

Xavier Pinto Merchant Of Venice

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designed for students of english as a second language this edition provides the full text as well as notes on the story vocabulary and background of shakespeare s play

in this lively comedy of love and money in sixteenth century venice bassanio wants to impress the wealthy heiress portia but lacks the necessary funds he turns to his merchant friend antonio who is forced to borrow from shylock a jewish moneylender when antonio s business falters repayment becomes impossible and by the terms of the loan agreement shylock is able to demand a pound of antonio s flesh portia cleverly intervenes and all ends well except of course for shylock

the merchant of venice is a play by william shakespeare believed to have been written between 1596 and 1598 although classified as a comedy in the first folio and while it shares certain aspects with shakespeare s other romantic comedies the play is perhaps more remembered for its dramatic scenes and is best known for the character of shylock

the merchant of venice is william shakespeare s story of antonio and his friend bassanio bassanio is in need of money so that he may woo portia a wealthy heiress bassanio asks antonio for a loan and antonio agrees to this loan however all his money is tied up in shipping ventures together the two go to shylock a jewish moneylender to request a loan for bassanio to be guaranteed against antonio s shipping ventures shylock agrees to the loan at no interest in the condition that if the debt is not repaid shylock may collect a pound of antonio s flesh at the same time portia who is being wooed by various suitors is upset over a curious stipulation

in her father's will regarding the man that she may marry merchant is categorized among Shakespeare's comedies primarily because of the romantic subplot that ends as most of the Bard's comedies do in serial weddings the Merchant of Venice also raises questions about the value of gold and money against the value of friendship and loyalty Shylock the Jewish moneylender is portrayed as greedy and more concerned about his money than he is about his own daughter Shakespeare's language is as powerful as ever in this play but the unlikeable Shylock and the venom doled out to him by his sordid persecutors makes the Merchant of Venice play a stomach churning challenge

Bassanio a young Venetian of noble rank wishes to woo the beautiful and wealthy heiress Portia of Belmont having squandered his estate he needs 3 000 ducats to subsidise his expenditures as a suitor Bassanio approaches his friend Antonio a wealthy merchant of Venice who has previously and repeatedly bailed him out Antonio agrees but since he is cash poor his ships and merchandise are busy at sea to Tripoli the Indies Mexico and England he promises to cover a bond if Bassanio can find a lender so Bassanio turns to the Jewish moneylender Shylock and names Antonio as the loan's guarantor Antonio has already antagonized Shylock through his outspoken antisemitism and because Antonio's habit of lending money without interest forces Shylock to charge lower rates Shylock is at first reluctant to grant the loan citing abuse he has suffered at Antonio's hand he finally agrees to lend the sum to Bassanio without interest upon one condition if Antonio were unable to repay it at the specified date Shylock may take a pound of Antonio's flesh Bassanio does not want Antonio to accept such a risky condition Antonio is surprised by what he sees as the moneylender's generosity no usance interest is asked for and he signs the contract with money in hand Bassanio leaves for Belmont with his friend Gratiano who has asked to accompany him Gratiano is a likeable young man but he is often flippant overly talkative and tactless Bassanio warns his companion to exercise self control and the two leave for Belmont

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