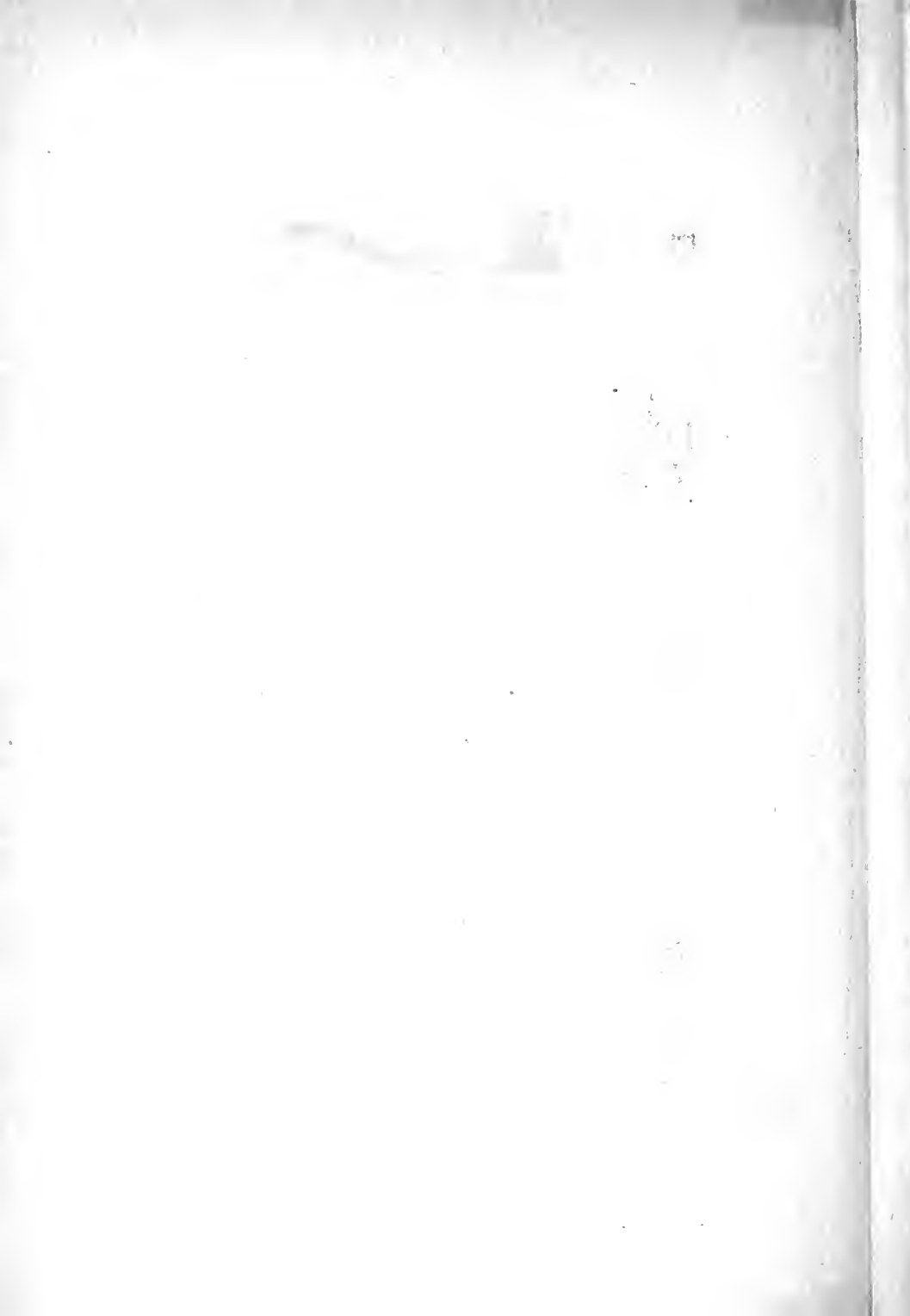
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