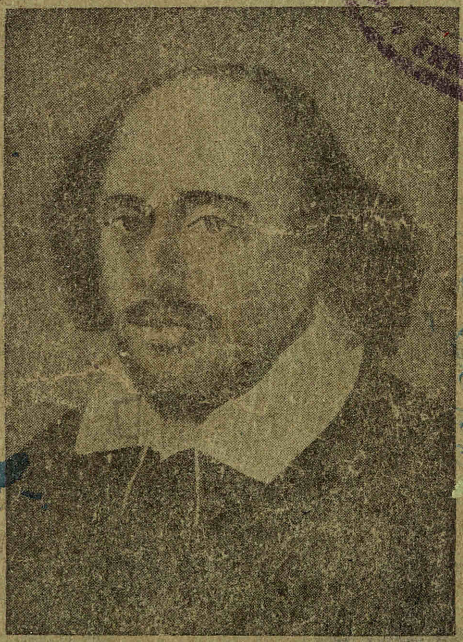
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HOME READING BOOKS



STANDARD X: BOOK II

THE MERCHANT OF VENICE

NUNAVIRUL ISLAM HIGH S...
2903
ERNAKULAM

GRADED HOME READING BOOKS

FOR SCHOOL LIBRARIES

STANDARD X SERIES

BOOK II.

THE MERCHANT OF VENICE

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PREFACE

'The Merchant of Venice' is the second of a series of six stories from Shakespeare written in simple English for Standard X pupils as a home reading book. Only the words and sentence patterns used in the Detailed English Texts for Standards VI to IX have been introduced in this book. Special care has been taken to see that the number of new words introduced is limited to two or three in a page of two hundred words. If the meaning of a new word is not clear from the context, it is given at the foot of the page.

The Merchant of Venice is one of the most popular plays of Shakespeare.

The story of Shylock and the pound of flesh is very popular among children of all countries. The Trial Scene in which Portia saves the good merchant from the cruel Jew is one of the best in Shakespeare

Self-administering tests have been given at the end of every chapter. Readers are requested to test themselves before they proceed to the next section.

A final test covering the whole book is given at the end. Teachers are requested to check up the library work of the pupils by giving the test orally or by making them write out the answers. Only new type tests have been given. most of them being multiple choice tests.

Bright pupils may be encouraged to write out an appreciation of the play in their own words. The following points may be useful for this purpose.

1. Name of the play.
2. Name of the Dramatist.
3. Nationality of the Dramatist.
4. Chief Incidents.
5. Chief Characters.
6. Do you like the story? If so, why?

2903

THE MERCHANT OF VENICE

1. THE BOND

About four hundred years ago Venice was one of the richest cities in the world. Many wealthy merchants lived there. They sent their ships to all parts of the world and traded with all countries.

One of the richest merchants of Venice was a young man called Antonio. He was a kind and good man who led a Christian life. He had many friends whom he helped freely. Whenever they were in need, he lent them money without taking interest.



So they were very thankful to him and loved him dearly.

Now, Antonio had a good friend named Bessanio. He was a handsome young gentleman and was born in one of the ancient families in Italy. At that time there lived in the city of Belmont a beautiful lady called Portia. Bessanio had met her before and fallen in love with her. She had also seen him and from her looks it was clear that she also loved him.



But Bessanio was very poor and had no money to go to Belmont. If he had three thousand ducats,[1] he could go to Belmont, meet Portia and make her his wife. So he

1. ducat—a coin

went to Antonio and told him that he wished to marry Portia. "The lady is rich," said he, "and I love her dearly. But I have no money to go to Belmont Will you please lend me there thousand ducats?"

Antonio wished to help his friend. But at that time he had no money. He had put all the money he had in trade. His ships had left for far-off countries such as Tripoli, Mexico and England. When they came back he would have lots of money. But it would take a month or two for them to return. "But," said he "I will borrow three thousand ducats for you from Shylock the Jew."

Now, Shylock the Jew was a rich money-lender. In those days Christians hated the Jews and treated them very harshly. So the Jews hated the Christians in return. Shylock hated Antonio because he was a Christian. He hated the

merchant all the more for lending out money free of interest. Antonio who disliked the Jew for being a cruel money-lender treated him badly. He spoke ill of Shylock and his ways to other merchants. So he did not like to borrow money from the Jew. Yet Shylock was the only man who could lend him so much money. "We shall go to the Jew," said he, "and borrow the money from him."

Next morning Bessanio met Shylock and asked him to lend him three thousand ducats. "Antonio shall stand surety for me," he said, "and you shall have the money back within three months."

"Do you want three thousand ducats for three months?" said Shylock. "Well, Antonio is a good man. But he has put all his money is ships. Ships may be lost at sea. Yet he will do. I think I can lend him three thousand ducats."

At this moment Antonio joined them. When Shylock saw the merchant he said to himself, "I hate Antonio for being a Christian. I hate him all the more for lending out money freely. If he falls into my hands I will make an end of him." "Shylock," said Antonio, "we want three thousand ducats for three months. Will you lend us the money?"

Then the Jew spoke angrily to him "Antonio," cried he, "whenever the merchants meet, you speak ill of me and call me a cruel money-lender. You call me dog and spit upon me. But now, you come to me and ask me to give you money. What should I answer? Should I not say, 'Has a dog money? Can a dog lend three thousand ducats?' Or shall I fall at your feet and say, "Good sir, you spat upon me on Wednesday; you called me dog; and for such kindness I'll lend you three thousand ducats?"

Antonio got angry when Shylock said this. "I don't want your money as a friend," said he. "If you lend money give it to me as to an enemy whom you hate. If I don't return it in time, punish me."

Then Shylock laughed and said, "Don't be angry. I wish to be friends with you. I am ready to lend you money without interest. Let us go to a lawyer and sign a bond[1]. If you don't pay back the money within three months, will you allow me to cut off a pound of flesh from your body?

"Yes" said Antonio, "let us go and sign the bond." But Bessanio did not want his friend to sign such a bond. "Why are you afraid?" Antonio asked him. "My ships will come back in two months and then I will have lots of money."

When Shylock heard this he laughed and said "Do you think I want a pound of

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1. bond—agreement.

flesh from Antonio's body? No, not at all. I only want to be friends with you. If you want the money, come and sign the bond. If not, go away."

So Antonio went to a lawyer and signed a bond agreeing to allow the Jew to cut off a pound of flesh from any part of his body if he did not return the money within three months.

TEST. Complete the following sentences:-

1. Antonio was a good (Jew, merchant, money-lender)
2. His friend, Bessanio wanted (a hundred, three thousand, ten thousand) ducats.
3. So he borrowed the money from (a bank, a friend, Shylock)
4. Antonio agreed to allow Shylock to cut off (his nose, a pound of flesh, his ears) if he did not return the money in (one month, two months, three months)
5. Shylock was a (Christian, Muslim, Jew) who (loved, hated, liked) Antonio for lending out money without interest.

2. THE CASKETS

The lady whom Bessanio wished to marry was the daughter of a rich gentleman of Belmont. She was his only daughter and all his wealth passed to her when he died. But before his death he made a will hoping that it would help her to choose a good husband. He did not allow her to choose her man like other girls.



Portia's father had made three caskets[1] and in one of them he had placed a picture of his daughter. The first casket was made of gold; the second, of silver, and the third, of lead. If a man wished to marry her he must choose one from among the three caskets. If Portia's picture was in it, she

1. casket—box.

would marry him. If it was not in the casket he chose, he must go away and never marry. Nor must he tell any one which was the casket he chose.

Many young men came to marry Portia. But when they heard the conditions they turned away from her. Yet she was so beautiful that some of them wanted to try and win her. But she made fun of them in such a way, that they did not stay with her for long. At last there came to Belmont a proud young prince from Morocco. When he heard the conditions he did not go away like the others. So Portia took him to the room where the caskets were kept.

The prince looked at the three caskets. On the casket of gold he saw the words, 'Who chooses me shall get what many men wish.' On the silver casket was written, 'Who chooses me shall get

what he deserves.' On the leaden casket were the words, 'Who chooses me must give and lose all he has.' After reading what was written on them, the Prince of Morocco sat thinking for a long time. At last he took up the casket of gold and said, "Who chooses this shall get what many men wish. What they wish must be the lady. Only a casket of gold is fit to hold the picture of Portia. So I will choose this casket." He called for the key and opened it. But instead of Portia's picture he found a little skull in it. He saw that he had chosen the wrong casket and went away without a word.

After a time another man came to Belmont to marry Portia. He was a proud nobleman from Spain known as the Prince of Arragon. He too did not go away when Portia read out the conditions to him. So she led him to the room and showed him the caskets. When he

read what was written on the gold casket he said, "Who chooses the gold casket will get what many men wish. I am not like the many men who are seen everywhere



and what they wish is not for me." So he turned away from the casket of gold and taking up the silver one said, "Who chooses this will get what he deserves. I deserve to get Portia as my wife. So I will choose this casket."

He took the key and opened the casket. There was a picture in it, but not of Portia. It was the picture of an idiot and the proud Prince of Arragon had to go away sadly humbled.

As soon as the Prince was gone, news came that a young gentleman from

Venice had come to see her. He was Bessanio and when Portia saw him she was afraid. "I love him dearly," said she, "and if he goes wrong in choosing the casket, I will lose him for ever."

Portia had met Bessanio when her father was alive and had talked to him. If there was a man whom she wished to marry, it was Bessanio. So she would not allow him to choose the casket and tried to put it off as long as she could. For nearly three months she stopped him from trying. But by that time he had fallen so deeply in love with her that he could not wait any longer. At last he said, "I can't wait like this for another day. I must know whether you will be mine or not. If I win you, I will be happy. If not, I will be the most unhappy man in the world."

So Portia led him to the room where the caskets were kept. He took them up

ISLAM HIGH SCHOOL

one by one and read what was written on them. As he sat thinking which of the three caskets he should choose, he heard a sweet song from the next room. It was about the foolishness of men who look only at the outside of things. Then Bessanio took up the gold casket and said, "This has a bright outside. But it is foolish to choose a thing by what you see outside. So I won't choose this casket." Then he took up the silver one and put it away for the same reason. At last he took up the leaden casket and said, "Though this is not very beautiful to look at, I will choose it. May God give me joy."

Portia knew that he had chosen the right casket and she gave him the key gladly. When he opened it, he saw Portia's picture inside. There was also a paper on which was written, "You have chosen rightly and the lady is yours.

Love her truly and be happy." Bessanio was filled with joy when Portia became his wife. She gladly gave herself up to him and said, "I am happy to be your wife. I wish I were more beautiful for your sake. I wish I had more money too so that it may be yours. As for me I am not very wise or learned. Yet I am not too old to learn. Teach me and I shall be only glad to learn. Myself and what is mine are yours. Yesterday this house and everything in it were mine. Now they are yours. Take them and take me too. I give them all to you with this ring."



So saying she took a beautiful ring and gave it to him. As he put it on his finger he said, "Never, never, will I part with this ring."

Now, Bessanio had a friend named Gratiano who came to Belmont with

him. Portia had a beautiful maid called Nerissa. They met in Portia's house and fell in love with each other When Portia became Bessanio's wife, Gratiano went up to them and said, "I wish you joy. At the same time I request you to allow me also to marry."

"I'll gladly do it" answered Bessanio, "if you can find a wife"

Then Gratiano told them that Nerissa had agreed to marry him, if Bessanio won Portia.

"Is it true Nerissa?" Portia asked.

"Yes," replied Nerissa, "if you agree."

"Then," said Portia, "you shall get married with us and we will have a common wedding feast."

But before it was time for the wedding feast, Bessanio had to leave his wife and go away to Venice.

TEST. Complete the following sentences:-

1. The man who chose the casket in which (the ring, the picture) of Portia was, would become her husband.
2. The Prince of Morocco chose the casket of (gold, silver, lead).
3. The Prince of Arragon chose the casket of (gold, silver, lead)
4. Bessanio chose the (gold, silver, leaden) casket and the picture of Portia (was, was not) in it.
5. So Portia married (the Prince of Morocco, the Prince of Arragon, Bessanio)
6. Nerissa married (Antonio, Gratiano, Bessanio)
7. Bessanio chose the leaden casket because,
   i. lead was brighter than gold.
   ii. Portia told him to choose it.
   iii he did not care for the outside of things.

3. THE JEW AND HIS DAUGHTER

Shylock the Jew had a daughter called Jessica. She was his only child and he loved her almost as much as he loved money. They had a servant named Launcelot Gobbo, a boy who was tired of living in the Jew's house The boy ate a lot and so the Jew did not like him Gobbo made up his mind to find a new master.



It was at that time that Bessanio set out for Belmont. He wanted a boy and Gobbo agreed to go with him. With them went Gratiano, who was a good friend of Bessanio.

Bessanio had another friend called Lorenzo. He was a handsome young man

who fell in love with Shylock's daughter. She loved him in return and the two lovers made up their minds to run away. For Jessica knew that her father would not allow her to marry Lorenzo who was a Christian. When Gobbo went to the Jew's house before leaving Venice, Lorenzo gave him a letter. He wrote, "Dear Jessica, let us run away from Venice this very night. Wait for me at your door. I will be there before midnight."

That night Shylock did not go home for supper as Bessanio had invited him to his house. So he had given all the keys to his daughter and told her to lock up the doors for the night. When her father went away, Jessica opened his safe and took all the costly things from it. She put them into a bag and got ready to run away with her lover.

Before long, Lorenzo came to the house, and Jessica gave him the bag.

Taking another bag of gold ducats, she ran off with him. In her hurry she even forgot to close the door.

It was late in the night when Shylock returned home. Then he found the door open and Jessica gone. All the costly things in the house had been taken away. At once he ran to the Duke of Venice and requested him to send his officers to search the ship in which Bessanio was going to Belmont. But by the time they came to the place, Jessica and Lorenzo had left Venice in a ship sailing to Genoa. So Shylock could not find his daughter. He did not know where she had gone. Sad at heart he walked up and down the streets of Venice crying, "O my daughter! O my ducats!"

He made so much noise that even street boys began to laugh at him. "O my daughter, O my ducats," they cried as they ran after him.



Before long Shylock learned that his daughter had run away with Lorenzo. He sent out men to find her and bring her home. But they came back with the news that she was in Genoa with her lover. She had taken away lots of money with her and she was spending it up foolishly. In one night alone she spent eighty ducats. She gave a costly ring to buy a monkey. It was the ring that Shylock's wife gave him when they decided to get married. It broke his heart when he learnt that his daughter had married a Christian. Shylock was a proud Jew and he began to hate all Christians for it.

Meanwhile Antonio was waiting for his ships to return. The three months

were nearly over. Yet his ships did not come back. At last the sad news came that one of his ships had sunk in the sea near Africa and that another was lost. People began to say that the good merchant had lost everything. "It is a pity," they said, "that so good a man should come to grief." But when Shylock heard the news he was very glad. "Ha, ha" he laughed, "good news, good news. I am glad that he has lost his ships. That is really very good news for me!"

At last the day came when Antonio had to pay back the three thousand ducats he had borrowed from Shylock. As he was unable to pay, Shylock sent an officer to arrest the merchant and put him in jail. So Antonio was arrested and shut up in prison. Then Shylock went to the Duke of Venice and asked him to take up the case against the merchant. Antonio's

friends hoped that Shylock would not press for his pound of flesh. After all man's flesh is worth nothing and Shylock would not gain anything by killing him. Yet Shylock said that he would have his pound of flesh. He told every one that he had taken a vow to have his bond and so he would not let off the merchant.

Some friends of Antonio hoped that the Duke would not allow the Jew to take 'his pound of flesh.' But Antonio knew that the Duke would not go against the law of Venice and he had no hope of saving his life. So he wrote a letter to Bessanio requesting him to come to Venice.

"Sweet Bessanio," he wrote, "my ships are all lost and I am unable to pay the Jew the money I have borrowed from him. I will surely die when he cuts off the pound of flesh. I wish to see you

AL-AMIN SIRUL ISLAM HIGH SCHOOL
KANAKULAM, O.T.

before I die. But if your love for me does not bring you to Venice, let not my letter."

It was this letter that made Bessanio leave his wife on his wedding day.

When Bessanio got the letter he turned pale. "These are the most cruel words ever written," said he and he told Portia the story of the bond.

"How much have you to pay the Jew?" Portia asked him.

"Three thousand ducats," he answered.

"Is that all?" cried she, "Take six thousand ducats and pay the Jew. If that won't do pay him twenty times the money and save your good friend."

At once she sent Bessanio to Venice with money to pay the Jew. But when Bessanio told Shylock to take the sum and set Antonio free, he said, "I have

vowed that I will have my bond." Thereupon Bessanio promised to give him three times the sum. "No," said the Jew, "I want my pound of flesh and nothing else." So Bessanio had to go away sadly.

Meanwhile Portia knew that Shylock would stick to his bond and not take the money. So she thought of a plan to save Antonio's life. She had a good friend called Bellario who was a Doctor of Law. She dressed herself as a lawyer and went to Venice with a letter from her friend, Bellario. She took Nerissa also with her. Before going away, she called Lorenzo and Jessica who were staying with her and said, "I am going to a convent where I want to spend my time in prayer till Bessanio comes back." So saying she gave them the keys of the house and went away.

Portia did not tell anyone where she was going because she wished to keep her

plans a secret. She did not want even Bessanio to know them. That was why she told Lorenzo and Jessica that she was going to a convent.

TEST. Complete the following sentences:–

1. Shylock had a daughter, named (Nerissa, Jessica, Leah)

2 She ran away with a friend of Bessanio called (Gobbo, Gratiano, Lorenzo)

3 Shylock was very angry when his daughter married a (Jew, Muslim, Christian)

4 As Antonio's (ships, friends) did not come back, he was unable to return the money he had borrowed from (Portia, Lorenzo, Shylock)

5 Bessanio was ready to pay thrice the sum, but Shylock wanted his pound of (gold, flesh)

6 Portia dressed herself as a (Doctor, lawyer, princess) and went to Venice to save Antonio's (ships, life, money)

4. THE TRIAL

On the day of the trial the Duke and the senators of Venice took their seats in the Hall of Justice. Antonio and his friends were already waiting. Then



Shylock came in. He had brought a sharp knife to cut the flesh and a balance to weigh it. The Duke called him to stand forth.

"Shylock," said he, "the world thinks and I think too that you will take pity on the merchant and let him go after taking the money."

But Shylock was as pitiless as ever. "I have vowed," said he, "to have my pound of flesh and I won't break my vow. You may ask me why I want the

pound of flesh. My answer is that it is my will. If there is a rat in my house and I give three thousand ducats to get it killed, what have you to say against it? It is my will. The pound of flesh is mine; I am ready to lose three thousand ducats for it."

Then Bessanio stepped forward and said that he was ready to give six thousand ducats to Shylock if he would let the merchant go. "No," replied the Jew. "Even if you give me six times six thousand ducats I won't let off Antonio. I want the pound of flesh."

"How can you hope for mercy," asked the Duke, "If you yourself are not merciful?"

"Why," said Shylock, "I do no wrong to anyone. You have many slaves in Venice. You buy and sell them like dogs and horses. If I tell you to set them

free, will you do it? You will answer you have bought them and so they are yours. That is my answer too. I have paid three thousand ducats for the pound of flesh. It is mine and I will have it."

The Duke heard his words and did not know what to answer. It was at this moment that Portia came in with Bellario's letter. He opened the letter and read it out. "As I am not well," wrote he, "I am sending you a learned Doctor of the law called Balthasar. He knows everything about the case. Though he is young, he is very wise. The trial will show you how clever he is."

The Duke invited Portia to take her seat and she sat down beside the Duke. "This is a strange case," said she, "and if the Jew does not show mercy we have to give him the pound of flesh."

Then she turned to Antonio and asked, "Do you admit the bond?"

"I do," he replied.

"Then," said she, "the Jew must be merciful."

"But," asked Shylock, "how can you make me merciful?" Then Portia who was as clever as she was beautiful said, "Mercy cannot be forced out of any one. It must come naturally like the rain that falls from the sky. It is twice blessed. It blesses him that takes and him that gives. God himself is merciful and men are most like God when they show mercy. So I beg you to be merciful to the merchant."

But Shylock would not hear of it.

"Can't the merchant pay the sum?" asked Portia.

"Yes," cried Bessanio "I will give him the full sum. If that is not enough, I will give him three times the sum. If he won't take it, it shows that he wants to kill

Antonio. Change the law a little to save a good man Do a little wrong so that you may do a great right."

"It must not be," answered Portia, "There is no power in Venice that can change the law. If you change the law once, you will have to change it many times. It cannot be done."

Then Portia turned to Shylock and told him to take thrice the sum and let the merchant go. But Shylock still refused and said, "You can't make me change my mind. Give me my pound of flesh. I am waiting to take it."

"Why then," said Portia to Antonio, "take off your coat and let the Jew cut off the pound of flesh."

"From nearest his heart," said Shylock. " 'Nearest his heart.' Those are the very words."

Then Portia asked Antonio whether he had anything more to say. The merchant who was ready to die, took leave of his friends. "Speak to your wife about me," he said to Bessanio, "and tell her how I died. Then ask her if I was not a friend that loved you truly"

Shylock who had been sharpening his knife to cut off the flesh, would not wait any longer. So Portia said, "A pound of the merchant's flesh is yours. The law allows it and the court gives it to you."

Shylock stepped forward and took his knife to cut off the flesh. "But wait," cried Portia, "wait a little. The bond does not give you a drop of blood. The words are 'a pound of flesh.' Take your pound of flesh But if in cutting it, you let a drop of blood fall, you shall die."

There was a shout of joy from Antonio's friends when Portia said this.

"Is that the law?" asked Shylock as the knife fell down from his hand.

"Yes," said Portia. "Cut off your pound of flesh. But take no drop of blood. And cut just one pound, neither more nor less. If it is more or less by the weight of a hair, you shall die."

Shylock stood still and the merchant's friends began to laugh at him at his defeat. At last he said, "Give me my money and let me go."

Bessanio stepped forward to pay the sum. But Portia stopped him. "He has refused to take the money in open court," she said, "and he shall have nothing but his pound of flesh."

"Then the devil take you," cried Shylock angrily as he turned to go home.

"Stop", cried Portia, "the law won't let you off so easily. You have been trying to kill a citizen of Venice and so

you shall lose everything you have. Half of what you have will go to Antonio whom you tried to kill. The other half will go to the State. Even your life is not safe; and if the Duke does not show mercy you shall die. Now, kneel before the Duke and pray for mercy."

The Duke was so pleased with the result of the trial that he freely forgave Shylock. "I will give you your life," said he, "but one-half of your wealth will go to Antonio and the other half will go to the State."

With tears in his eyes Shylock answered, "Take my life and all; for you take away my life when you take my money." Thereupon Antonio said that he did not wish to take anything from the Jew. "You can keep your money," said he, "if you become a Christian and agree to give it to your daughter, Jessica when you die."

Shylock agreed to this. "I am ill," said he. "Let me go home. Send the papers after me and I will sign them." So saying he left the court and went home.

TEST. Complete the following sentences:-

1. Portia came to the Duke with a letter from (the Prince, the Judge, Bellario)
2. She begged Shylock to be merciful but he (agreed, refused)
3. She allowed him to cut off the pound of flesh; but she told him that if he shed a drop of (milk, blood, water) he should die.
4. As Shylock tried to kill a citizen of Venice, he would lose his life and all his (friends, wealth, gold)
5. One-half of his wealth would go to (Portia, Antonio, Gobbo) and the other half, to (the Duke, the State, the Church.)
6. The Duke pardoned him and gave him his (life, daughter, bond)
7. Antonio allowed Shylock to keep his money, when he agreed to give it to (Portia, Jessica, Gobbo).

5. THE RING

The trial was over and the Duke and the Senators left the court. Bessanio thanked Portia for the clever way in which she had saved the merchant's life. "Good gentleman," said he, "let me thank you for saving my friend. I beg you to take as a present the three thousand ducats which we have borrowed from Shylock."



"And we will always be thankful to you," said Antonio.

But Portia refused to take the money. When Bessanio pressed her to take something as a present, she pointed to the wedding ring on his finger and said, "For

your love I will take this ring." But Bessanio was unwilling to give it away as he had promised his wife never to part with it. When Portia saw his unwillingness she said, "I see you are ready to make promises; but you don't keep them. You taught me how to beg. Now you teach me how a beggar should be answered."

"Good sir," said Bessanio, "my wife gave me this ring and she has made me vow never to part with it."

"That is what every man says" replied Portia, "when one is unwilling to give anything. If your wife knew how much I had helped you, she would not be angry with you for giving it to me. Now, farewell."

When Portia was gone, Antonio requested Bessanio to send the ring to her. So he gave it to Gratiano who ran up to Portia and gave her the ring. When Nerissa saw it she also requested Gratiano

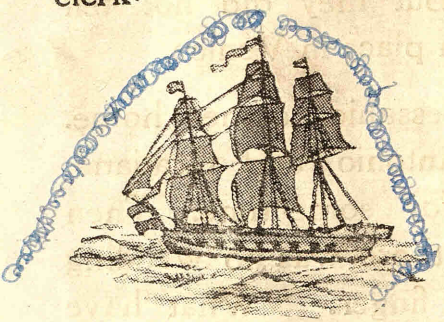
to give her his ring as a present. It was also his wedding ring; but he gave it to her. Then Portia and Nerissa returned to Belmont.

It was on a full moon day that Portia came home. The moon shone brightly and the garden looked beautiful in the moonlight. There in front of the house sat Lorenzo and Jessica talking about love. There was sweet music as Portia and Nerissa came in. But they did not tell them what had taken place in Venice.

Before long Bessanio came home. With him came Antonio and Gratiano. They sat talking for some time. Then Nerissa found that there was no wedding ring on Gratiano's finger. "What have you done with my ring?" she asked angrily. Bessanio told them what they had done with their rings and when Portia heard it, she began to quarrel with him for giving it away. At last Antonio

said, "Pardon me, Portia. It was I that told Bessanio to give the ring to the lawyer."

"Then," said Portia, "tell your friend to keep this ring better." So saying she gave the ring back to Bessanio. Bessanio looked at the ring and saw that it was the one he had given to the learned lawyer. Then Portia told him that she was the Doctor of Law who came to Venice and saved Antonio's life and that Nerissa was her clerk.



Then she turned to Antonio and said that she had some good news for him. She said that all his ships had come back safely to Venice and that he was richer than ever before.

"I have some good news for you too" said Portia turning to Lorenzo and Jessica.

"Yes," said Nerissa, "here are the papers signed by Shylock giving all he has to his daughter and her husband."

Lorenzo and Jessica were filled with joy when Nerissa gave them the papers. "Thank you," said they, "you have been of great help to us."

TEST. Complete the following sentences:--

1. Bessanio gave the lawyer his (gold, wedding, diamond) ring as a present.
2. When he returned home, Portia asked him where his (friend, ring, money) was.
3. Then she gave back the ring to him and he learned that she was the (clerk, lawyer, man) who saved Antonio's life.
4. Antonio's (friends, ships, men) came home safely and he became richer than ever before.

FINAL TEST

Complete the following sentences:-

The Merchant of Venice is a (comedy, tragedy) by Shakespeare. It is the story of a merchant of Venice called (Shylock, Bessanio, Antonio). He borrowed three thousand (rupees, pounds, ducats) from a cruel Jew called (Lorenzo, Shylock, Gobbo) to help his friend and signed a bond agreeing to allow the Jew to cut off a pound of (butter, sugar, flesh) from his body if he did not repay the money in (three, six, ten) months.

The friend for whom he borrowed the money was (Gratiano, Lorenzo, Bessanio). Bessanio went to Belmont and married a rich and beautiful lady called (Jessica, Nerissa, Portia). She became his wife when he chose the casket in which (the ring, her picture, the skull) was.

Shylock's daughter, Jessica ran away with a Christian called (Gratiano, Lorenzo, Balthasar) and so Shylock got very angry. Antonio's (men, friends, ships) did not return home in time and so he was unable to pay back the money. So he was brought before the (Duke, Bishop, King) of Venice for trail. Bessanio was ready to give Shylock the money but Shylock wanted his (share, ounce, pound) of flesh. Portia came to the court dressed as a (doctor, lawyer, prince) and said that

if Shylock shed a drop of (milk, blood, ink) when he cut off his pound of flesh, he should die. Thus she saved Antonio's (ship, life.)

Bessanio gave Portia his (gold, wedding, ruby) ring as a present. When he saw the ring in the hands of Portia he understood that she was the lawyer who saved (his, Antonio's) life. Antonio's ships came back safely and he was (rich, richer) than before.

The most famous character in the (play, book) is Shylock the Jew. Shylock has become a by-word for a (cruel, kind) moneylender. When a man shows no mercy and asks for every part of the debt we say he will have his pound of (gold, flesh, paper).


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