



The Merchant of Venice.

Actus primus.

Enter *Antonio, Salanio, and Solanio.*

Antonio.

AN 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 sadnesse makes of mee,

That I haue much ado to know my selfe.

Sal. Your minde is tosing on the Ocean,
There wherg your Argosies with portly faile
Like Signiors and rich Burgers on the flood,
Or as it were the Pageants of the sea,
Do ouer-peere the petty Traffiquers
That curtise to them, do them reuerence
As they flye by them with their wouen wings.

Salar. Beleeue me sir, had I such venturè forth,
The better part of my affections, would
Be with my hopes abroad. I should be still
Plucking the grass to know where sits the winde,
Peering in Maps for ports, and peeres, and rodes:
And with my obseruance that might make me feare
Misfortune to my venturers, out of doubt
Would make me sad.

Sal. My winde cooling my brooch,
Would blow me to an Ague, when I thought
What harme a winde too great might doe at sea.
I should not see the sandie houre-glasse runne,
But I should thinke of shallows, and of flats,
And see my wealthy *Andrew* docks in sand,
Vailing her high top lower then her ribs
To kiss her buriall; should I goe to Church
And see the holy edifice of stone,
And not thinke me straight of dangerous rocks,
Which touching but my gentle Vessels side
Would scatter all her spices on the streame,
Enrobe the roring waters with my silkes,
And in a word, but even now worth this,
And now worth nothing. Shall I haue the thought
To thinke on this, and shall I lacke the thought
That such a thing bechaunc'd would make me sad?
But tell not me, I know *Antonio*
Is sad to thinke vpon his merchandize.

Anth. Beleeue me no, I thanke my fortune for it,
My venturers are not in one bottome trusted;
Nor to one place; nor is my whole estate

Vpon the fortune of this present yeere:

Therefore my merchandize makes me not sad:

Sola. Why then you are in loue.

Anth. Eie, sic.

Sola. Not in loue neither: then let vs say you are sad
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 *Janus*,
Nature hath fram'd strange fellowes in her time:
Some that will euermore peepe through their eyes,
And laugh like Parrats at a bag-piper.
And other of such vineger aspect,
That they'll not shew their teeth in way of smile,
Though *Nessus* sweare the iest be laughable.

Enter *Bassanio, Lorenzo, and Gratiano.*

Sola. Heere comes *Bassanio*,
Your most noble Kinsman,
Gratiano, and *Lorenzo*. Fareyewell,
We leaue you now with better company.

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

Ant. Your worth is very deere in my regard.
I take it your owne busines calls on you,
And you embrace th'occasion to depart.

Sal. Good morrow my good Lords. (when?)

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

Sal. Wee'll 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 maruellously chang'd.

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

Grat. Let me play the foole,
With mirth and laughter let old wrinkles come,
And let my Liuer rather heate with wine,
Then my heart coole with mortifying grones.
Why should a man whose bloud is warme within,
Sit like his Grandfire, cut in Alabaster?
sleepe when he wakes? and creep into the Iaudies

By

The Merchant of Venice.

Is being penish? I tell thee what *Antonio*,
I love thee, and it is my love that speaks:
There are a sort of men, whose villages
Do cream and mingle like a standing pond,
And do a verie idle life entertaine,
With purpose to be drest in an opinion
Of wisdome, grauity, profound conceit,
As who should say, I am fir an Oracle,
And when I ope my lips, let no dogge bark.
O my *Antonio*, I do know of these
That therefore onely are reputed wise,
For saying nothing; when I am verie sure
If they should speake, would almost dam those eares
Which hearing them would call their brothers fooles:
Ile tell thee more of this another time.
But fish not with this melancholly baite
For this foole *Gudgin*, this opinion:
Come good *Lorenzo*, faryewell a while,
Ile end my exhortation after dinner.

Lor. Well, we will leaue you then till dinner time.
I must be one of these same dumbe wife men,
For *Gratiano* neuer let's me speake.

Gra. Well, keepe me company but two yeares mo,
Thou shalt not know the sound of thine owne tongue.

Ans. Far you well, Ile grow a talker for this geare.

Gra. Thankes ifaith, for silence is onely commendable
In a neats tongue dri'd, and a maid not vendible. *Exit:*

Ans. It is that any thing now.

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

Ans. Well: tel me now, what Lady is the same
To whom you swore a secret Pilgrimage
That you to day promis'd to tel me of?

Bas. 'Tis not vnknowne to you *Antonio*
How much I haue disabled mine estate,
By something shewing a more swelling port
Then my faint meanes would grant continuance:
Nor do I now make mone to be abridg'd!
From such a noble rate, but my cheefe care
Is to come fairely off from the great debts,
Wherein my time something too prodigall
Hath left me gag'd: to you *Antonio*
I owe the most in money, and in loue,
And from your loue I haue a warrantie
To vnburthen all my plots and purp-ses,
How to get cleere of all the debts I owe.

Ans. I pray you good *Bassanio* let me know it,
And if it stand as you your selfe still do,
Within the eye of honour, be assur'd
My purse, my person, my extreamest meanes
I ye all vnlock'd to your occasions.

Bas. In my schoole dayes, when I had lost one shaft
I shot his fellow of the selfesame flight
The selfesame way, with more aduised watch
To finde the other forth, and by aduenticing both,
I oft found both. I vrg this child-hoode 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 thar selfe way
Which you did shoot the first, I do not doubt,
As I will watch the ayme: Or to finde both,
Or bring your latter hazard backe againe,

And thankfully rest debter for the first.

Ans. You know me well, and herein spend but time
To winde about my loue with circumstance,
And out of doubt you doe more wrong
In making question of my extreamest
Then if you had made waite 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.

Bas. 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 receiue faire speechlesse messages:
Her name is *Portia*, nothing vnderallewd
To *Cato's* daughter, *Brutus Portia*,
Nor is the wide world ignorant of her worth,
For the foure windes blow in from euery coast
Renowned sutors, and her sunny locks
Hang on her temples like a golden fleece,
Which makes her seat of *Belmont* *Cholchos* strand,
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,
That I should questionlesse be fortunate.

Ans. Thou knowst that all my fortunes are at sea,
Neither haue I money, nor commodity
To raise a present summe, therefore goe forth
Try what my credit 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
Where money is, and I no question make
To haue it of my truit, or for my sake. *Exit.*

Enter Portia with her waiting woman Nerissa.

Portia. By my troth *Nerissa*, my little body is a wea-
rie of this great wor'd.

Ner. You would be sweet Madam, if your miseries
were in the same abundance as your good fortunes are:
and yet for ought I see, they are as sicke that surfet with
too much, as they that starue with nothing; it is no smal
happinesse therefore to bee seated in the meane, super-
fluitie comes sodner by white haire, but competencie
lives longer.

Portia. Good sentences, and well pronounc'd.

Ner. They would be better if well followed.

Portia. If to doe were as easie as to know what were
good to doe, Chappels had beene Churches, and poore
mens cottages Princes Pallaces: it is a good Diuine that
followes his owne instructions; I can easier teach twen-
tie what were good to be done, then be one of the twen-
tie to follow mine owne teaching: the braine may de-
uise lawes for the blood, but a hot temper leapes ore a
colde decree, such a hare is madnesse the youth, to skip
ore the meshes of good counsaile the cripple; but this
reason is not in fashion to choose me a husband: O mee,
the word choose, I may neither choose whom I would,
nor refuse whom I dislike, so is the wil of a living daugh-
ter curb'd by the will of a dead father: it is not hard *Ner-
rissa*, that I cannot choose one, nor refuse none.

Ner. Your father was ever vertuous, and holy men
at their death haue good inspirations, therefore the lot-
terie that hee hath deuised in these three chests of gold,
siluer, and leade, whereof who chooseth his meaning,
chooseth

chooses you, will no doubt neuer be chosen by any rightly, but one who you shall rightly loue: but what warmth is there in your affection towards any of these Princely suiters 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 that's a colt indeede, for he doth nothing but talke of his horse, and hee makes it a great appropriation to his owne good parts that he can shoo him himselfe: I am much afraid my Ladie his mother plaid false with a Smyth.

Ner. Than is there the Countie Palentine.

Por. He doth nothing but frowne (as who should say, and you will not haue me, choose: he heares merrie tales and smiles not, I feare hee will proue the weeping Phylosopher when he growes old, being so full of vn-mannerly sadnesse in his youth.) I had rather to be married to a death's head with a bone in his mouth, then to either of these. God defend me from these two.

Ner. How say you by the French Lord, Mounfier Le Boune?

Por. God made him, and therefore let him passe for a man, in truth I know it is a sinne to be a mocker, but he, why he 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 fals straight a capring, he will fence with his own shadow. If I should marry him, I should marry twentie husbands: if hee would despite me, I would forgiue him, for if he loue me to madnesse, I should neuer requite him.

Ner. What say you then to *Fanconbridge*, the yong Baron 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*, and you will come into the Court & swear that I haue a poore pennie-worth in the *English*: hee is a proper mans picture, but alas who can conuerse with a dumbe show? how odly he is suited, I thinke he bought his doublet in *Italie*, his round hose in *France*, his bonnet in *Germanie*, and his behauiour euery where.

Ner. What thinke you of the other Lord his neighbour?

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

Ner. How like you the yong *Germane*, the Duke of *Saxones* Nephew?

Por. Very vildely in the morning when hee is sober, and most vildely in the afternoone when hee is drunke: when he is best, he is a little worse then a man, and 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. If he should offer to choose, and choose the right Casket, you should refuse to performe your Fathers will, if you should refuse to accept him.

Por. Therefore for feare of the worst, I pray thee set a deepe glasse of Reinish-wine on the contrary Casket, for if the diuell be within, and that temptation without, I know he will choose it. I will doe any thing *Nerissa* ere I will be married to a sponge.

Ner. You neede not feare Lady the hauing any of

these Lords, they haue acquainted me with their determinations, which is indeede to returne to their home, and to trouble you with no more suite, vnlesse you may be won by some other sort then your Fathers imposition, depending on the Caskets.

Por. If I liue to be as olde as *Sibilla*, I will dye as chaste as *Diana*: vnlesse I be obtained by the manner 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 verie absence: and I wish them a faire departure.

Ner. Doe you not remember Ladie in your Fathers time, a *Venecian*, a Scholler and a Souldior that came hither in companie of the Marquessie of *Montferrat*?

Por. Yes, yes, it was *Bassanio*, as I thinke, so was hee call'd.

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

Por. I remember him well, and I remember him worthy of thy praise.

Enter a Servingman.

Ser. The foure Strangers seeke you Madam to take their leaue: and there is a fore-runner come from a fifth, the Prince of *Moroco*, who brings word the Prince his Maister will be here to night.

Por. If I could bid the fifth welcome with so good heart as I can bid the other foure farewell, I should be glad of his approach: if he haue the condition of a Saint, and the complexion of a diuell, I had rather hee should shoue me then wite me. Come *Nerissa*, sitra go before; whiles wee 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 months, well.

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

Shy. *Antonio* shall become bound, well.

Bass. May yousted me? Will you pleasure me? Shall I know your answere

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

Bass. Your answere to that.

Shy. *Antonio* is a good man.

Bass. Haue you heard any imputation to the contrary.

Shy. Ho no, no, no, no: my meaning in saying he is a good man, is to haue you vnderstand me that he is sufficient, yet his meanes are in supposition: he hath an *A. gosse* bound to *Tripolis*, another to the *Indies*, I vnderstand moreouer vpon the *Ryalta*, he hath a third at *Mexico*, a fourth for *England* and other ventures hee hath squandred abroad, but ships are but boords, Saylets 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 rocks: the man is not withstanding sufficient, three thousand ducats, I thinke I may take his bond.

Bass. Be assured you may.

Iew. I

Iew. I will be assured I may: and that I may be assured, I will bethinke mee, may I speake with *Antonio*?

Bass. If it please you to dine with vs.

Iew. Yes, to smell porke, to eat of the habitation which your Prophet the Nazarite scorned the diuell 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 Ryalta, who is he comes here?

Enter Antonio.

Bass. This is signior *Antonio*.

Iew. How like a sawning publican he lookes.

I hate him for he is a Christian:
But more, for that in low simplicitie
He lends our money gratis, and brings downe
The rate of vsance here with vs in *Venice*.
If I can catch him once vpon the hip,
I will feede fat the ancient grudge I beare him.
He hates our sacred Nation, and herailles
Euen there where Merchants most doe congregate
On me, my bargaines, and my well-worne thrift,
Which he calls interest: Cursed be my Trybe
If I forgive him.

Bass. *Shylock*, doe you heare.

Shy. 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?
What 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.

Ant. *Shylock*, albeit I neither lend nor borrow
By taking, nor by giuing of excesse,
Yet to supply the ripe wants of my friend,
He breake a custome: is he yet posselt
How much he would?

Shy. I, I, three thousand ducats.

Ant. And for three months.

Shy. 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 *Jacob* graz'd his Vncle *Labans* sheepe,
This *Jacob* 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?

Shy. No, not take interest, not as you would say
Directly interest, marke what *Jacob* did,
When *Laban* and himselfe were compremyz'd
That all the canelings which were streakt and pied
Should fall as *Jacobs* hier, the Ewes being rancke,
In end of Autumne turned to the Rammes,
And when the worke of generation was
Betweene these woolly breeders in the act,
The skilfull shepheard pil'd me certaine wands,
And in the dooing of the deede of kinde,
He stucke them vp before the fulsome Ewes,
Who then conceauing, did in caning time
Fall party-colour'd lambs, and those were *Jacobs*.
This was a way to thrue, and he was blest:

And thrift is blessing if men steale it not.

Ant. This was a ventur for that *Jacob* seru'd for,
A thing not in his power to bring to passe,
But sw ay'd and fashion'd by the hand of heauen.
Was this inserted to make interest good?
Or is your gold and siluer Ewes and Rams?

Shy. I cannot tell, I make it breede as fast,
But note me signior.

Ant. Marke you this *Bassanio*,
The diuell can cite Scripture for his purpose,
An euill soule producing holy witnesse,
Is like a villaine with a smiling checke,
A goodly apple rotten at the heart.
O what a goodly outside falsehood hath.

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

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

Shy. Signior *Antonio*, many a time and oft
In the Ryalto you haue rated me
About my monies and my vsances:
Still haue I borne it with a patient shrug,
(For suffrance is the badge of all our Tribe.)
You call me misbeleuer, cur-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,
Shylock, we would haue moneyes, you say so:
You that did void your rume vpon my beard,
And foote me as you spurne a stranger cur
Ouer your threshold, moneyes is your suite.
What should I say to you? Should I not say,
Hath a dog money? Is it possible
A cur should lend three thousand ducats? or
Shall I bend low, and in a bond-mans key
With bated breath, and whispering humblenesse,
Say this: Faire sir, you spet on me on Wednesday last;
You spurn'd me such a day; another time
You calld me dog: 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 too.
If thou wilt lend this money, lend it not
As to thy friends, for when did friendship take
A breede of barraine mettall of his friend?
But lend it rather to thine enemy,
Who if he breake, thou maist with better face
Exact the penalties.

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,
Supplie your present wants, and take no doite
Of vsance for my moneyes, and youle not heare me,
This is kinde I offer.

Bass. This were kindnesse.

Shy. This kindnesse will I shoue,
Goe with me to a Notarie, seale me there
Your single bond, and in a merrie sport,
If you repaie me not on such a day,
In such a place, such sum or sums as are
Express't in the condition, let the forfeite
Be nominated for an equall pound
Of your faire flesh, to be cut off and taken
In what part of your bodie it pleaseth me.

Ant. Content in faith, He seale to such a bond,
And say there is much kindnesse in the Iew.

Bass. You

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

Ant. Why feare not man, I will not forsake it,
Within these two months, that's a month before
This bond expires, I doe expect returne
Of thrice three times the valew of this bond.

Sby. O father *Abram*, what these Christians are,
Whose owne hard dealings teaches them suspect
The thoughts of others: Praie you tell me this,
If he should breake his daie, what should I gaine
By the exaction of the forfeiture?

A pound of mans flesh taken from a man,
Is not so estimable, profitable neither
As flesh of Mutrons, Beefes, or Goates, I say
To buy his fauour, I extend this friendship,
If he will take it, so: if not adiew,
And for my loue I praie you wrong me not.

Ant. Yes *Shylocke*, I will seale vnto this bond.

Sby. Then meeete me to shwith at the Notaries,
Giue him direction for this merrie bond,
And I will goe and purse the ducats strait.
See to my house left in the fearefull gard
Of an vnchristie knaue: and presentlie
Ile be with you.

Exit.

Ant. Hee thee gentle *Jew*. This Hebrew will turne
Christian, he growes kinde.

Bass. I like not faue teames, and a villaines munde.

Ant. Come on, in this there can be no disguise,
My Shippes come home a month before the daie.

Exeunt.

Actus Secundus.

*Enter Morochus a xanie Moore all in white, and three or
four followers accordingly, with Portia,
Nerissa, and their traane.
Flo. Cornets.*

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

Por. In termes of choise I am not solicited
By nice direction of a maidens eies:
Besides, the lourie of my destenie
Bars me the right of voluntarie choosing:
But if my Father had not scaunted me,
And hedg'd me by his wit to yeelde my selfe
His wife, who wins 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 trie my fortune: By this Symissae

That slew the Sophie, and a Persian Prince
That won three fields of Sutan Solyman,
I would ore-stare the sternest eyes that looke:
Out-braue the heart most daring on the earth:
Plucke the yong sucking Cubs from the she Beare,
Yea, mocke the Lion when he rores for pray
To win the Ladie. But alas, the while
If *Heracles* and *Lycbas* plaie at dice
Which is the better man, the greater throw
May turne by fortune from the weaker hand:
So is *Aleides* beaten by his rage,
And so may I, blinde fortune leading me
Misse that which one vnworthier may attaine,
And die with grieuing.

Por. You must take your chance,
And either not attempt to choose at all,
Or I weare before you choole, if you choole wrong
Neuer to speake to Ladie afterward
In way of marriage, therefore be aduis'd.

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

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

Mor. Good fortunexahen, *Cornets.*
To make me blest or curied 't among men. *Exeunt.*

Enter the Clowne alone.

Clo. Certainly, my conscience will serue me to run
from this Jew my Maister: the fiend is at mine elbow,
and tempts me, saying to me, *lobbe, Launcelet lobbe*, good
Launcelet, or good *lobbe*, or good *Launcelet lobbe*, vse
your legs, take the stare, run awaie. my conscience saies
no; take heed honest *Launcelet*; take heed honest *lobbe*,
or as afore-said honest *Launcelet lobbe*, doe not runne,
scorne running with thy heeles; well, the most coragi-
ous fiend bids me packe, *fia* saies the fiend, away saies
the fiend, for the heauens rouse vp a braue minde saies
the fiend, and run; well, my conscience hanging about
the necke of my heart, saies verie wisely to me: my hon-
nest friend *Launcelet*, being an honest mans sonne, or ra-
ther an honest womans sonne, for indeede my Father did
something smack, something grow too; he had a kinde of
taste; wel, my conscience saies *Launcelet* bouge not, bouge
saies the fiend, bouge not saies my conscience, conscience
say I you counsaile well, fiend say I you counsaile well,
to be rul'd by my conscience I should stay with the *Jew*
my Maister, (who God blesse the marke) is a kinde of di-
uell; and to run away from the *Jew* I should be ruled by
the fiend, who sauing your reuerence is the diuell him-
selfe. certainly the *Jew* is the verie diuell incarnation,
and in my conscience, my conscience is a kinde of hard
conscience, to offer to counsaile me to stay with the *Jew*;
the fiend giues the more friendly counsaile: I will runne
fiend, my heeles are at your commandement, I will runne.

Enter old Gobbo with a Basket.

Gob. Maister yong-man, you I praie you, which is the
waie to Maister *Jewes*?

Jew. O heuens, this is my true begotten Father, who
being more then sand-blinde, high grauel blinde, knows
me not, I will trie confusions with him.

Gob. Maister yong Gentleman, I praie you which is
the waie to Maister *Jewes*.

Jew. Turne vpon your right hand at the next tur-
ning

ning, but at the next turning of all on your left; marrit at the verie next turning, turne of no hand, but turn down indirectlie to the Jewes house.

Gob. Be Gods sonnies 'twill be a hard waie to hit, can you tell me whether one *Lancelet* that dwels with him, dwell with him or no.

Lan. Take you of yong Maister *Lancelet*, marke me now, now will I raise the waters; talke you of yong Maister *Lancelet*?

Gob. No Maister sir, but a poore mans sonne, his Father though I say't is an honest exceeding poore man, and God be thanked well to hie.

Lan. Well, let his Father be what a will, wee talke of yong Maister *Lancelet*.

Gob. Your worships friend and *Lancelet*.

Lan. But I praie you *ergo* old man, *ergo* I beseech you, talke you of yong Maister *Lancelet*.

Gob. O *Lancelet*, ant pleate your maistership.

Lan. *Ergo* Maister *Lancelet*, talke not of maister *Lancelet* Father, for the yong gentleman according to fates and destinies, and such odde sayings, the sisters three, & such branches of learning, is indeede deceased, or as you would say in plaine tearmes, gone to heauen.

Gob. Marrie God forbid, the boy was the verie staffe of my age, my verie prop.

Lan. Do I look like a cudgell or a honell-post, a staffe or a prop: doe you know me Father.

Gob. Alacke the day, I know you not yong Gentleman, but I praie you tell me, is my boy God rest his soule aliue or dead.

Lan. Doe you not know me Father.

Gob. Alacke sir I am find blinde, I know you not.

Lan. Nay, indeede if you had your eies you might faile of the knowing me: it is a wise Father that knowes his owne childe. Well, old man, I will tell you newes of your son, giue me your blessing, truth will come to light, murder cannot be hid long, a mans sonne may, but in the end truth will out.

Gob. Praie you sit stand vp, I am sure you are not *Lancelet* my boy.

Lan. Praie you let's haue no more fooling about it, but giue mee your blessing: I am *Lancelet* your boy that was, your sonne that is, your childe that shall be.

Gob. I cannot thinke you are my sonne.

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

Gob. Her name is *Margerie* indeede, Ile be sworne if thou be *Lancelet*, 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 chin, then Dobbin my philhorse has on his taile.

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

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

Lan. Well, well, but for mine owne part, as I haue set vp my rest to run awaie, so I will not rest till I haue run some ground; my Maister's a verie Jew, giue him a present, giue him a halter, I am famisht in his seruice. You may tell euerie finger I haue with my ribs: Father I am glad you are come, giue me your present to one Maister *Bassanio*, who indeede giues rare new Liories, if I serue

not him, I will run as far as God has anie ground. O rare fortune, here comes the man, to him Father, for I am a Jew if I serue the Jew anie longer.

Enter Bassanio with a follower or two.

Bass. You may doe so; but let it be so hasted that supper be readit at the farthest by five of the clocke. see these Letters deliuered, put the Liveries to making, and desire *Gratiano* to come anone to my lodging.

Lan. To him Father.

Gob. God blesse your worship.

Bass. Gramercie, would'st thou ought with me.

Gob. Here's my sonne sir, a poore boy.

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

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

Lan. Indeede the short and the long is, I serue the Jew, and haue a desire as my Father shall specifie.

Gob. His Maister and he (sauiug your worships reuerence) are icarce catercoitins.

Lan. To be brieft, the verie truth is, that the Jew hauing done me wrong, doth cause me as my Father being I hope an old man shall frutifie vnto you.

Gob. I haue here a dish of Doues that I would bestow vpon your worship, and my suite is.

Lan. In verie brieft, the suite is impertinent to my selfe, as your worship shall know by this honest old man, and though I say it, though old man, yet poore man my Father.

Bass. One speake for both, what would you?

Lan. Serue you sir.

Gob. That is the verie defect of the matter sir.

Bass. I know thee well, thou hast obtain'd thy suite, *Shylocke* thy Maister spoke with me this daie, And hath prefer'd thee, if it be preferment To leaue which Jewes seruice, to become The follower of so poore a Gentleman.

Clo. The old prouerbe is verie well parted betweene my Maister *Shylocke* and you sir, you haue the grace of God for, and he hath enough.

Bass. Thou speak'st it well; go Father with thy Son, Take leaue of thy old Maister, and enquire My lodging out, giue him a Luerie More garded then his fellowes: see it done.

Clo. Father in, I cannot get a seruice, no, I haue nere a tongue in my head, well: if anie man in *Italy* haue a fairer table which doth offer to sweare vpon a booke, I shall haue good fortune; goe too, here's a simple line of life, here's a small trifle of wiues, alas, fiftene wiues is nothing, a leuen widdowes and nine maides is a simple comming in for one man, and then to scape drowning thrice, and to be in perill of my life with the edge of a featherbed, here are simple escapes: well, if Fortune be a woman, she's a good wench for this gere: Father come, Ile take my leaue of the Jew in the twinkling.

Exit Clowne.

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

Leon. My best endeouers shall be done herein. *Exit Leon.*

Enter Gratiano.

Gra. Where's your Maister.

Leon. Yonder

Leon. Yonder fir he walkes.

Gra. Signior Bassanio.

Bas. Gratiano.

Gra. I haue a sute to you.

Bas. You haue obtain'd it.

Gra. You must not denie me, I must goe with you to Belmont.

Bas. Why then you must: but heare thee Gratiano, Thou art to wilde, to rude, and bold of voyce, Parts that become thee happily enough, And in such eyes as ours appeare not faults; But where they are not knowne, why there they show Something too liberall, pray thee take paine To allay with some cold drops of modestie Thy skipping spirit, leass through thy wilde behaiour I be miscounterd in the place I goe to, And loose my hopes.

Gra. Signior Bassanio, heare me, If I doe not put on a sober habit, Talke with respect, and I weare but now and than, Weare prayer bookes in my pocket. looke demurely, Nay more, while grace is saying hood many eyes Thus with my hat, and sigh and say Amen: Use all the obseruance of civilitie Like one well studied in a tad ostent To please his Grandam, neuer trust me more.

Bas. Well, we shall see your bearing.

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

Bas. No that were pittie, I would intreate you rather to put on Your holdst suite of mirth, for we haue friends That putpote merriment: but far you well, I haue some businesse.

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

Enter Iessica and the Clowne.

Ies. I am sorry thou wilt leaue my Father so, Our houte is hell, and thou a merrie diuell Did't rob it of some taste of tediousnesse; But far thee well, there is a ducat for thee, And Lancelot, soone at supper shalt thou see Lorenzo, who is thy new Masters guest, Giue him this Letter, doe it secretly, And so farwell: I would not haue my Father See me talke with thee.

Clow. Aduce, teares exhibit my tongue, most beautifull Pagan, most sweete Iew, if a Christian doe not play the knaue and get thee, I am much deceiued; but aduce, these foolish drops doe somewhat drowne my manly spirit: aduce. *Exit.*

Ies. Farewell good Lancelot.

Alacke, what heinous sinne is it in me To be ashamed to be my Fathers childe, But though I am a daughter to his blood, I am not to his manners: O Lorenzo, If thou keepe promise I shall end this strife, Become a Christian, and thy louing wife. *Exit.*

Enter Gratiano, Lorenzo, Slarino, and Salanio.

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

Gra. We haue not made good preparation.

Sal. We haue not spoke vs yet of Torch-bearers.

Sal. 'Tis vile vnlesse it may be quaintly ordered, And better in my minde not vnderstooke.

Lor. 'Tis now but foure of clock, we haue two houres To furnish vs; friend Lancelot what's the newes.

Enter Lancelot with a Letter.

Lan. And it shall please you to break^e vp this, shall it seeme to signifie.

Lor. I know the hand, in faith 'tis a faire hand And whiter then the paper it writ on, I the faire hand that writ.

Gra. Loue newes in faith.

Lan. By your leaue in.

Lor. Whither goest thou?

Lan. Marry fir to bid my old Master the Iew to sup to night with my new Master the Christian.

Lor. Hold here, take this, tell gentle Iessica I will not faile her, speake it privately: Go Gentlemen, wil you prepare you for this Maske to night,

I am prouided of a Torch-bearer. *Exit. Clowne.*

Sal. I marry, it be gone about it stra t.

Sal. And to will I

Lor. Meete me and Gratiano at Gratianos lodging Some houre hence.

Sal. 'Tis good we do so. *Exit.*

Gra. Was not that Letter from faire Iessica?

Lor. 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 suite she hath in readinesse: If ere the Iew her Father come to heauen, It 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 Iew: Come goe with me, peruse this as thou goest, Faire Iessica shall be my Torch-bearer. *Exit.*

Enter Iew, and his man that was the Clowne.

Iew. Well, thou shall see, thy eyes shall be thy iudge, The difference of old Shylocke and Bassanio; What Iessica, thou shalt not gurmandize As thou hast done with me: what Iessica? And sleepe, and snore, and rend apparrell out. Why Iessica I say.

Clow. Why Iessica.

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

Clow. Your worship was wont to tell me I could doe nothing without bidding.

Enter Iessica.

Ies. Call you? what is your will?

Shy. I am bid forth to supper Iessica, There are my Keyes: but wherefore should I go? I am not bid for loue, they flatter me, But yet Ile goe in hate, to feede vpon The prodigall Christian. Iessica my gitle, Looke to my house, I am right loath to goe, There is some ill a bruing towards my rest, For I did dreame of money bags to night.

Clow. I beseech you fir goe, my yong Master Doth expect your reproach.

Shy. So doe I his.

Clow. And they haue conspired together, I will not say you shall see a Maske, but if you doe, then it was not for nothing that my nose fell a bleeding on blacke monday last,

P

last,

last, at fix a clocke ith morning, falling out that yeere on
a wensday was foure yeere in th' afternoone.

Shy. What are their maskes? heare you me *Jessica*,
Lock vp my doores, and when you heare the drum
And the vile squealing of the wry-neckt Fife,
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 sopperie enter
My sober house. By *Jacobs* staffe I sweare,
I haue no minde of feasting toith to night:
But I will goe: goe you before me sitra,
Say I will come.

Cl. I will goe before sir.

Mistris looke out at window for all this,
There will come a Christian by,
Will be worth a Iewes eye.

Shy. What saies that foole of *Hugars* off-spring?
ha.

Jes. His words were farewell mistris, nothing else.

Shy. The patch is kinde enough, but a huge feeder:
Snail-flow in profit, but he sleepe by day
More then the wilde-cat: drones hieue not with me,
Therefore I part with him, and part with him
To one that I would haue him helpe to waste
His borrowed purse. Well *Jessica* goe in,
Perhaps I will returne immediately;
Doe as I bid you, shut doores after you, fast binde, fast
finde,

A prouerbe neuer stale in thriftie minde.

Jes. Farewell, and if my fortune be not crost,
I haue a Father, you a daughter lost.

Exit.

Exit.

Enter the Maskers, Gratiano and Salino.

Gra. This is the penthouse vnder which *Lorenzo*
Desired vs to make a stand.

Sal. His houre is almost past.

Gra. And it is meruaile he out dwel, his houre,
For louers euer run before the clocke.

Sal. O ten times faster *Venus* Pidgions flye
To steale loues bonds new made, then they are wont
To keepe obliged faith vnforfaited.

Gra. That euer holds, who riseth from a feast
With that keene appetite that he sits downe?
Where is the horse that doth vtread againe
His tedious measures with the vnbar'd fire,
That he did pace them first: all things that are,
Are with more spirit chased then enjoy'd.
How like a yonger or a prodigall
The skarfed barke puts from her natiue bay,
Hudg'd and embraced by the strumpet winde:
How like a prodigall doth she returne
With ouer-wither'd ribs and ragged sailes,
Leane, rent, and begger'd by the strumpet winde?

Enter Lorenzo.

Salino. Weere comes *Lorenzo*, more of this here-
after.

Lor. Sweete friends, your patience for my long a-
bode,

Not I, but my affaires haue made you wait:
When you shall please to play the thecues for wiuces
He watch as long for you then: approach

Here dwels my father Iew. Ho, who's within?

Jessica alone.

Jes. Who are you? tell me for more certainty,
Albeit Ile sweare that I do know your tongue.

Lor. *Lorenzo*, and thy Loue.

Jes. *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 and thy thoughts are witness that thou
art.

Jes. Heere, catch this casket, it is worth the paines,
I am glad 'tis night, you do not looke on me,
For I am much a sham'd of my exchange:
But loue is blinde, and louers cannot see
The pretty follies that themselues commit,
For if they could, *Cupid* himselfe would blush
To see me thus transformed 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 goodfooth are too too light.
Why, 'tis an office of discouery Loue,
And I should be obscur'd.

Lor. So you are sweet,
Euen in the louely garnish of a boy: but come at once,
For the close night doth play the run-away,
And we are staid for at *Bassanio's* feast.

Jes. I will make fast the doores and guild my selfe
With some more ducats, and be with you straight.

Gra. Now by my hood, a gentle, and no Iew.

Lor. Bestrew me but I loue her heartily.
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 prou'd her selfe:
And therefore like her selfe, wise, faire, and true,
Shall she be piaced in my constant souie.

Enter Jessica.

What, art thou come? O gentlemen, away,
Our masking mates by this time for vs stay.

Exit.

Enter Anthonio.

Ant. Who's there?

Gra. Signior *Anthonio*?

Ant. Fie, fie, *Gratiano*, where are all the rest?
'Tis nine a clocke, our friends all stay for you,
No maske to night, the winde is come about,
Bassanio presently will goe aboard,
I haue sent twenty out to seeke for you.

Gra. I am glad on't, I desire no more delight
Then to be vnder saile, and gone to night.

Exeunt.

Enter Portia with Morrocho, and both their traines.

Por. Goe, draw aside the curraines, and discouer
The feuerall Caskets to this noble Prince:
Now make your choyse.

Mor. The first of gold, who this inscription beares,
Who chooseth me, shall game what 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

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 judgement, let me see, I will suruay the inscriptions, backe 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

Doe it in hope of faire aduantages :

A golden minde stoopes not to shewes of stoffe,

It then nor giue nor hazard ought for lead.

What saies the Siluer with her virgini hue ?

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

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

And weigh thy value 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,

Were but a weake disabling of my selfe.

As much as I deserue, why that's the Ladie.

I doe in birth deserue her, and in fortunes,

In graces, and in qualities of breeding :

But more then these, in loue I doe deserue.

What if I strai'd no farther, but chose here ?

Let's see once more this saying graud in gold.

Who chooseth me shall gaine what many men desire:

Why that's 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 vaste 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 contains her heauenly picture.

Is't like that Lead contains her? twere damnation

To thinke so base a thought, it were too grosse

To rib her searecloath in the obscure graue :

Or shall I thinke in Siluer she's immur'd

Being ten times vnderualue'd to tride gold ;

O sinfull thought, neuer so rich a Iem

Was set in worse then gold ! They haue in England

A coyne that beares the figure of an Angell

Stamp't in gold, but that's insculpt vpon :

But here an Angell in a golden bed

Lies all within. Deluer me the key :

Here doe I choose, and thriue I as I may.

Por. There take it Prince, and if my forme lye there Then I am yours.:

Mor. O hell ! what haue we here, a carrion death, Within whose emptie eye there is a written scroule ; Ile reade the writing.

*All that glisters is not gold,
Often haue you heard that told ;
Many a man his life hath sold
But my outside to behold ;
Gilded timber doe worours infold:
Had you bene as wise as bold,
Young in limbs, in iudgement old,
Your answers had no bene told,
Fareyouwell, your suite is cold,*

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

Portia adew, I haue too grieu'd a heart

To take a tedious leaue : thus loosers part.

Por. A gentle riddance : draw the curtaines, go.

Let all of his complexion choose me so.

Enter Salario and Solanio.

Flu. Cornets.

Sal. Why man I saw *Bassanio* vnder saile;

With him is *Gratsano* gone along;

And in their ship I am sure *Lorenzo* is not.

Sol. The villaine *Iew* with otteries rais'd the Duke.

Who went with him to search *Bassanio's* ship.

Sal. He comes too late, the ship was vnder saile;

But there the Duke was giuen to vnderstand

That in a *Ciondilo* were leene together

Lorenzo and his amorous *Jessica*.

Besides, *Antonio* certified the Duke

They were not with *Bassanio* in his ship.

Sol. I neuer heard a passion so confus'd,

So strange, outrageous, and so variable,

As the dogge *Iew* did utter in the streets ;

My daughter, O my ducats, O my daughter,

Fled with a Christian, O 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 : iustice, finde the girle,

She 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.

Sol. Let good *Antonio* looke he keepe his day

Or he shall pay for this.

Sal. Marry well remembered,

I reason'd with a Frenchman yesterday,

Who told me, in the narrow seas that part

The french and English, there miscaried

A vessell of our countrey richly fraught :

I thought vpon *Antonio* when he told me,

And wish't in silence that it were not his.

Sol. Yo were best to tell *Antonio* what you heare.

Yet doe not suddainely, for it may grieue 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 answered, doe not so,

Slubber not business for my sake *Bassanio*,

But stay the very riping of the time,

And for the *Jewes* bond which he hath of me,

Let it not enter in your minde of loue :

Be merry, and imploy your chiefest 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 behinde him,

And with affection wondrous sensible

He wrung *Bassanio's* hand, and so they parted.

Sol. I thinke he onely loues the world for him,

I pray thee let vs goe and finde him out

And quicken his embraced heauineffe

With some delight or other.

Sal. Doe we so.

Exeunt.

Enter Nerissa and a Seruitour.

Ner. Quick, quick I pray thee, draw the curtain strait,

P 2

The

The Prince of Arragon hath saine his oath,
And comes to his election presently.

*Enter Arragon, his traine, and Portia.
Flor. Cornets.*

Por. Behold, there stand the caskets noble Prince,
If you choose that wherein I am contain'd,
Straight shall our nuptiall rights be solemniz'd:
But if thou faile, without more speech my Lord,
You must be gone from hence immediately.

Ar. I am enioynd by oath to obserue three things;
First, neuer to vnfold to any one
Which 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 choise,
Immediately to leaue you, and be gone.

Por. To these iniunctions euery one doth sweare
That comes to hazard for my worthlesse selfe.

Ar. And so haue I addrest me, fortune now
To my hearts 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 meane
By the foole multitude that choose by show,
Not learning more then the fond eye doth teach,
Which pries not to th'interior, but like the Martlet
Builds in the weather on the outward wall,
Euen in the force and rode of casualtie.
I will not choose what many men desire,
Because I will not iumpe with common spirits,
And ranke me with the barbarous multitudes.
Why then to thee thou Siluer treasure house,
Tell me once more, what title thou doost beare;
Who chooseth me shall get as much as he deserues:
And well said too; for who shall goe about
To cosen Fortune, and be honourable
With out the stampe of merrit, let none presume
To weare an vnderferued dignitie:
O that estates, degrees, and offices,
Were not deriu'd corruptly, and that cleare honour
Were purchast by the merrit of the wearer;
How many then should couer that stand bare?
How many be commanded that command?
How much low pleasantrie would then be gleaned
From the true seede of honor? And how much honor
Pickt from the chaffe and ruine of the times,
To be new gainisht: 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 here.

Por. Too long a pause for that which you finde there.

Ar. What's here, the portrait of a blinking idiot
Presenting me a scedule, 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?

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

Ar. What is here?

The first seauen times tried is he,

*Seauen times tried that indement is,
That did neuer choose amis,
Some there be that shadowes kisse,
Such haue but a shadowes blisse:
There be fooles alme Iwis
Siluer'd o're, and so was this:
Take what wife you will to bed,
I will euer be your head:
So be gone, you are sped.*

Ar. Still more foole I shall appeare
By the time I linger here,
With one fooles head I came to woo;
But I goe away with two.
Sweet adue, Ile keepe my oath,
Patiently to beare my wroath.

Por. Thus hath the candle sing'd the moath:
O these deliberate fooles when they doe choose,
They haue the wisdom by their wit to loose.

Ner. The ancient saying is no heresie,
Hanging and wiuing goes by destinie.

Por. Come draw the curtaine *Nerrissa*.

Enter Messenger.

Mes. Where is my Lady?

Por. Here, what would my Lord?

Mes. Madam, there is a-lighted at your gate
A yong Venetian, one that comes before
To signifie th'approaching of his Lord,
From whom he bringeth leasible regreets;
To wit (besides commend and curteous breath)
Gifts of rich value; yet I haue not teene
So likely 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.

Por. No more I pray thee, I am halfe a-feard
Thou wilt say anone he is some kin to thee,
Thou spend it such high-day wit in praising him:
Come, come *Nerrissa*, for I long to see
Quicke *Cypriote* Post, that comes so mannerly.

Ner. *Bassanio* Lord, loue if thy will it be. *Exeunt.*

Actus Tertius.

Enter Solanio and Salanio.

Sol. Now, what newes on the Ryalto?

Sal. Why yet it lues there vncheckt, that *Antonio*
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 carcasses of many a tall ship, lye
buried, as they say, if my gossips report be an honest wo-
man of her word.

Sol. 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 profligity, or crossing the plaine high-way of
talke, that the good *Antonio*, the honest *Antonio*; o that
I had a title good enough to keepe his name company!

Sal. Come the full stop.

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

Sal. I

Sal. I would it might proue the end of his losses.

Sol. Let me say Amen betimes, least the diuell crosse my praier, for here he comes in the iikenes of a Jew. How now *Shylocke*, what newes among the Merchants?

Enter Shylocke.

Shy. You knew none so well, none so well as you, of my daughters flight.

Sal. That's certaine, I for my part knew the Tailor that made the wings she flew withall.

Sol. And *Shylocke* for his own part knew the bird was fledg'd, and then it is the complexion of them al to leaue the dam.

Shy. She is damn'd for it.

Sal. That's certaine, if the diuell may be her Iudge.

Shy. My owne flesh and blood to rebell.

Sol. Out vpon it old carrion, rebels it at these yeeres.

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

Sal. There is more difference betweene thy flesh and hers, then betweene Iet and Iurie, more betweene your bloods, then there is betweene red wine and rennish. but tell vs, doe you heare whether *Antonio* haue had anye losse at sea or no?

Shy. There I haue another bad match, a bankrupt, a prodigall, who dare scarce shew his head on the Ryalto, a begger that was vsd to come so smug vpon the Mart: let him look to his bond, he was wont to call me Vluer, let him looke to his bond, he was wont to lend money for a Christian curse, let him looke to his bond.

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

Shy. To baite fish withall, if it will feede nothing else, it will feede my reuenge; he hath disgrac'd me, and hindred me halfe a million, laugh at my losses, mockt at my games, scorned my Nation, thwarted my bargaines, cooled my friends, heated mine enemies, and what's the reason? I am a Jewe: Hath not a Jewe eyes? hath not a Jewe hands, organs, deuotions, fences, affections, passions, fed with the same foode, hurt with the same weapons, subiect to the same diseases, healed by the same means, warmed and cooled by the same Winter and Sommer as a Christian is: if you prick vs doe we not bleed? if you tickle vs, doe we not laugh? if you poison vs doe we not die? and if you wrong vs shall we not reuenge? if we are like you in the rest, we will resemble you in that. If a Jew wrong a Christian, what is his humility, reuenge? If a Christian wrong a Jew, what should his sufferance be by Christian example, why reuenge? The villanie you teach me I will execute, and it shall goe hard but I will better the instruction

Enter a man from Antonio.

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

Sal. We haue beene vp and downe to seeke him.

Enter Tuball.

Sol. Here comes another of the Tribe, a third cannot be marcht, vnlesse the diuell himselfe turne Jew.

Exeunt Gentlemen.

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

Tub. I often came where I did beare of her, but cannot finde her.

Shy. Why there, there, there, there, a diamond gone cost me two thousand ducats in *Franchford*, the curse neuer fell vpon our Nation till now, I neuer felt it till now, two thousand ducats in that, and other precious, preci-

ous iewels: I would my daughter were dead at my foote, and the iewels in her care: would she were heare at my foote, and the duckets in her coffin: no newes of them, why so? and I know not how much is 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 luck stirring but what lights a my shoulders, no sighes but a my breathing, no teares but a my shedding.

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

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

Tub. Hath an Argosie cait away comming from *Tripolis*.

Shy. I thanke God, I thanke God, is it true, is it true?

Tub. I spoke with some of the Saylers that escaped the wracke.

Shy. I thanke thee good *Tuball*, good newes, good newes: ha, ha, here in *Genowa*.

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

Shy. Thou stick'st a dagger in me, I shall neuer see my gold againe, fourescore ducats at a sitting, fourescore ducats.

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

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

Tub. One of them shewed me a ring that hee had of your daughter for a Monkie.

Shy. Out vpon her, thou torturest me *Tuball*, it was my Turkies, I had it of *Leab* when I was a Batcheler: I would not haue giuen it for a wilderness of Monkies.

Tub. 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 heart of him if he forfeit, for were he out of *Venice*, I can make what merchandize I will: goe *Tuball*, and meeete me at our *Sinagogue*, goe good *Tuball*, at our *Sinagogue* *Tuball*.

Exeunt.

Enter Bassanio, Portia, Gratiano, and all their traine.

Por. I pray you tarrie, pause a day or two Before you hazard, for in choosing wrong I loose your companie; therefore forbear a while, There's something tells me (but it is not loue) I would not loose you, and you know your selfe, Hate counsailes not in such a quallitie; But least you should not vnderstand me well, And yet a maiden hath no tongue, but thought, I would detaine you here some month 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 with a sinne, That I had beene forsworne: Beshrow 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 of mine then yours, And so all yours; O these naughtie times Puts bars betweene the owners 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 ich it, and to draw it out in length, To stay you from election.

P 3

Bass. Let

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

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

Bass. None but that vglie treason of mistrust,
Which makes me feare the enioying of my loue:
There may as well be amitie and life,

'Tweene snow and fire, as treason and my loue:
Por. I, but I feare you speake vpon the racke,
Where men enforced doth speake any thing.

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

Por. Well then, confesse and liue.

Bass. Confesse and loue
Had bene the verie sum of my confession:
Oh happie torment, when my torturer
Doth teach me answers for deliuerance:
But let me to my fortune and the caskets.

Por. Away then, I am lockt in one of them,
If you doe loue me, you will finde me out.
Neryssa and the rest, stand ail aloofe,
Let musicke sound while he doth make his choise,
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 watric 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-goomes eare,
And summon him to marriage. Now he goes
With no lesse presence, but with much more loue
Then yong *Alcides*, when he did: redeeme
The virgine tribute, paied by howling *Troy*
To the Sea-monster: I stand for sacrifice,
The rest aloofe are the Dardanian wiuues:
With bleared visages come forth to view
The issue of th'exploit: Goe *Hercules*,
Liue thou, I liue with much more dismay
I view the fight, then thou that mak'st the fray.

Here Musicke

A Song the whilst *Bassanio* comment: on the
Caskets to himselfe.

Tell me where is fancie bred,
Or in the heart, or in the head:
How beget, how nourished,
It is engendred in the eyes,
With gazing fed, and Fancie dies,
In the cradle where it lies
Let vs all ring Fancies knell.
He beginneth.

Ding dong, bell.

All. Ding, dong, bell.

Bass. So may the outward shoues be least themselues
The world is still deceu'd with ornament.
In Law, what Plea so tainted and corrupt,
But being season'd with a gracious voice,
Obscures the show of euill? In Religion,
What damned error, but some sober brow
Will blesse it, and approve it with a text,
Hiding the grossenesse with faire ornament:
There is no voice so simple, but assumes
Some marke of verrue on his outward parts;

How manie cowards, whose hearts are all as false
As stayers of sand, weare yet vpon their chins
The beards of *Hercules* and frowning *Mars*,
Who inward searcht, haue lyuers white as milke,
And these assume but valors excrement,
To render them redoubted. Looke on beautie,
And you shall see 'tis purchast by the weight,
Which therein workes a miracle in nature,
Making them lightest that weare most of it:
So are those crisped snake golden locks
Which makes such wanton gambols with the winde
Vpon supposed fairenesse, often knowne
To be the dowrie 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 scarie
Vailing an Indian beautie; In a word,
The seeming truth which cunning times put on
To intrap the wisest. Therefore then thou gaudie gold,
Hard food for *Midas*, I will none of thee,
Nor none of thee thou pale and common drudge
'Tweene man and man: but thou, thou meager lead
Which rather threatnest then dost promise ought,
Thy palenesse moues me more then eloquence,
And here choofe I, to be the consequence.

Por. How all the other passions fleet to ayre,
As doubtfull thoughts, and rash embrac'd despaire:
And shuddring feare, and Greene-eyed Icaloufie.
O loue be moderate, allay thy extasie,
In measure raise thy ioy, leant this excessse,
I feele too much thy blessing, make it lesse,
For feare I surfeit.

Bass. What finde I here?
Faire *Portia* counterfeit. What demie God
Hath come to meete creation? moue these eyes?
Or whether riding on the bals of mine
Seeme they in motion? Here are leuer'd lips
Parted with finger breath, to tweet a bairie
Should funder such tweet friends: here in her haire
The Painter plays the Spider, and hath wouen
A golden mesh to intrap the hearts of men
I after their gnats in cobwebs, but her eyes,
How could he see to see them? hauing made one,
Me thanks it should haue power to steale both his
And leaue it selfe vn furnisht: Yet looke how farre
The substance of my praise doth wrong this shadow
In vnderprising it, to fare this shadow
Doth limpe behinde the substance Here's the scroule,
The continenc, and summatic of my fortune.

You that choofe not by the view
Chance as false, and choofe as true:
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 loving kisse.

Bass. A gentle scroule: Faire Lady, by your leaue,
I come by note to giue, and to receiue,
Like one of two contending in a prize
That thinks he hath done well in peoples eyes:
Hearing applause and vniuersall shout,
Giddie in spirit, still gazing in a doubt
Whether those peales of praue be his or no.

So thrice faire Lady stand I euen to,
As doubtfull whether what I see be true,
Vntill confirm'd, sign'd, ratified by you.

Por. You see my Lord *Bassiano* where I stand,
Such as I am; though for my selfe alone
I would not be ambitious in my wish,
To wish my selfe much better, yet for you,
I would be rebled twenty times my selfe,
A thousand times more faire, ten thousand times
More rich, that onely to stand high in your account,
I might in vertues, beauties, liuing, friends,
Exceed accounts: but the iull summe of me
Is sum of nothing: which to terme in graffe,
Is an vnlesioned girl, vn school'd, vn practis'd,
Happy in this, she is not yet so old
But she may learne: happier then this,
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 Governour, her King.
My selfe, and what is mine, to you and yours
Is now conuerted. But now I was the Lord
Of this faire mansion, master of my seruants,
Queene ore my selfe: and euen now, but now,
This house, these seruants, and this same my selfe
Are yours, my Lord, I giue them with this ring,
Which when you part from, loose, or giue away,
Let it preface the ruine of your loue,
And be my vantage to exclaime on you.

Bass. Maddam, you haue bereft me of all words,
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 something being blent together,
Turnes to a wilde of nothing, saue of ioy
Exprest, and not exprest: but when this ring
Parts from this finger, then parts life from hence,
O then be hold to say *Bassanio's* dead.

Ner. My Lord and Lady, it is now our time
That haue stood 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 faith: I doe beseech you
Euen at that time I may be married too.

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

Gra. I thanke your Lordship, you gave got me one.
My eyes my Lord can looke as swift as yours.
You saw the mistres, I beheld the maid:
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 too, 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: provided that your fortune
Atchiew'd her mistresse.

Por. Is this true *Nerrissa*?

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

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

Gra. Yes faith my Lord.

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

Gra. Weele play with them the first boy for a thousand ducats.

Ner. What and stake downe?

Gra. No, we shal nere win at that sport, and stake downe.

But who comes heere? *Lorenzo* and his Infidell?
What and my old Venetian friend *Salerio*?

Enter Lorenzo, Iessica, and Salerio.

Bass. *Lorenzo* and *Salerio*, welcome hether,
If that the youth of my new interest heere
Haue power to bid you welcome: by your leaue
I bid my verie friends and Countrimen
Sweet *Portia* welcome.

Por. So do I my Lord, they are intirely welcome.

Lor. I thanke your honor; for my part my Lord;
My purpose was not to haue seene you heere,
But meeting with *Salerio* by the way,
He did intreate mee 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
I pray you tell me how my good friend doth.

Sal. Not sicke my Lord, vnlesse it be in minde,
Nor wel, vnlesse in minde: his Letter there
Wil shew you his estate.

Open: the Letter.

Gra. *Nerrissa*, cheere yond stranger, bid her welcom.
Your hand *Salerio*, what's the newes from Venice?
How doth that royal Merchant good *Antonio*;
I know he vvil be glad of our successe,
We are the *Lasons*, we haue won the fleeca.

Sal. I would you had vvon the fleeca that hee hath lost.

Por. There are some shewd contents in yond same
Paper,
That steales the colour from *Bassianos* cheeke,
Some deere friend dead, else nothing in the world
Could turne so much the constitution
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.

Bass. O sweet *Portia*,
Heere are a few of the vnpleasant'st words
That euer blotted paper. Gentle Ladie
When I did first impart my loue to you,
I freely told you all the wealth I had
Ran in my vaines: I was a Gentleman,
And then I told you true: and yet deere Ladie,
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 vv as worse then nothing: for indeede
I haue ingag'd my selfe to a deere friend,
Ingag'd my friend to his meere enimie
To feede my meanes. Heere is a Letter Ladie,
The paper as the bodie of my friend,
And euerie word in it a gaping wound
Issuing life blood. But is it true *Salerio*,

Hath

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?

Sal. Not one my Lord.

Besides, it should appeare, that if he had
The present money to discharge the Jew,
He would not take it: neuer did I know
A creature that did beare the shape of man
So keene and greedy to confound a man.
He plyes the Duke at morning and at night,
And doth impeach the freedome of the state
If they deny him iustice. Twenty Merchants,
The Duke himselfe, and the Magnificoes
Of greatest port haue all perswaded with him,
But none can diue him from the enuious plea
Of forfeiture, of iustice, and his bond.

Iessi. When I was with him, I haue heard him sweare
To *Tuball* and to *Chiu*, his Countri-men,
That he would rather haue *Antonio's* flesh,
Then twenty 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 *Antonio*.

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

Bass. The deere friend to me, the kindest man,
The best condition'd, and vnweari'd spirit
In doing courtesies: and one in whom
The ancient Roman honour more appeares
Then any that drawes breath in Italie.

Por. What summe owes he the Jew?

Bass. For me three thousand ducats.

Por. What, no more?

Pay him sixe thousand, and deface the bond:
Double sixe thousand, and then treble that,
Before a friend of this description
Shall lose a haire through *Bassanio's* fault.
First goe with me to Church, and call me wife,
And then away to Venice to your friend:
For neuer shall you lie by *Portias* side
With an vnquiet soule. You shall haue gold
To pay the petty debt twenty times ouer.
When it is payd, bring your true friend along,
My maid *Nerriessa*, and my selfe meane time
Will liue as maids and widdowes; come away,
For you shall hence vpon your wedding day:
Bid your friends welcome, show a merry cheere,
Since you are deere bought, I will loue you deere
But let me heare the letter of your friend.

Sweet Bassanio, my ships haue all miscarried, my Creditors grow cruell, my estate is very low, my bond to the Jew is forfest, and since in paying it, it is impossible I should liue, all debts are cleerd betwene you and I, if I might see you at my death: notwithstanding, use your pleasure, if your loue doe not perswade you to come, let not my letter.

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 guilty of my stay,
Nor rest be interposer twixt vs twaine.

Exeunt.

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

Jew. Taylor, looke to him, tell not me of mercy,

This is the foole that lends out money gratis.
Taylor, looke to him.

Ant. Heare me yet good *Shylok*,

Jew. He haue my bond, speake not against my bond,
I haue sworne an oath that I will haue my bond:
Thou call'st me dog before thou hadst a caule,
But since I am a dog, beware my phangs,
The Duke shall grant me iustice, I do wonder
Thou naughty Taylor, that thou art so fond
To come abroad with him at his request

Ant. I pray thee heare me speake.

Jew. He haue my bond, I will not heare thee speake,
He haue my bond, and therefore speake no more.
He not be made a soft and dull ey'd foole,
To shake the head, relent, and sigh, and yeeld
To Christian intercessors: follow not,
He haue no speaking, I will haue my bond. *Exit Jew*

Sol. It is the most impenetrable curte
That euer kept with men.

Ant. Let him alone,

He follow him no more with bootlesse prayers:
He seekes my life, his reason well I know;
I oft deliuer'd from his forfeitures
Many that haue at times made mone to me.
Therefore he hates me

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

Ant. The Duke cannot deny the courte of law:
For the commoditie that strangers haue
With vs in Venice, if it be denied,
Will much impeach the iustice of the State,
Since that the trade and profit of the city
Consisteth of all Nations. Therefore goe,
These griefes and losses haue to bated mee,
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, Nerriessa, Lorenzo, Iessica, and a man of
Portia.*

Lor. Madam, although I speake it in your presence,
You haue a noble and a true conceit
Of god-like charity, which appeares most strongly
In bearing thus the absence of your Lord.
But if you knew to whom you shew 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 customary bounty can enforce you.

Por. I neuer did repent for doing good,
Nor shall not now: for in companions
That do conuerse and waste the time together,
Whose soules doe beare an egal yoke of loue,
There must be needs a like proportion
Of lyniaments, of manners, and of spirit;
Which makes me thinke that this *Antonio*
Being the bosome louer of my Lord,
Must needs be like my Lord. If it be so,
How little is the cost I haue bestowed
In purchasing the semblance of my soule;
From out the state of hellish cruelty,
This comes too neere the praising of my selfe,
Therefore no more of it: heere other things
Lorenzo I commit into your hands,

The

The husbandry and mannage of my house,
Vntill my Lords returne; for mine owne part
I haue toward heauen breath'd a secret vow,
To liue in prayer and contemplation,
Onely attended by *Nerrissa* heere,
Vntill her husband and my Lords returne:
There is a monastery too miles off,
And there we will abide. I doe desire you
Not to demie this imposition,
The which my loue and some necessity
Now layes vpon you.

Loren. Madame, with all my heart,
I shall obey you in all faire commands.

Por. My people doe already know my miude,
And will acknowledge you and *Iessica*
In place of Lord *Bassanio* and my ielfe.
So far you well till we shall meete againe.

Lor. Faire thoughts & happy houres attend on you.

Ieffi. I wish your Ladiship all hearts content.

Por. I thanke you for your wish, and am well pleas'd
To wish it backe on you: tary you well *Iessica*. *Exeunt.*
Now *Balthasar*, as I haue euer found thee honest true,
So let me finde thee still: take this same letter,

And vse thou all the indeauor of a man,
In speed to Mantua, see thou render this
Into my cosins hand, Doctour *Belario*,
And looke what notes and garments he doth giue thee,
Bring them I pray thee with imagin'd speed
Vnto the Traneet, to the common Ferric
Which trades to Venice; waste no time in words,
But get thee gone, I shall be there before thee.

Balth. Madam, I goe with all conuenient speed.

Por. Come on *Nerrissa*, I haue worke in hand
That you yet know not of; wee'll see our husbands
Before they thinke of vs?

Nerrissa. Shall they see vs?

Portia. They shall *Nerrissa*: but in such a habit,
That they shall thinke we are accomplished
With that we lacke; He hold thee any wager
When we are both accoutered like yong men,
He proue the prettier fellow of the two,
And weare my dagger with the brauer grace,
And speake betweene the change of man and boy,
With a reede voyce, and turne two minsing steps
Into a manly stride; and speake of frayes
Like a fine bragging youth: and tell quaint lyes
How honourable Ladies sought my loue,
Which I denying, they fell sicke and died,
I could not doe withall: then He repent,
And wish for all that, that I had not kil'd them;
And twentie of these punie lies He tell,
That men shall sweare I haue discontinued schoole
Abooue a twelue moneth: I haue within my minde
A thousand raw tricks of these bragging Iacks,
Which I will practise.

Nerriss. Why, shall wee turne to men?

Portia. Fie, what a questions that?

If thou wert nere a lewd interpreter:
But come, He tell thee all my whole deuice
When I am in my coach, which stayes for vs
At the Parke gate; and therefore haste away,
For we must measure twentie miles to day. *Exeunt.*

Enter Clowne and Iessica.

Clown. Yes truly; for looke you, she finnes of the Fa-

ther 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 of
good cheere, for truly I thinke you are damn'd, there is
but one hope in it that can doe you anie good, and that is
but a kinde of bastard hope neither.

Iessica. And what hope is that I pray thee?

Clow. Marrie you may partlie hope that your father
got you not, that you are not the Jewes daughter.

Ieff. That were a kinde of bastard hope indeed, so the
finns of my mother should be visited vpon me.

Clow. Truly then I feare you are damned both by fa-
ther and mother: thus when I shun *Scilla* your father, I
fall into *Charibdis* your mother; well, you are gone both
wares.

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

Clow. Truly the more to blame he, we were Christi-
ans enow before, e'ne as many as could well liue one by a-
nother: this making of Christians will raise the price of
Hogs, if wee grow all to be porke-eaters, wee shall not
shortlie haue a rashter on the coales for money.

Enter Lorenzo.

Ieff. He tell my husband *Lancelet* what you say, heere
he comes.

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

Ieff. Nay, you need not feare vs *Lorenzo*, *Lancelet*
and I are out, he tells me flatly there is no mercy for mee
in heauen, because I am a lewes daughter: and hee saies
you are no good member of the common wealth, for
in conuerting lewes to Christians, you raise the price
of Porke.

Loren. I shall answere that better to the Common-
wealth, than you can the getting vp of the Negroes bel-
lie: the Moore is with childe by you *Lancelet*?

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

Loren. How euerie foole can play vpon the word, I
thinke the best grace of witte will shortly turne into si-
lence, and discourte grow commendable in none onely
but Parrats: goe in sirra, bid them prepare for dinner?

Clow. That is done sir, they haue all stomachs?

Loren. Goodly Lord, what a witte-snapper are you,
then bid them prepare dinner.

Clow. That is done to sir, onely couer is the word.

Loren. Will you couer than sir?

Clow. Not so sir neither, I know my dutie.

Loren. Yet more quarrelling with occasion, wilt thou
shew 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
meat, and we will come in to dinner.

Clow. For the table sir, it shall be seru'd in, for the
meat sir, it shall bee couered, for your comming in to
dinner sir, why let it be as humors and conceits shall go-
uerne. *Exit Clowne.*

Lor. O deare discretion, how his words are suted,
The foole hath planted in his memory
An Arme of good words, and I doe know
A many fooles that stand in better place,
Garnisht like him, that for a triekie word
Desie the matter: how cheer'ft thou *Iessica*,
And now good sweet say thy opinion,

How

How dost thou like the Lord Bassanio's wife?

Ieffi. 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,
And if on earth he doe not meane it, it
Is reason he should neuer come to heauen?
Why, if two gods should play some heavenly match,
And on the wager lay two earthly women,
And *Portia* one: there must be something else
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 a wife.

Ieffi. Nay, but aske my opinion to of that?

Lor. I will anone, first let vs goe to dinner?

Ieffi. Nay, let me praise you while I haue a stomacke

Lor. No pray thee, let it serue for table talke,
Then how som ere thou speakst among other things,
I shall digest it?

Ieffi. Well, Ile set you forth. *Exeunt.*

ACTUS QVINTUS.

Enter the Duke, the Magnificoes, Antonio, Bassanio, and
Gratiano.

Duke. What, is Antonio heere?

Ant. Ready, so please your grace?

Duke. I am sorry for thee, thou art come to answer
A stonie aduersary, an inhumane wretch,
Vncapable of pittie, voyd, and empty
From any dram of mercie.

Ant. I haue heard

Your Grace hath tane great paines to qualifie
His rigorous course: but since he stands obdurate,
And that no lawfull meemes can carrie me
Out of his enuies reach, I do oppose
My patience to his fury, and am arm'd
To suffer with a quiettise of spirit,
The very tyranny and rage of his.

Du. Go one and cal the Jew into the Court.

Sal. He is ready at the doore, he comes my Lord.

Enter Shylocke.

Du. Make roome, and let him stand before our face.

Shylocke the world thinkes, and I thinke so to
That thou but leadeest this fashion of thy mallice
To the last houre of act, and then 'tis thought
Thou'lt shew thy mercy and remorse more strange,
Than is thy strange apparant cruelty;
And where thou now exact'st the peralty,
Which is a pound of this poore Merchants flesh,
Thou wilt not onely loose the forfeiture,
But touch'd with humane gentlenesse and loue
Forgiue a moytie of the principall,
Glancing an eye of pittie on his losses
That haue of late so hudled on his backe,
Enow to presse a royall Merchant downe;
And plucke commiseration of his state
From brassie bosomes, and rough hearts of flints,
From stubborne Turkes and Tarters neuer traid

To offices of tender curtesie,
We all expect a gentle answer Jew?

Jew. I haue posselt your grace of what I purpose,
And by our holy Sabbath haue I sworne
To haue the due and forfeit of my bond.

If you denie it, let the danger light
Vpon your Charter, and your Cities freedome.

You'l aske me why I rather choose to haue
A weight of carrion flesh, then to receiue

Three thousand Ducats? Ile not answer that:

But say it is my humor; Is it answered?

What if my house be troubled with a Rat,
And I be pleas'd to giue ten thousand Ducates

To haue it bain'd? What, are you answer'd yet?

Some men there are loue not a gaping Pigge:

Some that are mad, if they behold a Cat:

And others, when the bag-pipe sings i'th nose,
Cannot containe their Vrine for affection.

Masters of passion swayes it to the moode
Of what it likes or loaths, now for your answer:

As there is no firme reason to be rendered
Why he cannot abide a gaping Pigge?

Why he a har-niesse needfull Cat?

Why he a woollen bag-pipe: but of force
Multyeld to such meane as he shame,

As to offend himselfe being offended:

So can I giue no reason, nor I will not,
More then a lodg'd hate, and a certaine loathing

I beare Antonio, that I follow thus
A loosing suite against him? Are you answered?

Bass. This is no answer: thou vnfeeling man,
To excuse the curant of thy cruelty.

Jew. I am not bound to please thee with my answer.

Bass. Do all men kil the things they do not loue?

Jew. Hates any man the thing he would not kill?

Bass. Euerie offence is not a hate at first.

Jew. What wouldst thou haue a Serpent sting thee
twice?

Ant. I pray you thinke you question with the Jew:

You may as well go stand vpon the beach,
And bid the maine flood baite his viuall height,

Or euen as well vse question with the Wolfe,
The Ewe bicate for the Lambe:

You may as well forbid the Mountaine Pines
To wagge their high tops, and to make no noise
When they are fretted with the gusts of heauen:

You may as well do any thing most hard,
As seeke to soften that, then which what harder?

His Jewish heart. Therefore I do beseech you
Make no more offers, vse no farther meanes,
But with all brieft and plainne conuenience
Let me haue iudgement, and the Jew his will.

Bass. For thy three thousand Ducates heere is six.

Jew. If euerie Ducat in sixe thousand Ducates
Were in sixe parts, and euery part a Ducate,
I would not draw them, I would haue my bond?

Du. How shalt thou hope for mercie, rendring none?

Jew. What iudgement shall I dread doing no wrong?

You haue among you many a purchast slave,
Which like your Asses, and your Dogs and Mules,
You vse in abiect and in slavish parts,
Because you bought them. Shall I say to you,
Let them be free, marrie them to your heires?
Why sweate they vnder burthens? Let their beds
Be made as soft as yours: and let their pallats
Be season'd with such Viands: you will answer

The

The slaves are ours. So do I answer you.
The pound of flesh which I demand of him
Is deerly bought, 'tis 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, answer, Shall I haue it?

Du. Vpon my power I may dismiss this Court,
Vnlesse *Bellarus* a learned Doctor,
Whom I haue sent for to determine this,
Come heere to day.

Sal. My Lord, heere stayes without
A Messenger with Letters from the Doctor,
New come from Padua.

Du. Bring vs the Letters, Call the Messengers.

Bass. Good cheere *Antonio*. What man, corage yet:
The Iew shall haue my flesh, blood, bones, and all,
Ere thou shalt loose for me one drop of blood.

Ant. I am a tainted Weather of the flocke,
Meetest for death, the weakest kinde of fruite
Drops earliest to the ground, and so let me;
You cannot better be employ'd *Bassanio*,
Then to lue still, and write mine Epitaph.

Enter Nerissa.

Di. Came you from Padua from *Bellarus*?

Ner. From both.

My Lord *Bellarus* greets your Grace.

Bass. Why dost thou whet thy knife so earnestly?

Iew. To cut the forfeiture from that bankrout there.

Gra. Not on thy soale: but on thy soule harsh Iew
Thou mak'st thy knife keene: but no mettall can,
No, not the hangmans Axe beare halfe the keennesse
Of thy sharpe enuy. Can no prayers pierce thee?

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

Gra. O be thou damn'd, inexecrable dogge,
And for thy life let iustice be accus'd:
Thou almost mak'st me wauer in my faith;
To hold opinion with *Pythagoras*,
That soules of Animals infuse themselues
Into the trunkes of men. Thy currish spirit
Gouern'd a Wolfe, who hang'd for humane slaughter,
Euen from the gallowes did his fell soule fleet;
And whilst thou layest in thy vnhalloved dam,
Intus'd it selfe in thee: For thy desires
Are Woluish, bloody, steru'd, and rauinous?

Iew. Till thou canst rauge the scale from off my bond
Thou but offend'st thy Lungs to speake so loud:
Repare thy wit good youth, or it will fall
To endlesse ruine. I stand here for Law.

Du. This Letter from *Bellarus* doth commend
A yong and Learned Doctor in our Court;
Where is he?

Ner. He attendeth heere hard by
To know your answer, whether you'l admit him.

Du. With all my heart. Some three or four of you
Go giue him curteous conduct to this place,
Meane time the Court shall heare *Bellarus* Letter.

Your Graces shall vnderstand, that at the recite of your
Letter I am very sick: but in the instant that your mes-
senger came, in louing visitation, was with me a yong Do-
ctor of Rome, his name is Balthasar: I acquainted him with
the cause in Controuersie, betwene the Iew and *Antonio*
the Merchant: We turn'd ouer many Bookes together: hee is
furnished with my opinion, which hee set with his owne lear-
ning, the greatnesse whereof I cannot enough commend, comes

with him at my importunity, to fill up your Graces request in
mysted. I beseech you, let his lacke of years be no impediment
to let him haue a reuerend estimation: for I neuer knewe so
yong a body, with so old a head. I leave him to your gracious
acceptance, whose trial shall better publish his commendation

Enter Portia for Balthazar.

Duke. You heare the learn'd *Bellarus* what he writes,
And heere (I take it) is the Doctor come.

Giue me your hand. Came you from old *Bellarus*?

Por. I did my Lord

Du. You are welcome: take your place;
Are you acquainted with the difference
That holds this present question in the Court.

Por. I am enforced throughly of the cause
Which is the Merchant heere? and which the Iew?

Du. *Antonio* and old *Shylocke*, both stand forth.

Por. Is your name *Shylocke*?

Iew. *Shylocke* is my name.

Por. Of a strange nature is the sute you follow,
Yet in such rule, that the Venetian Law
Cannot impugne you as you do proceed.

You stand within his danger, do you not?

Ant. I, so he sayes.

Por. Do you confesse the bond?

Ant. I do.

Por. Then must the Iew be mercifull.

Iew. On what compulsion must I? Tell me that.

Por. The quality of mercy is not strain'd,
It drop'peth as the gentle raine from heauen
Vpon the place beneath. It is twice blest,
It blesseth him that giues, and him that takes,
'Tis mightiest in the mightiest, it becomes
The throned Monarch better then his Crowne.
His Scepter shewes the force of temporall power,
The attribute to awe and Maiesty,
Wherein doth sit the dread and feare of Kings:
But mercy is about this sceptred sway,
It is enthroned in the hearts of Kings,
It is an attribute to God himselfe;
And earthly power doth then shew likest Gods
When mercie seasons Iustice. Therefore Iew,
Though Iustice be thy plea, consider this,
That in the course of Iustice, none of vs
Should see saluation; we do pray for mercie,
And that same prayer, doth teach vs all to render
The deeds of mercie. I haue spoke thus much
To mitigate the iustice of thy plea:
Watch if thou follow, this strict course of Venice
Must needs giue sentence gainst the Merchant there.

Shy. My deeds vpon my head, I craue the Law,
The penaltie and forfeite of my bond.

Por. Is he not able to discharge the money?

Bass. Yes, heere I tender it for him in the Court,
Yes, twice the summe, if that will not suffice,
I will be bound to pay it ten times ore,
On forfeit of my hands, my head, my heart:

If this will not suffice, it must appeare
That malice beares downe truth. And I beseech you
Wrest once the Law to your authority.

To do a great right, do a little wrong,
And curbe this cruell dinell of his will.

Por. It must not be, there is no power in Venice
Can alter a decree established:
'Twill be recorded for a President,

And

And many an error by the same example,
Will rush into the state: It cannot be.

Jew. A Daniel come to iudgement, yea a Daniel.
O wise young Iudge, how do I honour thee.

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

Jew. Heere 'tis most reuerend Doctor, heere it is.

Por. *Shylocke*, there's thrice thy monie offered thee.

Shy. An oath, an oath, I haue an oath in heauen:
Shall I lay periuice vpon my soule?
No not for Venice.

Por. Why this bond is forfeit.
And lawfully by this the Jew may claime
A pound of flesh, to be by him cut off
Neerest the Merchants heart; be mercifull,
Take thrice thy money, bid me teare the bond.

Jew. When it is paid according to the tenure.
It doth appeare you are a worthy Iudge:
you know the Law, your exposition
Hath bene most sound. I charge you by the Law,
Whereof you are a well-deferuing pillar,
Proceede to iudgement: By my soule I sweare,
There is no power in the tongue of man
To alter me: I stay heere on my bond.

An. Most heartily I do beseech the Court
To giue the iudgement.

Por. Why then thus it is:
you must prepare your bosome for his knife.

Jew. O noble Iudge, O excellent yong man.

Por. For the intent and purpose of the Law
Hath full relation to the penaltie,
Which heere appeareth due vpon the bond.

Jew. 'Tis verie true: O wise and vpright Iudge,
How much more elder art thou then thy lookes?

Por. Therefore lay bare your bosome.

Jew. I, his brest,
So sayes the bond, doth it not noble Iudge?
Neere st his heart, those are the very words.

Por. It is so: Are there ballance heere to weigh the
flesh?

Jew. I haue them ready.

Por. Haue by some Surgeon *Shylocke* on your charge
To stop his wounds, least he should bleede to death.

Jew. It is not nominated in the bond?

Por. It is not so exprest: but what of that?
'Twere good you do to much for chaime.

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

Por. Come Me. chant, haue you any thing to say?

Ant. But little: I am arm'd and well prepar'd.
Giue me your hand *Bassanio*, fare you well,
Grecue not that I am false to this for you:
For heerein fortune shewes her selfe more kinde
Then is her custome. It is still her vse
To let the wretched man out-lue his wealth,
To view with hollow eye, and wrinkled brow
An age of pouerty. From which lingring penance
Of such miserie, doth she cut me off:
Commend me to your honourable Wife,
Fell her the proceffe of *Antonio's* end:
Say how I lou'd you; speake me faire in death:
And when the tale is told, bid her be iudge,
Whether *Bassanio* had not once a Loue:
Repent not you that you shall loose your friend,
And he repents not that he payes your debt.
For if the Jew do cut but deepe enough,
Hee dyt instantly, with all my heart.

Bas. *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,
Are not with me esteem'd about thy life.
I would loose all, I sacrifice them all
Heere to this deuill, to deliuer you.

Por. Your wisewould giue you little thanks for that.
If she were by to heare you make the offer.

Gra. I haue a wife whom I protest I loue,
I would she were in heauen, so she could
Intreat some power to change this currish Jew.

Ner. 'Tis well you offer it behinde her backe,
The wish would make else an vnquiet house. (ter)

Jew. These be the Christian husbands: I haue a daugh-
t'r
Would 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 marchants flesh is thine,
The Court awards it, and the law doth giue it.

Jew. Most rightfull Iudge.

Por. And you must cut this flesh from off his breast,
The Law allows it, and the Court awards it.

Jew. Most learned Iudge, a sentence, come prepare.

Por. Tarry a little, there is something else,
This bond doth giue thee heere no iot of blood,
The words expressly are a pound of flesh:
Then take thy bond, take thou thy pound of flesh,
But in the cutting it, if thou dost shed
One drop of Christian blood, thy lands and goods
Are by the Lawes of Venice confiscate
Vnto the state of Venice.

Gra. O vpright Iudge,
Marke Jew, O learned Iudge.

Shy. Is that the law?

Por. Thy selfe shalt see the Act:

For as thou vrgeest iustice, be assur'd
Thou shalt haue iustice more then thou desirest.

Gra. O learned Iudge, marke Jew, a learned Iudge.

Jew. I take this offer then, pay the bond thrice,
And let the Christian goe.

Bas. Heere is the money.

Por. Soft, the Jew shall haue all iustice, soft, no haste,
He shall haue nothing but the penalty.

Gra. O Jew, an vpright Iudge, a learned Iudge.

Por. Therefore prepare thee to cut off the flesh,
Shed thou no blood, nor cut thou lesse nor more
But iust a pound of flesh: if thou tak'st more
Or lesse then a iust pound, be it so much
As makes it light or heavy in the substance,
Or the deuision of the twentieth part
Of one poore scruple, nay if the scale doe turne
But in the estimation of a hayre,
Thou diest, and all thy goods are confiscate.

Gra. A second *Daniel*, a *Daniel* Jew,
Now infidell I haue thee on the hip.

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

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

Bas. I haue it ready for thee, heere it is.

Por. He hath refus'd it in the open Court,
He shall haue meerly iustice and his bond.

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

Shy. Shall I not haue barely my principall?

Por. Thou shalt haue nothing but the forfeiture,
To be taken so at thy perill Jew.

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

Por. Tarry

Por. Tarry Iew,
The Law hath yet another hold on you.
It is enacted in the Lawes of Venice,
If it be proued againt an Alien,
That by direct, or indirect attempts
He seeke the life of any Citizen,
The party gainst the which he doth contriue,
Shall seaze one halfe his goods, the other halfe
Comes to the priuie cosier of the State,
And the offenders life lies in the mercy
Of the Duke onely, gainst all other voice.
In which predicament I say thou standst:
For it appeares by manifest proceeding,
That indirectly, and directly to,
Thou hast contriud againt the very life
Of the defendant: and thou hast incur'd
The danger formerly by me rehearst.
Downe therefore, and beg mercy of the Duke.

Gra. Beg that thou maist haue leaue to hang thy selfe,
And yet thy wealth being forfeit to the state,
Thou hast not left the value of a cord,
Therefore thou must be hang'd at the states charge.

Duk. That thou shalt see the difference of our spirit,
I pardon thee thy life before thou aske it:
For halfe thy wealth, it is *Antonios*,
The other halfe comes to the generall state,
Which humbleness may drue vnto a fine.

Por. I for the state not for *Antonio*.

Shy. Nay, take my life and all, pardon not that,
You take my house, when you do take the prop
That doth sustaine my house: you take my lite
When you doe take the meanes whereby I liue.

Por. What mercy can you tender him *Antonio*?

Gra. A halter *gratis*, nothing else for Gods sake.

Ant. So please my Lord the Duke, and 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 tender 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.

Duk. He shall doe this, or else I doe recant
The pardon that I late pronounced heere.

Por. Art thou contented Iew? what dost thou say?

Shy. I am content.

Por. Clarke, draw a deed of gift.

Shy. I pray you giue me leaue to goe from hence,
I am not well, send the deed after me,
And I will signe it.

Duk. Get thee gone, but doe it.

Gra. In christning thou shalt haue two godfathers,
Had I been iudge, thou shouldst haue had ten more,
To bring thee to the gailowes, not to the font. *Exit.*

Duk. Sir I intreat you with me home to dinner.

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

Duk. I am sorry that your leysure serues you not:
Antonio, gratifie this gentleman,
For in my minde you are much bound to him.

Exit Duke and his traine.

Bass. Most worthy gentleman, I and my friend

Haue by your wisdome beene this day acquitted
Of greuous penalties, in lieu whereof,
Three thousand Ducats due vnto the Iew
We freely cope your curteous paines withall.

An. And stand indebted ouer and about
In loue and seruice to you euermore.

Por. He is well paid that is well satisfied,
And I deliuering you, am satisfied,
And therein doe account my selfe well paid,
My minde was neuer yet more mercinarie.
I pray you know me when we meete againe,
I wish you well, and so I take my leaue.

Bass. Deare sir, of force I must attempt you further,
Take some remembrance of vs as a tribute,
Not as fee: grant me two things, I pray you
Not to denie me, and to pardon me.

Por. You presse mee farre, and therefore I will yeeld,
Giue me your gloues, Ile weare them for your sake,
And for your loue Ile take this ring from you,
Do not draw backe your hand, Ile take no more,
And you in loue shall not deny me this?

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

Por. I wil haue nothing else but onely this,
And now methinkes I haue a munde 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 thinkes
You reach me how a beggar should be answer'd.

Bass. Good sir, this ring was giuen me by my wife,
And when she put it on, she made me vow
That I should neither sell, nor giue, nor lose it.

Por. That scuse 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,
Shee would not hold out enemy for euer
For giuing it to me: well, peace be with you. *Exeunt.*

Ant. My *L. Bassanio*, let him haue the ring,
Let his deseruings and my loue withall
Be valued againt your wiues commandement.

Bass. Goe *Gratiano*, run and ouer-take him,
Giue him the ring, and bring him if thou canst
Vnto *Antonios* house, away, make haste. *Exit Grat.*
Come, you and I will thither presently,
And in the morning early will we both
Flie toward *Belmont*, come *Antonio*. *Exeunt.*

Enter Portia and Nerissa.

Por. Enquire the Iewes house out, giue him this deed,
And let him signe it, wee'll away to night,
And be a day before our husbands home:
This deed will be well welcome to *Lorenzo*.

Enter Gratiano.

Gra. Faire sir, you are well ore-tane:
My *L. Bassanio* vpon more aduice,
Hath sent you heere this ring, and doth intreat
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

He see if I can get my husbands ring
Which 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 weele out-face them, and out-sweare them to:
Away, make haste, thou know'st where I will carry.

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

Actus Quintus.

Enter Lorenzo and Iessica.

Lor. The moone shines bright. In such a night as this,
When the sweet winde did gently kisse the trees,
And they did make no myse, in such a night
Troilus me thynkes mounted the Troian walls,
And sigh'd his soule toward the Grecian tents
Where *Cressed* lay that night.

Ies. In such a night
Did *Thubis* fearefully ore-trip the dewe,
And saw the Lyons shadow ere himselfe,
And ranne qu'ntimayed away.

Loren. In such a night
Stood *Dido* with a Willow in her hand
Vpon the wilde sea bankes, and waft her Loue
To come againe to Carthage.

Ies. In such a night
Medea gathered the enchanted hearbs
That did renew old *Eson*.

Loren. In such a night
Did *Iessica* steale from the wealthy Iewe,
And with an Vnthrift Loue did runne from Venice,
As farre as Belmont.

Ies. In such a night
Did young *Lorenzo* sweare he lou'd 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 forgau' it her.

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

Enter Messenger.

Lor. Who comes so fast in silence of the night?

Mes. A friend. (friend?)

Loren. A friend, what friend? your thame I pray you
Mes. *Stephano* is my name, and I bring word
My Mistresse will before the breake of day
Be heere at Belmont, she doth stray about
By holy crosses where she kneeles and prayes
For happy wedlocke houres.

Loren. Who comes with her?

Mes. None but a holy Hermit and her maid:
I pray you it my Master yet return'd?

Loren. He is not, nor we haue not heard from him,
But goe we in I pray thee *Iessica*,
And ceremoniously let vs vs prepare
Some welcome for the Mistresse of the house,

Enter Clowne.

Cl. Sola, sola: wo ha ho, sola, sola.

Loren. Who calls?

Cl. Sola, did you see *M. Lorenzo*, & *M. Lorenzo*, sola,

Lor. Leau' hollowing man, heere. (sola,

Cl. Sola, where, where?

Lor. Heere?

Cl. Tel him ther's a Post come from my Master, with
his horne full of good newes, my Master will be here ere
morning sweet soule.

Loren. Let's in, and there expect their comming.

And yet no matter: why should we goe in?

My friend *Stephen*, signifie pray you

Within the house, your Mistresse is at hand,

And bring your musique foorth into the ayre.

How sweet the moone-light sleeps vpon this banke,

Heere will we sit, and let the sounds of musicke

Creepe in our eares soft stilnes, and the night

Become the tutches of sweet harmonie:

Sit *Iessica*, looke how the floore of heauen

Is thicke inlayed with pattens of bright gold,

There's not the smallest orbe which thou behold'st

But in his motion like an Angell sings,

Still quiring to the young eyed Cherubins;

Such harmonie is in immortall soules,

But whilst this muddy vesture of decay

Doth grossly close in it, we cannot heare it:

Come hoe, and wake *Diana* with a hymne,

With sweetest tutches pearce your Mistresse eare,

And draw her home with musicke.

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

Play musicke.

Lor. The reason is, your spirits are attentiu':

For doe but note a wilde and wanton heard

Or race of youthful and vobuddled colts,

Fetching mad bounds, bellowing and neighing loud,

Which is the hot condition of their blood,

If they but heare perchance a trumpet sound,

Or any ayre of musicke touch their eares,

You shall perceiue them make a mutuall stand,

Their sauage eyes turn'd to a modest gaze,

By the sweet power of musicke: therefore the Poet

Did faine that *Orpheus* drew trees, stones, and floods,

Since naught so stockish, hard, and full of rage,

But musicke for time doth change his nature,

The man that hath no musicke in himselfe,

Nor is not moued with concord of sweet sounds,

Is fit for treasons, stratagems, and spoyles,

The motions of his spirit are dull as night,

And his affections darke as *Erebus*,
Let no such man be truit: marke the musicke.

Enter Portia and Nerissa.

Por. The light we see is burning in my hall:

How farre ~~the~~ little candell throws his beames,

So shines a good deed in a naughty world. (die?)

Ner. When the moone shone we did not see the can

Por. So doth 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. Musicke.

Ner. It is your musicke Madame of the house.

Por. Nothing is good I see without respect,

Methynkes it sounds much sweeter then by day?

Ner. Silence bestowes that vertue on it Madame.

Por. The Crow doth sing as sweetly as the Lark

When

When neither is attended : and I thinke
The Nightingale if she should sing by day
When every Goose is cackling, would be thought
No better a Musitian then the Wren?
How many things by season, season'd are
To their right praise, and true perfection :
Peace, how the Moone sleepes with Endimion,
And would not be awak'd.

Musicke ceases.

Lor. That is the voice,
Or I am much deceiu'd of *Portia*.

Por. He knowes me as the blinde man knowes the
Cuckow by the bad voice.

Lor. Deere Lady welcome home?

Por. We haue bene praying for our husbands welfare
Which speed we hope the better for our words,
Are they return'd?

Lor. Madam, they are not yet :
But there is come a Messenger before
To signifie their coming.

Por. Go in *Nerrissa*,

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

A Tucket sounds.

Lor. Your husband is at hand, I haue his Trumpet,
We are no tell-tales Madam, feare you not.

Por. This night methinkes is but the daylight sicke,
It lookes a little paler, 'tis a day,
Such as the day is, when the Sun is hid.

*Enter Bassanio, Antonio, Gratiano, and their
Followers.*

Bas. 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 sort all: you are welcome home my Lord.

Bas. I thanke you Madam, giue welcom to my friend
This is the man, this is *Antonio*,
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 wel acquitted of.

Por. Sir, you are verie welcome to our house:
It must appeare in other waies then words,
Therefore I scant this breathing curtesie.

Gra. By yonder Moone I swear you do me wrong,
Infaith I gaue it to the Iudges Clarke,
Would he were gelt that had it for my part,
Since you do take it Loue so much at hart.

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

Gra. About a hoope of Gold, a paltry Ring
That she did giue me, whose Poesie was
For all the world like Cutlers Poetry
Vpon a knife; *Loue mee, and leaue mee not.*

Ner. What talke you of the Poesie or the valew:
You swore to me when I did giue it you,
That you would weare it til the houre of death,
And that it should lye with you in your graue,
Though not for me, yet for your vehement oaths,
You should haue bene respectiue and haue kept it.
Gaus it a Iudges Clarke: but wel I know
The Clarke wil nere weare haire on's face that had it.

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

Nerrissa. I, if a Woman liue to be a man.

Gra. Now by this hand I gaue it to a youth,
A kinde of boy, a little scrubbed boy,
No higher then thy selfe, the Iudges Clarke,
A prating boy that begg'd it as a Fee,
I could not for my heart deny it him.

Por. You were too blame, I must be plaine with you,
To part so slightly with your wiues first gift,
A thing stucke on with oathes vpon your finger,
And so riueted with faith vnto your flesh.
I gaue my Loue a Ring, and made him swear
Neuer to part with it, and heere he stands:
I dare be sworne for him, he would not leaue it,
Nor plucke it from his finger, for the wealth
That the world matters. Now in faith *Gratiano*,
You giue your wife too vnkinde a cause of griefe,
And 'twere to me I should be mad at it.

Bas. Why I were best to cut my left hand off,
And swear I lost the Ring defending it.

Gra. My Lord *Bassanio* gaue his Ring away
Vnto the Iudge that begg'd it, and indeede
Deseru'd it too: and then the Boy his Clarke
That tooke some paines in writing, he begg'd mine,
And neyther man nor master would take ought
But the two Rings.

Por. What Ring gaue you my Lord?
Not that I hope which you receiu'd of me.

Bas. If I could adde a lie vnto a fault,
I would deny it: but you see my finger
Hath not the Ring vpon it, it is gone.

Por. Euen so void is your false heart of truth.
By heauen I wil nere come in your bed
Vntil I see the Ring.

Ner. Nor I in yours, til I againe see mine.

Bas. Sweet *Portia*,

If you did know to whom I gaue the Ring,
If you did know for whom I gaue the Ring,
And would conceiue for what I gaue the Ring,
And how vnwillingly I left the Ring,
When nought would be accepted but the Ring,
You would abate the strength of your displeasure?

Por. If you had knowne the vertue of the Ring,
Or halfe her worthinesse that gaue the Ring,
Or your owne honour to containe the Ring,
You would not then haue parted with the Ring:
What man is there so much vreasonable,
If you had pleas'd to haue defended it
With any termes of Zeale: wanted the modestie
To vtger the thing held as a ceremonie:
Nerrissa teaches me what to beleue,
He die for't, but some Woman had the Ring?

Bas. No by mine honor Madam, by my soule
No Woman had it, but a ciuill Doctor,
Which did refuse three thousand Ducates of me,
And begg'd the Ring; the which I did denie him,
And suffer'd him to go displeas'd away:
Euen he that had held vp the verie life
Of my deere friend. What should I say sweete Lady?
I was inforc'd to send it after him,
I was beset with shame and curtesie,
My honor would not let ingratitude
So much besmeare it. Pardon me good Lady,
And by these blessed Candles of the night,
Had you bene there, I thinke you would haue begg'd
The Ring of me, to giue the worthe Doctor?

Q 2

Por.

Por. Let not that Doctor ere come neere my house,
Since he hath got the Jewell 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,
Lie not a night from home. Watch me like Argos,
If you doe not, if I be lett alone,
Now by mine honour which is yet mine owne,
He haue the Doctor for my bedfellow.

Nerrissa. And I his Clarke. therefore be well aduis'd
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 yong Clarks pen.

Ans. I sawch vnhappy subject of these quarrels.

Por. Sir, grieue not you,
You are welcome notwithstanding.

Bass. *Portia*, forgive me this enforced wrong,
And in the hearing of these manie friends
I sweare to thee, euen by thine owne faire eyes
Wherein I see my selfe.

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 credit.

Bass. Nay, but heare me.
Pardon this fault, and by my soule I sweare
I neuer more will breake an oath with thee.

Antib. I once did lend my bodie for thy wealth,
Which but for him that had your husbands ring
Had quite miscarried. I dare be bound againe,
My soule vpon the forfeit, that your Lord
Will neuer more breake faith aduisedlie.

Por. Then you shall be his suretie: giue him this,
And bid him keepe it better then the other.

Ans. Heere Lord *Bassanio*, I swear to keep this ring.

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

Por. I had it of him: pardon *Bassanio*,
For by this ring the Doctor lay with me.

Ner. And pardon me my gentle *Gratiano*,
For that same scrubbed boy the Doctors Clarke
In Iew of this, last night did lye with me.

Gra. Why this is like the mending of high waies
In Sommer, where the waies are faire enough:
What, are we Cuckolds ere we haue deseru'd it.

Por. Speake not so grossely, you are all amaz'd;
Heere is a letter, reade it at your leysure,
It comes from Padua from *Bellario*,
There you shall finde that *Portia* was the Doctor,
Nerrissa there her Clarke. *Lorenzo* heere
Shall witnesse I set forth as soone as you,
And but eu'n now return'd: I haue not yet
Entred my house. *Antonio* you are welcome,
And I haue better newes in store for you
Then you expect: vnseale this letter soone,
There you shall finde three of your Argosies
Are richly come to harbour sodainlie.
You shall not know by what strange accident
I chanced on this letter.

Antib. I am dumbe.

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 Clark that neuer means to doe it,
Vnlesse he lue vntill he be a man.

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

An. (Sweet Ladie) you haue giuen me life & liuing;
For heere I reade for certain that my ships
Are fatche come to Rode.

Por. How now *Lorenzo*?
My Clarke hath to me good comforts to for you.

Ner. I, and he gaue them him without a fee.
There doe I giue to you and *Iessica*
From the rich Iewe, a speciall deed of gift
After his death, of all he dies possess'd of.

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 intergatories,
And we will answer all things faithfully.

Gra. Let it be so, the first intergatory
That my *Nerrissa* shall be sworne on, is,
Whether 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 lue, he feare no other thing
So sore, as keeping safe *Nerrissas* ring.

Exiunt.

FINIS.