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

*By* WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

*Edited by* BARBARA A. MOWAT  
*and* PAUL WERSTINE

Folger Shakespeare Library

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## From the Director of the Folger Shakespeare Library

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

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

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

*Michael Witmore*  
Director, Folger Shakespeare Library

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# Textual Introduction

## By Barbara Mowat and Paul Werstine

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

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

The editors of the Moby™ Shakespeare produced their text long before scholars fully understood the proper grounds on which to make the thousands of decisions that Shakespeare editors face. The Folger Library Shakespeare Editions, on which the Folger Digital Texts depend, make this editorial process as nearly transparent as is possible, in contrast to older texts, like the Moby™, which hide editorial interventions. The reader of the Folger Shakespeare knows where the text has been altered because editorial interventions are signaled by square brackets (for example, from *Othello*: "[If she in chains of magic were not bound,]"), half-square brackets (for example, from *Henry V*: "With [blood] and sword and fire to win your

right,”), or angle brackets (for example, from *Hamlet*: “O farewell, honest <soldier.> Who hath relieved/you?”). At any point in the text, you can hover your cursor over a bracket for more information.

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

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## Synopsis

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

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

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

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## Characters in the Play

PORTIA, an heiress of Belmont

NERISSA, her waiting-gentlewoman

BALTHAZAR }  
STEPHANO } *servants to Portia*

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

ANTONIO, a merchant of Venice

BASSANIO, a Venetian gentleman, suitor to Portia

SOLANIO }  
SALARINO } *companions of Antonio and Bassanio*  
GRATIANO }  
LORENZO }

LEONARDO, servant to Bassanio

SHYLOCK, a Jewish moneylender in Venice

JESSICA, his daughter

TUBAL, another Jewish moneylender

LANCELET GOBBO, servant to Shylock and later to Bassanio

OLD GOBBO, Lancelet's father

SALERIO, a messenger from Venice

Jailer

Duke of Venice

Magnificoes of Venice

Servants

Attendants and followers

Messenger

Musicians

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# 「ACT I」

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## 「Scene 1」

*Enter Antonio, Salarino, and Solanio.*

ANTONIO

FTLN 0001	In sooth I know not why I am so sad.	
FTLN 0002	It wearies me, you say it wearies you.	
FTLN 0003	But how I caught it, found it, or came by it,	
FTLN 0004	What stuff 'tis made of, whereof it is born,	
FTLN 0005	I am to learn.	5
FTLN 0006	And such a want-wit sadness makes of me	
FTLN 0007	That I have much ado to know myself.	

SALARINO

FTLN 0008	Your mind is tossing on the ocean,	
FTLN 0009	There where your argosies with portly sail	
FTLN 0010	(Like signiors and rich burghers on the flood,	10
FTLN 0011	Or, as it were, the pageants of the sea)	
FTLN 0012	Do overpeer the petty traffickers	
FTLN 0013	That curtsy to them, do them reverence,	
FTLN 0014	As they fly by them with their woven wings.	

SOLANIO

FTLN 0015	Believe me, sir, had I such venture forth,	15
FTLN 0016	The better part of my affections would	
FTLN 0017	Be with my hopes abroad. I should be still	
FTLN 0018	Plucking the grass to know where sits the wind,	
FTLN 0019	Piring in maps for ports and piers and roads;	
FTLN 0020	And every object that might make me fear	20



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

FTLN 0023 SALARINO My wind cooling my broth  
 FTLN 0024 Would blow me to an ague when I thought  
 FTLN 0025 What harm a wind too great might do at sea. 25  
 FTLN 0026 I should not see the sandy hourglass run  
 FTLN 0027 But I should think of shallows and of flats,  
 FTLN 0028 And see my wealthy *Andrew* 'docked' in sand,  
 FTLN 0029 Vailing her high top lower than her ribs  
 FTLN 0030 To kiss her burial. Should I go to church 30  
 FTLN 0031 And see the holy edifice of stone  
 FTLN 0032 And not bethink me straight of dangerous rocks,  
 FTLN 0033 Which, touching but my gentle vessel's side,  
 FTLN 0034 Would scatter all her spices on the stream,  
 FTLN 0035 Enrobe the roaring waters with my silks, 35  
 FTLN 0036 And, in a word, but even now worth this  
 FTLN 0037 And now worth nothing? Shall I have the thought  
 FTLN 0038 To think on this, and shall I lack the thought  
 FTLN 0039 That such a thing bechanced would make me sad?  
 FTLN 0040 But tell not me: I know Antonio 40  
 FTLN 0041 Is sad to think upon his merchandise.

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

FTLN 0047 SOLANIO Why then you are in love.

FTLN 0048 ANTONIO Fie, fie!

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

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

*Enter Bassanio, Lorenzo, and Gratiano.*

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

SALARINO

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

ANTONIO

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

SALARINO

FTLN 0068 Good morrow, my good lords.

BASSANIO

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

SALARINO

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

*Salarino and Solanio exit.*

LORENZO

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

BASSANIO

FTLN 0076 I will not fail you.

GRATIANO

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

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

FTLN 0142 I pray you, good Bassanio, let me know it;

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

BASSANIO

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

ANTONIO

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

BASSANIO

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

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

ANTONIO

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

*They exit.*

「Scene 2」

*Enter Portia with her waiting woman Nerissa.*

FTLN 0193 PORTIA By my troth, Nerissa, my little body is aweary  
 FTLN 0194 of this great world.  
 FTLN 0195 NERISSA You would be, sweet madam, if your miseries  
 FTLN 0196 were in the same abundance as your good fortunes  
 FTLN 0197 are. And yet, for aught I see, they are as sick that 5  
 FTLN 0198 surfeit with too much as they that starve with  
 FTLN 0199 nothing. It is no mean happiness, therefore, to be  
 FTLN 0200 seated in the mean. Superfluity comes sooner by  
 FTLN 0201 white hairs, but competency lives longer.  
 FTLN 0202 PORTIA Good sentences, and well pronounced. 10  
 FTLN 0203 NERISSA They would be better if well followed.

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FTLN 0204	PORTIA	If to do were as easy as to know what were	
FTLN 0205		good to do, chapels had been churches, and poor	
FTLN 0206		men's cottages princes' palaces. It is a good divine	
FTLN 0207		that follows his own instructions. I can easier teach	15
FTLN 0208		twenty what were good to be done than to be one of	
FTLN 0209		the twenty to follow mine own teaching. The brain	
FTLN 0210		may devise laws for the blood, but a hot temper	
FTLN 0211		leaps o'er a cold decree: such a hare is madness the	
FTLN 0212		youth, to skip o'er the meshes of good counsel the	20
FTLN 0213		cripple. But this reasoning is not in the fashion to	
FTLN 0214		choose me a husband. O, me, the word "choose"! I	
FTLN 0215		may neither choose who I would nor refuse who I	
FTLN 0216		dislike. So is the will of a living daughter curbed by	
FTLN 0217		the will of a dead father. Is it not hard, Nerissa, that	25
FTLN 0218		I cannot choose one, nor refuse none?	
FTLN 0219	NERISSA	Your father was ever virtuous, and holy men	
FTLN 0220		at their death have good inspirations. Therefore the	
FTLN 0221		lottery that he hath devised in these three chests of	
FTLN 0222		gold, silver, and lead, whereof who chooses his	30
FTLN 0223		meaning chooses you, will no doubt never be	
FTLN 0224		chosen by any rightly but one who you shall rightly	
FTLN 0225		love. But what warmth is there in your affection	
FTLN 0226		towards any of these princely suitors that are already	
FTLN 0227		come?	35
FTLN 0228	PORTIA	I pray thee, overname them, and as thou	
FTLN 0229		namest them, I will describe them, and according	
FTLN 0230		to my description level at my affection.	
FTLN 0231	NERISSA	First, there is the Neapolitan prince.	
FTLN 0232	PORTIA	Ay, that's a colt indeed, for he doth nothing but	40
FTLN 0233		talk of his horse, and he makes it a great appropriation	
FTLN 0234		to his own good parts that he can shoe him	
FTLN 0235		himself. I am much afeard my lady his mother	
FTLN 0236		played false with a smith.	
FTLN 0237	NERISSA	Then is there the County Palatine.	45
FTLN 0238	PORTIA	He doth nothing but frown, as who should say	
FTLN 0239		"An you will not have me, choose." He hears	

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FTLN 0240	merry tales and smiles not. I fear he will prove the	
FTLN 0241	weeping philosopher when he grows old, being so	
FTLN 0242	full of unmannerly sadness in his youth. I had	50
FTLN 0243	rather be married to a death's-head with a bone in	
FTLN 0244	his mouth than to either of these. God defend me	
FTLN 0245	from these two!	
FTLN 0246	NERISSA How say you by the French lord, Monsieur Le	
FTLN 0247	«Bon»?	55
FTLN 0248	PORTIA God made him, and therefore let him pass for	
FTLN 0249	a man. In truth, I know it is a sin to be a mocker,	
FTLN 0250	but he!—why, he hath a horse better than the	
FTLN 0251	Neapolitan's, a better bad habit of frowning than	
FTLN 0252	the Count Palatine. He is every man in no man. If a	60
FTLN 0253	«throstle» sing, he falls straight a-cap'ring. He will	
FTLN 0254	fence with his own shadow. If I should marry him, I	
FTLN 0255	should marry twenty husbands! If he would despise	
FTLN 0256	me, I would forgive him, for if he love me to	
FTLN 0257	madness, I shall never requite him.	65
FTLN 0258	NERISSA What say you then to Falconbridge, the young	
FTLN 0259	baron of England?	
FTLN 0260	PORTIA You know I say nothing to him, for he understands	
FTLN 0261	not me, nor I him. He hath neither Latin,	
FTLN 0262	French, nor Italian; and you will come into the	70
FTLN 0263	court and swear that I have a poor pennyworth in	
FTLN 0264	the English. He is a proper man's picture, but alas,	
FTLN 0265	who can converse with a dumb show? How oddly	
FTLN 0266	he is suited! I think he bought his doublet in Italy,	
FTLN 0267	his round hose in France, his bonnet in Germany,	75
FTLN 0268	and his behavior everywhere.	
FTLN 0269	NERISSA What think you of the Scottish lord, his	
FTLN 0270	neighbor?	
FTLN 0271	PORTIA That he hath a neighborly charity in him, for	
FTLN 0272	he borrowed a box of the ear of the Englishman,	80
FTLN 0273	and swore he would pay him again when he was	
FTLN 0274	able. I think the Frenchman became his surety and	
FTLN 0275	sealed under for another.	



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FTLN 0276	NERISSA	How like you the young German, the Duke of	
FTLN 0277		Saxony's nephew?	85
FTLN 0278	PORTIA	Very vilely in the morning, when he is sober,	
FTLN 0279		and most vilely in the afternoon, when he is drunk.	
FTLN 0280		When he is best he is a little worse than a man, and	
FTLN 0281		when he is worst he is little better than a beast. An	
FTLN 0282		the worst fall that ever fell, I hope I shall make shift	90
FTLN 0283		to go without him.	
FTLN 0284	NERISSA	If he should offer to choose, and choose the	
FTLN 0285		right casket, you should refuse to perform your	
FTLN 0286		father's will if you should refuse to accept him.	
FTLN 0287	PORTIA	Therefore, for fear of the worst, I pray thee set	95
FTLN 0288		a deep glass of Rhenish wine on the contrary	
FTLN 0289		casket, for if the devil be within and that temptation	
FTLN 0290		without, I know he will choose it. I will do	
FTLN 0291		anything, Nerissa, ere I will be married to a sponge.	
FTLN 0292	NERISSA	You need not fear, lady, the having any of	100
FTLN 0293		these lords. They have acquainted me with their	
FTLN 0294		determinations, which is indeed to return to their	
FTLN 0295		home and to trouble you with no more suit, unless	
FTLN 0296		you may be won by some other sort than your	
FTLN 0297		father's imposition depending on the caskets.	105
FTLN 0298	PORTIA	If I live to be as old as Sibylla, I will die as	
FTLN 0299		chaste as Diana unless I be obtained by the manner	
FTLN 0300		of my father's will. I am glad this parcel of wooers	
FTLN 0301		are so reasonable, for there is not one among them	
FTLN 0302		but I dote on his very absence. And I pray God	110
FTLN 0303		grant them a fair departure!	
FTLN 0304	NERISSA	Do you not remember, lady, in your father's	
FTLN 0305		time, a Venetian, a scholar and a soldier, that came	
FTLN 0306		hither in company of the Marquess of Montferrat?	
FTLN 0307	PORTIA	Yes, yes, it was Bassanio—as I think so was he	115
FTLN 0308		called.	
FTLN 0309	NERISSA	True, madam. He, of all the men that ever my	
FTLN 0310		foolish eyes looked upon, was the best deserving a	
FTLN 0311		fair lady.	

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

*Enter a Servingman.*

FTLN 0314 How now, what news?  
 FTLN 0315 SERVINGMAN The four strangers seek for you, madam,  
 FTLN 0316 to take their leave. And there is a forerunner come  
 FTLN 0317 from a fifth, the Prince of Morocco, who brings 125  
 FTLN 0318 word the Prince his master will be here tonight.  
 FTLN 0319 PORTIA If I could bid the fifth welcome with so good  
 FTLN 0320 heart as I can bid the other four farewell, I should  
 FTLN 0321 be glad of his approach. If he have the condition of  
 FTLN 0322 a saint and the complexion of a devil, I had rather 130  
 FTLN 0323 he should shrive me than wive me.  
 FTLN 0324 Come, Nerissa. *['To Servingman.']* Sirrah, go before.—  
 FTLN 0325 Whiles we shut the gate upon one wooer, another  
 FTLN 0326 knocks at the door.

*They exit.*

*['Scene 3']*

*Enter Bassanio with Shylock the Jew.*

FTLN 0327 SHYLOCK Three thousand ducats, well.  
 FTLN 0328 BASSANIO Ay, sir, for three months.  
 FTLN 0329 SHYLOCK For three months, well.  
 FTLN 0330 BASSANIO For the which, as I told you, Antonio shall  
 FTLN 0331 be bound. 5  
 FTLN 0332 SHYLOCK Antonio shall become bound, well.  
 FTLN 0333 BASSANIO May you stead me? Will you pleasure me?  
 FTLN 0334 Shall I know your answer?  
 FTLN 0335 SHYLOCK Three thousand ducats for three months,  
 FTLN 0336 and Antonio bound. 10  
 FTLN 0337 BASSANIO Your answer to that?  
 FTLN 0338 SHYLOCK Antonio is a good man.  
 FTLN 0339 BASSANIO Have you heard any imputation to the  
 FTLN 0340 contrary?

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FTLN 0341	SHYLOCK	Ho, no, no, no, no! My meaning in saying he	15
FTLN 0342		is a good man is to have you understand me that he	
FTLN 0343		is sufficient. Yet his means are in supposition: he	
FTLN 0344		hath an argosy bound to Tripolis, another to the	
FTLN 0345		Indies. I understand, moreover, upon the Rialto,	
FTLN 0346		he hath a third at Mexico, a fourth for England, and	20
FTLN 0347		other ventures he hath squandered abroad. But	
FTLN 0348		ships are but boards, sailors but men; there be land	
FTLN 0349		rats and water rats, water thieves and land	
FTLN 0350		thieves—I mean pirates—and then there is the	
FTLN 0351		peril of waters, winds, and rocks. The man is,	25
FTLN 0352		notwithstanding, sufficient. Three thousand ducats.	
FTLN 0353		I think I may take his bond.	
FTLN 0354	BASSANIO	Be assured you may.	
FTLN 0355	SHYLOCK	I will be assured I may. And that I may be	
FTLN 0356		assured, I will bethink me. May I speak with	30
FTLN 0357		Antonio?	
FTLN 0358	BASSANIO	If it please you to dine with us.	
FTLN 0359	SHYLOCK	Yes, to smell pork! To eat of the habitation	
FTLN 0360		which your prophet the Nazarite conjured the	
FTLN 0361		devil into! I will buy with you, sell with you, talk	35
FTLN 0362		with you, walk with you, and so following; but I	
FTLN 0363		will not eat with you, drink with you, nor pray with	
FTLN 0364		you.—What news on the Rialto?—Who is he comes	
FTLN 0365		here?	

*Enter Antonio.*

FTLN 0366	BASSANIO	This is Signior Antonio.	40
	SHYLOCK,	<i>aside</i>	
FTLN 0367		How like a fawning publican he looks!	
FTLN 0368		I hate him for he is a Christian,	
FTLN 0369		But more for that in low simplicity	
FTLN 0370		He lends out money gratis and brings down	
FTLN 0371		The rate of usance here with us in Venice.	45
FTLN 0372		If I can catch him once upon the hip,	
FTLN 0373		I will feed fat the ancient grudge I bear him.	

FTLN 0374	He hates our sacred nation, and he rails,	
FTLN 0375	Even there where merchants most do congregate,	
FTLN 0376	On me, my bargains, and my well-won thrift,	50
FTLN 0377	Which he calls “interest.” Cursèd be my tribe	
FTLN 0378	If I forgive him!	
FTLN 0379	BASSANIO                      Shylock, do you hear?	
	SHYLOCK	
FTLN 0380	I am debating of my present store,	
FTLN 0381	And, by the near guess of my memory,	55
FTLN 0382	I cannot instantly raise up the gross	
FTLN 0383	Of full three thousand ducats. What of that?	
FTLN 0384	Tubal, a wealthy Hebrew of my tribe,	
FTLN 0385	Will furnish me. But soft, how many months	
FTLN 0386	Do you desire? 「 <i>To Antonio.</i> 」 Rest you fair, good	60
FTLN 0387	signior!	
FTLN 0388	Your Worship was the last man in our mouths.	
	ANTONIO	
FTLN 0389	Shylock, albeit I neither lend nor borrow	
FTLN 0390	By taking nor by giving of excess,	
FTLN 0391	Yet, to supply the ripe wants of my friend,	65
FTLN 0392	I’ll break a custom. 「 <i>To Bassanio.</i> 」 Is he yet	
FTLN 0393	possessed	
FTLN 0394	How much you would?	
FTLN 0395	SHYLOCK                      Ay, ay, three thousand	
FTLN 0396	ducats.	70
FTLN 0397	ANTONIO    And for three months.	
FTLN 0398	SHYLOCK    I had forgot—three months. 「 <i>To Bassanio.</i> 」	
FTLN 0399	You told me so.—	
FTLN 0400	Well then, your bond. And let me see—but hear	
FTLN 0401	you:	75
FTLN 0402	Methoughts you said you neither lend nor borrow	
FTLN 0403	Upon advantage.	
FTLN 0404	ANTONIO                      I do never use it.	
	SHYLOCK	
FTLN 0405	When Jacob grazed his Uncle Laban’s sheep—	
FTLN 0406	This Jacob from our holy Abram was	80

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

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SHYLOCK

FTLN 0438 Three thousand ducats. 'Tis a good round sum.  
 FTLN 0439 Three months from twelve, then let me see, the  
 FTLN 0440 rate—

ANTONIO

FTLN 0441 Well, Shylock, shall we be beholding to you? 115

SHYLOCK

FTLN 0442 Signior Antonio, many a time and oft  
 FTLN 0443 In the Rialto you have rated me  
 FTLN 0444 About my moneys and my usances.  
 FTLN 0445 Still have I borne it with a patient shrug  
 FTLN 0446 (For suff'rance is the badge of all our tribe). 120  
 FTLN 0447 You call me misbeliever, cutthroat dog,  
 FTLN 0448 And spet upon my Jewish gaberdine,  
 FTLN 0449 And all for use of that which is mine own.  
 FTLN 0450 Well then, it now appears you need my help.  
 FTLN 0451 Go to, then. You come to me and you say 125  
 FTLN 0452 "Shylock, we would have moneys"—you say so,  
 FTLN 0453 You, that did void your rheum upon my beard,  
 FTLN 0454 And foot me as you spurn a stranger cur  
 FTLN 0455 Over your threshold. Moneys is your suit.  
 FTLN 0456 What should I say to you? Should I not say 130  
 FTLN 0457 "Hath a dog money? Is it possible  
 FTLN 0458 A cur can lend three thousand ducats?" Or  
 FTLN 0459 Shall I bend low, and in a bondman's key,  
 FTLN 0460 With bated breath and whisp'ring humbleness,  
 FTLN 0461 Say this: "Fair sir, you spet on me on Wednesday 135  
 FTLN 0462 last;  
 FTLN 0463 You spurned me such a day; another time  
 FTLN 0464 You called me 'dog'; and for these courtesies  
 FTLN 0465 I'll lend you thus much moneys"?

ANTONIO

FTLN 0466 I am as like to call thee so again, 140  
 FTLN 0467 To spet on thee again, to spurn thee, too.  
 FTLN 0468 If thou wilt lend this money, lend it not  
 FTLN 0469 As to thy friends, for when did friendship take

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FTLN 0470	A breed for barren metal of his friend?	
FTLN 0471	But lend it rather to thine enemy,	145
FTLN 0472	Who, if he break, thou mayst with better face	
FTLN 0473	Exact the penalty.	
FTLN 0474	SHYLOCK                      Why, look you how you storm!	
FTLN 0475	I would be friends with you and have your love,	
FTLN 0476	Forget the shames that you have stained me with,	150
FTLN 0477	Supply your present wants, and take no doit	
FTLN 0478	Of usance for my moneys, and you'll not hear me!	
FTLN 0479	This is kind I offer.	
FTLN 0480	BASSANIO    This were kindness!	
FTLN 0481	SHYLOCK    This kindness will I show.	155
FTLN 0482	Go with me to a notary, seal me there	
FTLN 0483	Your single bond; and in a merry sport,	
FTLN 0484	If you repay me not on such a day,	
FTLN 0485	In such a place, such sum or sums as are	
FTLN 0486	Expressed in the condition, let the forfeit	160
FTLN 0487	Be nominated for an equal pound	
FTLN 0488	Of your fair flesh, to be cut off and taken	
FTLN 0489	In what part of your body pleaseth me.	
	ANTONIO	
FTLN 0490	Content, in faith. I'll seal to such a bond,	
FTLN 0491	And say there is much kindness in the Jew.	165
	BASSANIO	
FTLN 0492	You shall not seal to such a bond for me!	
FTLN 0493	I'll rather dwell in my necessity.	
	ANTONIO	
FTLN 0494	Why, fear not, man, I will not forfeit it!	
FTLN 0495	Within these two months—that's a month before	
FTLN 0496	This bond expires—I do expect return	170
FTLN 0497	Of thrice three times the value of this bond.	
	SHYLOCK	
FTLN 0498	O father Abram, what these Christians are,	
FTLN 0499	Whose own hard dealings teaches them suspect	
FTLN 0500	The thoughts of others! Pray you tell me this:	
FTLN 0501	If he should break his day, what should I gain	175

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

ANTONIO

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

SHYLOCK

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

FTLN 0516      ANTONIO                      Hie thee, gentle Jew. 190

*「Shylock」 exits.*

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

BASSANIO

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

ANTONIO

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

*They exit.*

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## 「ACT 2」

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### 「Scene 1」

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

#### MOROCCO

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

#### PORTIA

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

FTLN 0540	Yourself, renowned prince, then stood as fair	20
FTLN 0541	As any comer I have looked on yet	
FTLN 0542	For my affection.	
FTLN 0543	MOROCCO                      Even for that I thank you.	
FTLN 0544	Therefore I pray you lead me to the caskets	
FTLN 0545	To try my fortune. By this scimitar	25
FTLN 0546	That slew the Sophy and a Persian prince,	
FTLN 0547	That won three fields of Sultan Solyman,	
FTLN 0548	I would o'erstare the sternest eyes that look,	
FTLN 0549	Outbrave the heart most daring on the earth,	
FTLN 0550	Pluck the young sucking cubs from the she-bear,	30
FTLN 0551	Yea, mock the lion when he roars for prey,	
FTLN 0552	To win 'thee,' lady. But, alas the while!	
FTLN 0553	If Hercules and Lychas play at dice	
FTLN 0554	Which is the better man, the greater throw	
FTLN 0555	May turn by fortune from the weaker hand;	35
FTLN 0556	So is Alcides beaten by his 'page,'	
FTLN 0557	And so may I, blind Fortune leading me,	
FTLN 0558	Miss that which one unworthier may attain,	
FTLN 0559	And die with grieving.	
FTLN 0560	PORTIA                      You must take your chance	40
FTLN 0561	And either not attempt to choose at all	
FTLN 0562	Or swear before you choose, if you choose wrong	
FTLN 0563	Never to speak to lady afterward	
FTLN 0564	In way of marriage. Therefore be advised.	
	MOROCCO	
FTLN 0565	Nor will not. Come, bring me unto my chance.	45
	PORTIA	
FTLN 0566	First, forward to the temple. After dinner	
FTLN 0567	Your hazard shall be made.	
FTLN 0568	MOROCCO                      Good fortune then,	
FTLN 0569	To make me blest—or cursed'st among men!	

*They exit.*

## [Scene 2]

*Enter [Lancelet Gobbo] the Clown, alone.*

FTLN 0570	LANCELET	Certainly my conscience will serve me to	
FTLN 0571		run from this Jew my master. The fiend is at mine	
FTLN 0572		elbow and tempts me, saying to me "Gobbo,	
FTLN 0573		Lancelet Gobbo, good Lancelet," or "good Gobbo,"	
FTLN 0574		or "good Lancelet Gobbo, use your legs, take	5
FTLN 0575		the start, run away." My conscience says "No. Take	
FTLN 0576		heed, honest Lancelet, take heed, honest Gobbo,"	
FTLN 0577		or, as aforesaid, "honest Lancelet Gobbo, do not	
FTLN 0578		run; scorn running with thy heels." Well, the most	
FTLN 0579		courageous fiend bids me pack. "Fia!" says the	10
FTLN 0580		fiend. "Away!" says the fiend. "For the heavens,	
FTLN 0581		rouse up a brave mind," says the fiend, "and run!"	
FTLN 0582		Well, my conscience, hanging about the neck of my	
FTLN 0583		heart, says very wisely to me "My honest friend	
FTLN 0584		Lancelet, being an honest man's son"—or rather,	15
FTLN 0585		an honest woman's son, for indeed my father did	
FTLN 0586		something smack, something grow to—he had a	
FTLN 0587		kind of taste—well, my conscience says "Lancelet,	
FTLN 0588		budge not." "Budge," says the fiend. "Budge not,"	
FTLN 0589		says my conscience. "Conscience," say I, "you	20
FTLN 0590		counsel well." "Fiend," say I, "you counsel well."	
FTLN 0591		To be ruled by my conscience, I should stay with the	
FTLN 0592		Jew my master, who (God bless the mark) is a kind	
FTLN 0593		of devil; and to run away from the Jew, I should be	
FTLN 0594		ruled by the fiend, who (saving your reverence) is	25
FTLN 0595		the devil himself. Certainly the Jew is the very devil	
FTLN 0596		incarnation, and, in my conscience, my conscience	
FTLN 0597		is but a kind of hard conscience to offer to counsel	
FTLN 0598		me to stay with the Jew. The fiend gives the more	
FTLN 0599		friendly counsel. I will run, fiend. My heels are at	30
FTLN 0600		your commandment. I will run.	

*Enter old Gobbo with a basket.*

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FTLN 0601 GOBBO Master young man, you, I pray you, which is  
 FTLN 0602 the way to Master Jew's?

FTLN 0603 LANCELET, *「aside」* O heavens, this is my true begotten  
 FTLN 0604 father, who being more than sandblind, high gravelblind, 35  
 FTLN 0605 knows me not. I will try confusions with him.

FTLN 0606 GOBBO Master young gentleman, I pray you, which is  
 FTLN 0607 the way to Master Jew's?

FTLN 0608 LANCELET Turn up on your right hand at the next  
 FTLN 0609 turning, but at the next turning of all on your left; 40  
 FTLN 0610 marry, at the very next turning, turn of no hand,  
 FTLN 0611 but turn down indirectly to the Jew's house.

FTLN 0612 GOBBO Be God's sonties, 'twill be a hard way to hit.  
 FTLN 0613 Can you tell me whether one Lancelet, that dwells  
 FTLN 0614 with him, dwell with him or no? 45

FTLN 0615 LANCELET Talk you of young Master Lancelet? *「Aside.」*  
 FTLN 0616 Mark me now, now will I raise the waters.—Talk  
 FTLN 0617 you of young Master Lancelet?

FTLN 0618 GOBBO No master, sir, but a poor man's son. His  
 FTLN 0619 father, though I say 't, is an honest exceeding poor 50  
 FTLN 0620 man and, God be thanked, well to live.

FTLN 0621 LANCELET Well, let his father be what he will, we talk  
 FTLN 0622 of young Master Lancelet.

FTLN 0623 GOBBO Your Worship's friend, and Lancelet, sir.

FTLN 0624 LANCELET But I pray you, *ergo*, old man, *ergo*, I beseech 55  
 FTLN 0625 you, talk you of young Master Lancelet?

FTLN 0626 GOBBO Of Lancelet, an 't please your mastership.

FTLN 0627 LANCELET *Ergo*, Master Lancelet. Talk not of Master  
 FTLN 0628 Lancelet, father, for the young gentleman, according  
 FTLN 0629 to Fates and Destinies, and such odd sayings, the 60  
 FTLN 0630 Sisters Three, and such branches of learning, is  
 FTLN 0631 indeed deceased, or, as you would say in plain  
 FTLN 0632 terms, gone to heaven.

FTLN 0633 GOBBO Marry, God forbid! The boy was the very staff  
 FTLN 0634 of my age, my very prop. 65

FTLN 0635 LANCELET, *「aside」* Do I look like a cudgel or a hovel-post,  
 FTLN 0636 a staff or a prop?—Do you know me, father?

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FTLN 0637 GOBBO Alack the day, I know you not, young gentleman.  
 FTLN 0638 But I pray you tell me, is my boy, God rest his  
 FTLN 0639 soul, alive or dead? 70  
 FTLN 0640 LANCELET Do you not know me, father?  
 FTLN 0641 GOBBO Alack, sir, I am sandblind. I know you not.  
 FTLN 0642 LANCELET Nay, indeed, if you had your eyes, you might  
 FTLN 0643 fail of the knowing me. It is a wise father that  
 FTLN 0644 knows his own child. Well, old man, I will tell you 75  
 FTLN 0645 news of your son. *He kneels.* Give me your blessing.  
 FTLN 0646 Truth will come to light, murder cannot be hid  
 FTLN 0647 long—a man's son may, but in the end, truth will  
 FTLN 0648 out.  
 FTLN 0649 GOBBO Pray you, sir, stand up! I am sure you are not 80  
 FTLN 0650 Lancelet my boy.  
 FTLN 0651 LANCELET Pray you, let's have no more fooling about  
 FTLN 0652 it, but give me your blessing. I am Lancelet, your  
 FTLN 0653 boy that was, your son that is, your child that shall  
 FTLN 0654 be. 85  
 FTLN 0655 GOBBO I cannot think you are my son.  
 FTLN 0656 LANCELET I know not what I shall think of that; but I  
 FTLN 0657 am Lancelet, the Jew's man, and I am sure Margery  
 FTLN 0658 your wife is my mother.  
 FTLN 0659 GOBBO Her name is Margery, indeed. I'll be sworn if 90  
 FTLN 0660 thou be Lancelet, thou art mine own flesh and  
 FTLN 0661 blood. Lord worshiped might He be, what a beard  
 FTLN 0662 hast thou got! Thou hast got more hair on thy chin  
 FTLN 0663 than Dobbin my fill-horse has on his tail.  
 FTLN 0664 LANCELET, *standing up* It should seem, then, that 95  
 FTLN 0665 Dobbin's tail grows backward. I am sure he had  
 FTLN 0666 more hair of his tail than I have of my face when I  
 FTLN 0667 last saw him.  
 FTLN 0668 GOBBO Lord, how art thou changed! How dost thou  
 FTLN 0669 and thy master agree? I have brought him a present. 100  
 FTLN 0670 How 'gree you now?  
 FTLN 0671 LANCELET Well, well. But for mine own part, as I have  
 FTLN 0672 set up my rest to run away, so I will not rest till I

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FTLN 0673        have run some ground. My master's a very Jew.  
 FTLN 0674        Give him a present! Give him a halter. I am 105  
 FTLN 0675        famished in his service. You may tell every finger I  
 FTLN 0676        have with my ribs. Father, I am glad you are come!  
 FTLN 0677        Give me your present to one Master Bassanio, who  
 FTLN 0678        indeed gives rare new liveries. If I serve not him, I  
 FTLN 0679        will run as far as God has any ground. O rare 110  
 FTLN 0680        fortune, here comes the man! To him, father, for I  
 FTLN 0681        am a Jew if I serve the Jew any longer.

*Enter Bassanio with 「Leonardo and」 a follower or two.*

FTLN 0682        BASSANIO, 「to an Attendant」 You may do so, but let it be  
 FTLN 0683        so hasted that supper be ready at the farthest by five  
 FTLN 0684        of the clock. See these letters delivered, put the 115  
 FTLN 0685        liveries to making, and desire Gratiano to come  
 FTLN 0686        anon to my lodging.        「The Attendant exits.」  
 FTLN 0687        LANCELET    To him, father.  
 FTLN 0688        GOBBO, 「to Bassanio」    God bless your Worship.  
 FTLN 0689        BASSANIO    Gramercy. Wouldst thou aught with me? 120  
 FTLN 0690        GOBBO       Here's my son, sir, a poor boy—  
 FTLN 0691        LANCELET    Not a poor boy, sir, but the rich Jew's man,  
 FTLN 0692        that would, sir, as my father shall specify—  
 FTLN 0693        GOBBO       He hath a great infection, sir, as one would say,  
 FTLN 0694        to serve— 125  
 FTLN 0695        LANCELET    Indeed, the short and the long is, I serve the  
 FTLN 0696        Jew, and have a desire, as my father shall specify—  
 FTLN 0697        GOBBO       His master and he (saving your Worship's  
 FTLN 0698        reverence) are scarce cater-cousins—  
 FTLN 0699        LANCELET    To be brief, the very truth is that the Jew, 130  
 FTLN 0700        having done me wrong, doth cause me, as my  
 FTLN 0701        father being, I hope, an old man, shall frutify unto  
 FTLN 0702        you—  
 FTLN 0703        GOBBO       I have here a dish of doves that I would bestow  
 FTLN 0704        upon your Worship, and my suit is— 135  
 FTLN 0705        LANCELET    In very brief, the suit is impertinent to  
 FTLN 0706        myself, as your Worship shall know by this honest

FTLN 0707	old man, and though I say it, though old man yet	
FTLN 0708	poor man, my father—	
FTLN 0709	BASSANIO One speak for both. What would you?	140
FTLN 0710	LANCELET Serve you, sir.	
FTLN 0711	GOBBO That is the very defect of the matter, sir.	
	BASSANIO, <i>‘to Lancelet’</i>	
FTLN 0712	I know thee well. Thou hast obtained thy suit.	
FTLN 0713	Shylock thy master spoke with me this day,	
FTLN 0714	And hath preferred thee, if it be preferment	145
FTLN 0715	To leave a rich Jew’s service, to become	
FTLN 0716	The follower of so poor a gentleman.	
FTLN 0717	LANCELET The old proverb is very well parted between	
FTLN 0718	my master Shylock and you, sir: you have “the	
FTLN 0719	grace of God,” sir, and he hath “enough.”	150
	BASSANIO	
FTLN 0720	Thou speak’st it well.—Go, father, with thy son.—	
FTLN 0721	Take leave of thy old master, and inquire	
FTLN 0722	My lodging out. <i>‘To an Attendant.’</i> Give him a livery	
FTLN 0723	More guarded than his fellows’. See it done.	
	<i>‘Attendant exits. Bassanio and Leonardo talk apart.’</i>	
FTLN 0724	LANCELET Father, in. I cannot get a service, no! I have	155
FTLN 0725	ne’er a tongue in my head! Well, <i>‘studying his palm’</i>	
FTLN 0726	if any man in Italy have a fairer table which doth	
FTLN 0727	offer to swear upon a book—I shall have good	
FTLN 0728	fortune, go to! Here’s a simple line of life. Here’s a	
FTLN 0729	small trifle of wives—alas, fifteen wives is nothing;	160
FTLN 0730	eleven widows and nine maids is a simple coming-in	
FTLN 0731	for one man—and then to ’scape drowning	
FTLN 0732	thrice, and to be in peril of my life with the edge of a	
FTLN 0733	featherbed! Here are simple ’scapes. Well, if Fortune	
FTLN 0734	be a woman, she’s a good wench for this gear.	165
FTLN 0735	Father, come. I’ll take my leave of the Jew in the	
FTLN 0736	twinkling. <i>‘Lancelet and old Gobbo’ exit.</i>	
	BASSANIO	
FTLN 0737	I pray thee, good Leonardo, think on this.	
	<i>‘Handing him a paper.’</i>	

FTLN 0738	These things being bought and orderly bestowed,	
FTLN 0739	Return in haste, for I do feast tonight	170
FTLN 0740	My best esteemed acquaintance. Hie thee, go.	
	LEONARDO	
FTLN 0741	My best endeavors shall be done herein.	

*Enter Gratiano.*

FTLN 0742	GRATIANO, <i>to Leonardo</i>	Where's your master?	
FTLN 0743	LEONARDO	Yonder, sir, he walks.	<i>Leonardo exits.</i>
FTLN 0744	GRATIANO	Signior Bassanio!	175
FTLN 0745	BASSANIO	Gratiano!	
FTLN 0746	GRATIANO	I have suit to you.	
FTLN 0747	BASSANIO	You have obtained it.	
FTLN 0748	GRATIANO	You must not deny me. I must go with you	
FTLN 0749		to Belmont.	180
	BASSANIO		
FTLN 0750		Why then you must. But hear thee, Gratiano,	
FTLN 0751		Thou art too wild, too rude and bold of voice—	
FTLN 0752		Parts that become thee happily enough,	
FTLN 0753		And in such eyes as ours appear not faults.	
FTLN 0754		But where thou art not known—why, there they	185
FTLN 0755		show	
FTLN 0756		Something too liberal. Pray thee take pain	
FTLN 0757		To allay with some cold drops of modesty	
FTLN 0758		Thy skipping spirit, lest through thy wild behavior	
FTLN 0759		I be misconstered in the place I go to,	190
FTLN 0760		And lose my hopes.	
FTLN 0761	GRATIANO	Signior Bassanio, hear me.	
FTLN 0762		If I do not put on a sober habit,	
FTLN 0763		Talk with respect, and swear but now and then,	
FTLN 0764		Wear prayer books in my pocket, look demurely,	195
FTLN 0765		Nay more, while grace is saying, hood mine eyes	
FTLN 0766		Thus with my hat, and sigh and say “amen,”	
FTLN 0767		Use all the observance of civility	
FTLN 0768		Like one well studied in a sad ostent	
FTLN 0769		To please his grandam, never trust me more.	200



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FTLN 0770 BASSANIO Well, we shall see your bearing.  
 GRATIANO  
 FTLN 0771 Nay, but I bar tonight. You shall not gauge me  
 FTLN 0772 By what we do tonight.  
 FTLN 0773 BASSANIO No, that were pity.  
 FTLN 0774 I would entreat you rather to put on 205  
 FTLN 0775 Your boldest suit of mirth, for we have friends  
 FTLN 0776 That purpose merriment. But fare you well.  
 FTLN 0777 I have some business.  
 GRATIANO  
 FTLN 0778 And I must to Lorenzo and the rest.  
 FTLN 0779 But we will visit you at supper time. 210

*They exit.*

「Scene 3」

*Enter Jessica and 「Lancelet Gobbo.」*

JESSICA  
 FTLN 0780 I am sorry thou wilt leave my father so.  
 FTLN 0781 Our house is hell and thou, a merry devil,  
 FTLN 0782 Didst rob it of some taste of tediousness.  
 FTLN 0783 But fare thee well. There is a ducat for thee,  
 FTLN 0784 And, Lancelet, soon at supper shalt thou see 5  
 FTLN 0785 Lorenzo, who is thy new master's guest.  
 FTLN 0786 Give him this letter, do it secretly,  
 FTLN 0787 And so farewell. I would not have my father  
 FTLN 0788 See me in talk with thee.  
 FTLN 0789 LANCELET Adieu. Tears exhibit my tongue, most beautiful 10  
 FTLN 0790 pagan, most sweet Jew. If a Christian do not  
 FTLN 0791 play the knave and get thee, I am much deceived.  
 FTLN 0792 But adieu. These foolish drops do something drown  
 FTLN 0793 my manly spirit. Adieu.  
 FTLN 0794 JESSICA Farewell, good Lancelet. 15

*「Lancelet exits.」*

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FTLN 0795      Alack, what heinous sin is it in me  
 FTLN 0796      To be ashamed to be my father's child?  
 FTLN 0797      But though I am a daughter to his blood,  
 FTLN 0798      I am not to his manners. O Lorenzo,  
 FTLN 0799      If thou keep promise, I shall end this strife,      20  
 FTLN 0800      Become a Christian and thy loving wife.

*She exits.*

「Scene 4」

*Enter Gratiano, Lorenzo, Salarino, and Solanio.*

LORENZO

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

GRATIANO

FTLN 0804      We have not made good preparation.

SALARINO

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

SOLANIO

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

LORENZO

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

*Enter Lancelet.*

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

FTLN 0811      LANCELET    An it shall please you to break up this, it  
 FTLN 0812                      shall seem to signify.    「*Handing him Jessica's letter.*」

LORENZO

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

FTLN 0816      GRATIANO                      Love news, in faith!

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FTLN 0817 LANCELET By your leave, sir.

FTLN 0818 LORENZO Whither goest thou?

FTLN 0819 LANCELET Marry, sir, to bid my old master the Jew to

FTLN 0820 sup tonight with my new master the Christian. 20

LORENZO

FTLN 0821 Hold here, take this. *「Giving him money.」* Tell gentle

FTLN 0822 Jessica

FTLN 0823 I will not fail her. Speak it privately.

*「Lancelet」 exits.*

FTLN 0824 Go, gentlemen,

FTLN 0825 Will you prepare you for this masque tonight? 25

FTLN 0826 I am provided of a torchbearer.

SALARINO

FTLN 0827 Ay, marry, I'll be gone about it straight.

SOLANIO

FTLN 0828 And so will I.

FTLN 0829 LORENZO Meet me and Gratiano

FTLN 0830 At Gratiano's lodging some hour hence. 30

FTLN 0831 SALARINO 'Tis good we do so.

*「Salarino and Solanio」 exit.*

GRATIANO

FTLN 0832 Was not that letter from fair Jessica?

LORENZO

FTLN 0833 I must needs tell thee all. She hath directed

FTLN 0834 How I shall take her from her father's house,

FTLN 0835 What gold and jewels she is furnished with, 35

FTLN 0836 What page's suit she hath in readiness.

FTLN 0837 If e'er the Jew her father come to heaven,

FTLN 0838 It will be for his gentle daughter's sake;

FTLN 0839 And never dare misfortune cross her foot

FTLN 0840 Unless she do it under this excuse, 40

FTLN 0841 That she is issue to a faithless Jew.

FTLN 0842 Come, go with me. Peruse this as thou goest;

*「Handing him the letter.」*

FTLN 0843 Fair Jessica shall be my torchbearer.

*「They」 exit.*

## [Scene 5]

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

SHYLOCK

FTLN 0844 Well, thou shalt see, thy eyes shall be thy judge,  
FTLN 0845 The difference of old Shylock and Bassanio.—  
FTLN 0846 What, Jessica!—Thou shalt not gormandize  
FTLN 0847 As thou hast done with me—what, Jessica!—  
FTLN 0848 And sleep, and snore, and rend apparel out.— 5  
FTLN 0849 Why, Jessica, I say!

FTLN 0850 LANCELET Why, Jessica!

SHYLOCK

FTLN 0851 Who bids thee call? I do not bid thee call.  
FTLN 0852 LANCELET Your Worship was wont to tell me I could  
FTLN 0853 do nothing without bidding. 10

*Enter Jessica.*

FTLN 0854 JESSICA Call you? What is your will?

SHYLOCK

FTLN 0855 I am bid forth to supper, Jessica.  
FTLN 0856 There are my keys.—But wherefore should I go?  
FTLN 0857 I am not bid for love. They flatter me.  
FTLN 0858 But yet I'll go in hate, to feed upon 15  
FTLN 0859 The prodigal Christian.—Jessica, my girl,  
FTLN 0860 Look to my house.—I am right loath to go.  
FTLN 0861 There is some ill a-brewing towards my rest,  
FTLN 0862 For I did dream of money bags tonight.

FTLN 0863 LANCELET I beseech you, sir, go. My young master 20  
FTLN 0864 doth expect your reproach.

FTLN 0865 SHYLOCK So do I his.

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

SHYLOCK

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

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

SHYLOCK

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

JESSICA

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

SHYLOCK

FTLN 0890	The patch is kind enough, but a huge feeder,	
FTLN 0891	Snail-slow in profit, and he sleeps by day	
FTLN 0892	More than the wildcat. Drones hive not with me,	
FTLN 0893	Therefore I part with him, and part with him	50
FTLN 0894	To one that I would have him help to waste	
FTLN 0895	His borrowed purse. Well, Jessica, go in.	
FTLN 0896	Perhaps I will return immediately.	
FTLN 0897	Do as I bid you. Shut doors after you.	
FTLN 0898	Fast bind, fast find—	55
FTLN 0899	A proverb never stale in thrifty mind.	<i>He exits.</i>

JESSICA

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

*She exits.*

## [Scene 6]

*Enter the masquers, Gratiano and Salarino.*

GRATIANO

FTLN 0902     This is the penthouse under which Lorenzo

FTLN 0903     Desired us to make stand.

FTLN 0904   SALARINO   His hour is almost past.

GRATIANO

FTLN 0905     And it is marvel he outdwells his hour,

FTLN 0906     For lovers ever run before the clock. 5

SALARINO

FTLN 0907     O, ten times faster Venus' pigeons fly

FTLN 0908     To seal love's bonds new-made than they are wont

FTLN 0909     To keep obligèd faith unforfeited.

GRATIANO

FTLN 0910     That ever holds. Who riseth from a feast

FTLN 0911     With that keen appetite that he sits down? 10

FTLN 0912     Where is the horse that doth untread again

FTLN 0913     His tedious measures with the unbated fire

FTLN 0914     That he did pace them first? All things that are,

FTLN 0915     Are with more spirit chasèd than enjoyed.

FTLN 0916     How like a younger or a prodigal 15

FTLN 0917     The scarfèd bark puts from her native bay,

FTLN 0918     Hugged and embracèd by the strumpet wind;

FTLN 0919     How like the prodigal doth she return

FTLN 0920     With overweathered ribs and raggèd sails,

FTLN 0921     Lean, rent, and beggared by the strumpet wind! 20

*Enter Lorenzo.*

SALARINO

FTLN 0922     Here comes Lorenzo. More of this hereafter.

LORENZO

FTLN 0923     Sweet friends, your patience for my long abode.

FTLN 0924     Not I but my affairs have made you wait.

FTLN 0925     When you shall please to play the thieves for wives,

FTLN 0926     I'll watch as long for you then. Approach. 25

FTLN 0927     Here dwells my father Jew.—Ho! Who's within?

*Enter Jessica above, dressed as a boy.*

JESSICA

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

FTLN 0930 LORENZO Lorenzo, and thy love.

JESSICA

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

LORENZO

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

JESSICA

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

LORENZO

FTLN 0942 Descend, for you must be my torchbearer.

JESSICA

FTLN 0943 What, must I hold a candle to my shames?  
FTLN 0944 They in themselves, good sooth, are too too light.  
FTLN 0945 Why, 'tis an office of discovery, love,  
FTLN 0946 And I should be obscured. 45

FTLN 0947 LORENZO So are you, sweet,

FTLN 0948 Even in the lovely garnish of a boy.

FTLN 0949 But come at once,

FTLN 0950 For the close night doth play the runaway,

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

JESSICA

FTLN 0952 I will make fast the doors and gild myself

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

*Jessica exits, above.*

GRATIANO

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

LORENZO

FTLN 0955 Beshrew me but I love her heartily,  
 FTLN 0956 For she is wise, if I can judge of her, 55  
 FTLN 0957 And fair she is, if that mine eyes be true,  
 FTLN 0958 And true she is, as she hath proved herself.  
 FTLN 0959 And therefore, like herself, wise, fair, and true,  
 FTLN 0960 Shall she be placèd in my constant soul.

*Enter Jessica, 「below.」*

FTLN 0961 What, art thou come? On, gentleman, away! 60  
 FTLN 0962 Our masquing mates by this time for us stay.  
*「All but Gratiano」 exit.*

*Enter Antonio.*

FTLN 0963 ANTONIO Who's there?  
 FTLN 0964 GRATIANO Signior Antonio?  
 ANTONIO  
 FTLN 0965 Fie, fie, Gratiano, where are all the rest?  
 FTLN 0966 'Tis nine o'clock! Our friends all stay for you. 65  
 FTLN 0967 No masque tonight; the wind is come about;  
 FTLN 0968 Bassanio presently will go aboard.  
 FTLN 0969 I have sent twenty out to seek for you.  
 GRATIANO  
 FTLN 0970 I am glad on 't. I desire no more delight  
 FTLN 0971 Than to be under sail and gone tonight. 70

*They exit.*

*「Scene 7」*

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

PORTIA

FTLN 0972 Go, draw aside the curtains and discover



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FTLN 0973	The several caskets to this noble prince.	
	<i>「A curtain is drawn.」</i>	
FTLN 0974	Now make your choice.	
	MOROCCO	
FTLN 0975	This first, of gold, who this inscription bears,	
FTLN 0976	“Who chooseth me shall gain what many men	5
FTLN 0977	desire”;	
FTLN 0978	The second, silver, which this promise carries,	
FTLN 0979	“Who chooseth me shall get as much as he	
FTLN 0980	deserves”;	
FTLN 0981	This third, dull lead, with warning all as blunt,	10
FTLN 0982	“Who chooseth me must give and hazard all he	
FTLN 0983	hath.”	
FTLN 0984	How shall I know if I do choose the right?	
	PORTIA	
FTLN 0985	The one of them contains my picture, prince.	
FTLN 0986	If you choose that, then I am yours withal.	15
	MOROCCO	
FTLN 0987	Some god direct my judgment! Let me see.	
FTLN 0988	I will survey th’ inscriptions back again.	
FTLN 0989	What says this leaden casket?	
FTLN 0990	“Who chooseth me must give and hazard all he	
FTLN 0991	hath.”	20
FTLN 0992	Must give—for what? For lead? Hazard for lead?	
FTLN 0993	This casket threatens. Men that hazard all	
FTLN 0994	Do it in hope of fair advantages.	
FTLN 0995	A golden mind stoops not to shows of dross.	
FTLN 0996	I’ll then nor give nor hazard aught for lead.	25
FTLN 0997	What says the silver with her virgin hue?	
FTLN 0998	“Who chooseth me shall get as much as he	
FTLN 0999	deserves.”	
FTLN 1000	As much as he deserves—pause there, Morocco,	
FTLN 1001	And weigh thy value with an even hand.	30
FTLN 1002	If thou beest rated by thy estimation,	
FTLN 1003	Thou dost deserve enough; and yet enough	
FTLN 1004	May not extend so far as to the lady.	

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FTLN 1005	And yet to be afeard of my deserving	
FTLN 1006	Were but a weak disabling of myself.	35
FTLN 1007	As much as I deserve—why, that’s the lady!	
FTLN 1008	I do in birth deserve her, and in fortunes,	
FTLN 1009	In graces, and in qualities of breeding,	
FTLN 1010	But more than these, in love I do deserve.	
FTLN 1011	What if I strayed no farther, but chose here?	40
FTLN 1012	Let’s see once more this saying graved in gold:	
FTLN 1013	“Who chooseth me shall gain what many men	
FTLN 1014	desire.”	
FTLN 1015	Why, that’s the lady! All the world desires her.	
FTLN 1016	From the four corners of the earth they come	45
FTLN 1017	To kiss this shrine, this mortal, breathing saint.	
FTLN 1018	The Hyrcanian deserts and the vasty wilds	
FTLN 1019	Of wide Arabia are as throughfares now	
FTLN 1020	For princes to come view fair Portia.	
FTLN 1021	The watery kingdom, whose ambitious head	50
FTLN 1022	Spets in the face of heaven, is no bar	
FTLN 1023	To stop the foreign spirits, but they come	
FTLN 1024	As o’er a brook to see fair Portia.	
FTLN 1025	One of these three contains her heavenly picture.	
FTLN 1026	Is ’t like that lead contains her? ’Twere damnation	55
FTLN 1027	To think so base a thought. It were too gross	
FTLN 1028	To rib her cerecloth in the obscure grave.	
FTLN 1029	Or shall I think in silver she’s immured,	
FTLN 1030	Being ten times undervalued to tried gold?	
FTLN 1031	O, sinful thought! Never so rich a gem	60
FTLN 1032	Was set in worse than gold. They have in England	
FTLN 1033	A coin that bears the figure of an angel	
FTLN 1034	Stamped in gold, but that’s insculped upon;	
FTLN 1035	But here an angel in a golden bed	
FTLN 1036	Lies all within.—Deliver me the key.	65
FTLN 1037	Here do I choose, and thrive I as I may.	

PORTIA

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

*「Morocco opens the gold casket.」*

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

PORTIA

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

*They exit.*

*「Scene 8」*

*Enter Salarino and Solanio.*

SALARINO

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

SOLANIO

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

SALARINO

FTLN 1064	He came too late; the ship was under sail.
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FTLN 1065	But there the Duke was given to understand	
FTLN 1066	That in a gondola were seen together	
FTLN 1067	Lorenzo and his amorous Jessica.	
FTLN 1068	Besides, Antonio certified the Duke	10
FTLN 1069	They were not with Bassanio in his ship.	
	SOLANIO	
FTLN 1070	I never heard a passion so confused,	
FTLN 1071	So strange, outrageous, and so variable	
FTLN 1072	As the dog Jew did utter in the streets.	
FTLN 1073	“My daughter, O my ducats, O my daughter!	15
FTLN 1074	Fled with a Christian! O my Christian ducats!	
FTLN 1075	Justice, the law, my ducats, and my daughter,	
FTLN 1076	A sealèd bag, two sealèd bags of ducats,	
FTLN 1077	Of double ducats, stol’n from me by my daughter,	
FTLN 1078	And jewels—two stones, two rich and precious	20
FTLN 1079	stones—	
FTLN 1080	Stol’n by my daughter! Justice! Find the girl!	
FTLN 1081	She hath the stones upon her, and the ducats.”	
	SALARINO	
FTLN 1082	Why, all the boys in Venice follow him,	
FTLN 1083	Crying “His stones, his daughter, and his ducats.”	25
	SOLANIO	
FTLN 1084	Let good Antonio look he keep his day,	
FTLN 1085	Or he shall pay for this.	
FTLN 1086	SALARINO Marry, well remembered.	
FTLN 1087	I reasoned with a Frenchman yesterday	
FTLN 1088	Who told me, in the Narrow Seas that part	30
FTLN 1089	The French and English, there miscarrièd	
FTLN 1090	A vessel of our country richly fraught.	
FTLN 1091	I thought upon Antonio when he told me,	
FTLN 1092	And wished in silence that it were not his.	
	SOLANIO	
FTLN 1093	You were best to tell Antonio what you hear—	35
FTLN 1094	Yet do not suddenly, for it may grieve him.	
	SALARINO	
FTLN 1095	A kinder gentleman treads not the earth.	

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FTLN 1096 I saw Bassanio and Antonio part.  
 FTLN 1097 Bassanio told him he would make some speed  
 FTLN 1098 Of his return. He answered “Do not so. 40  
 FTLN 1099 ‘Slubber’ not business for my sake, Bassanio,  
 FTLN 1100 But stay the very riping of the time;  
 FTLN 1101 And for the Jew’s bond which he hath of me,  
 FTLN 1102 Let it not enter in your mind of love.  
 FTLN 1103 Be merry, and employ your chiefest thoughts 45  
 FTLN 1104 To courtship and such fair ostents of love  
 FTLN 1105 As shall conveniently become you there.”  
 FTLN 1106 And even there, his eye being big with tears,  
 FTLN 1107 Turning his face, he put his hand behind him,  
 FTLN 1108 And with affection wondrous sensible 50  
 FTLN 1109 He wrung Bassanio’s hand—and so they parted.  
 SOLANIO  
 FTLN 1110 I think he only loves the world for him.  
 FTLN 1111 I pray thee, let us go and find him out  
 FTLN 1112 And quicken his embracèd heaviness  
 FTLN 1113 With some delight or other. 55  
 FTLN 1114 SALARINO Do we so.

*They exit.*

## ‘Scene 9’

*Enter Nerissa and a Servitor.*

NERISSA

FTLN 1115 Quick, quick, I pray thee, draw the curtain straight.  
 FTLN 1116 The Prince of Arragon hath ta’en his oath  
 FTLN 1117 And comes to his election presently.

*Enter ‘the Prince of’ Arragon, his train, and Portia.*

PORTIA

FTLN 1118 Behold, there stand the caskets, noble prince.  
 FTLN 1119 If you choose that wherein I am contained, 5  
 FTLN 1120 Straight shall our nuptial rites be solemnized.

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FTLN 1121	But if you fail, without more speech, my lord,	
FTLN 1122	You must be gone from hence immediately.	
	ARRAGON	
FTLN 1123	I am enjoined by oath to observe three things:	
FTLN 1124	First, never to unfold to anyone	10
FTLN 1125	Which casket 'twas I chose; next, if I fail	
FTLN 1126	Of the right casket, never in my life	
FTLN 1127	To woo a maid in way of marriage;	
FTLN 1128	Lastly, if I do fail in fortune of my choice,	
FTLN 1129	Immediately to leave you, and be gone.	15
	PORTIA	
FTLN 1130	To these injunctions everyone doth swear	
FTLN 1131	That comes to hazard for my worthless self.	
	ARRAGON	
FTLN 1132	And so have I addressed me. Fortune now	
FTLN 1133	To my heart's hope! Gold, silver, and base lead.	
FTLN 1134	"Who chooseth me must give and hazard all he	20
FTLN 1135	hath."	
FTLN 1136	You shall look fairer ere I give or hazard.	
FTLN 1137	What says the golden chest? Ha, let me see:	
FTLN 1138	"Who chooseth me shall gain what many men	
FTLN 1139	desire."	25
FTLN 1140	What many men desire—that "many" may be	
FTLN 1141	meant	
FTLN 1142	By the fool multitude that choose by show,	
FTLN 1143	Not learning more than the fond eye doth teach,	
FTLN 1144	Which pries not to th' interior, but like the martlet	30
FTLN 1145	Builds in the weather on the outward wall,	
FTLN 1146	Even in the force and road of casualty.	
FTLN 1147	I will not choose what many men desire,	
FTLN 1148	Because I will not jump with common spirits	
FTLN 1149	And rank me with the barbarous multitudes.	35
FTLN 1150	Why, then, to thee, thou silver treasure house.	
FTLN 1151	Tell me once more what title thou dost bear.	
FTLN 1152	"Who chooseth me shall get as much as he	
FTLN 1153	deserves."	

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FTLN 1154	And well said, too; for who shall go about	40
FTLN 1155	To cozen fortune and be honorable	
FTLN 1156	Without the stamp of merit? Let none presume	
FTLN 1157	To wear an undeservèd dignity.	
FTLN 1158	O, that estates, degrees, and offices	
FTLN 1159	Were not derived corruptly, and that clear honor	45
FTLN 1160	Were purchased by the merit of the wearer!	
FTLN 1161	How many then should cover that stand bare?	
FTLN 1162	How many be commanded that command?	
FTLN 1163	How much low peasantry would then be gleaned	
FTLN 1164	From the true seed of honor? And how much honor	50
FTLN 1165	Picked from the chaff and ruin of the times,	
FTLN 1166	To be new varnished? Well, but to my choice.	
FTLN 1167	“Who chooseth me shall get as much as he	
FTLN 1168	deserves.”	
FTLN 1169	I will assume desert. Give me a key for this,	55
	<i>He is given a key.</i>	
FTLN 1170	And instantly unlock my fortunes here.	
	<i>He opens the silver casket.</i>	
	PORTIA	
FTLN 1171	Too long a pause for that which you find there.	
	ARRAGON	
FTLN 1172	What’s here? The portrait of a blinking idiot	
FTLN 1173	Presenting me a schedule! I will read it.—	
FTLN 1174	How much unlike art thou to Portia!	60
FTLN 1175	How much unlike my hopes and my deservings.	
FTLN 1176	“Who chooseth me shall have as much as he	
FTLN 1177	deserves”?	
FTLN 1178	Did I deserve no more than a fool’s head?	
FTLN 1179	Is that my prize? Are my deserts no better?	65
	PORTIA	
FTLN 1180	To offend and judge are distinct offices	
FTLN 1181	And of opposèd natures.	
FTLN 1182	ARRAGON                      What is here?	
	<i>He reads.</i>	

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FTLN 1183	<i>The fire seven times tried this;</i>	
FTLN 1184	<i>Seven times tried that judgment is</i>	70
FTLN 1185	<i>That did never choose amiss.</i>	
FTLN 1186	<i>Some there be that shadows kiss;</i>	
FTLN 1187	<i>Such have but a shadow's bliss.</i>	
FTLN 1188	<i>There be fools alive, iwis,</i>	
FTLN 1189	<i>Silvered o'er—and so was this.</i>	75
FTLN 1190	<i>Take what wife you will to bed,</i>	
FTLN 1191	<i>I will ever be your head.</i>	
FTLN 1192	<i>So begone; you are sped.</i>	
FTLN 1193	Still more fool I shall appear	
FTLN 1194	By the time I linger here.	80
FTLN 1195	With one fool's head I came to woo,	
FTLN 1196	But I go away with two.	
FTLN 1197	Sweet, adieu. I'll keep my oath,	
FTLN 1198	Patiently to bear my wrath. <i>「He exits with his train.」</i>	
PORTIA		
FTLN 1199	Thus hath the candle singed the moth.	85
FTLN 1200	O, these deliberate fools, when they do choose,	
FTLN 1201	They have the wisdom by their wit to lose.	
NERISSA		
FTLN 1202	The ancient saying is no heresy:	
FTLN 1203	Hanging and wiving goes by destiny.	
FTLN 1204	PORTIA Come, draw the curtain, Nerissa.	90

*Enter Messenger.*

MESSENGER

FTLN 1205 Where is my lady?

FTLN 1206 PORTIA Here. What would my  
FTLN 1207 lord?

MESSENGER

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



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

PORTIA

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

NERISSA

FTLN 1223	Bassanio, Lord Love, if thy will it be!
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*They exit.*

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# 「ACT 3」

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## 「Scene 1」

「Enter」 *Solanio and Salarino.*

FTLN 1224	SOLANIO	Now, what news on the Rialto?	
FTLN 1225	SALARINO	Why, yet it lives there unchecked that Antonio	
FTLN 1226		hath a ship of rich lading wracked on the	
FTLN 1227		Narrow Seas—the Goodwins, I think they call the	
FTLN 1228		place—a very dangerous flat, and fatal, where the	5
FTLN 1229		carcasses of many a tall ship lie buried, as they say,	
FTLN 1230		if my gossip Report be an honest woman of her	
FTLN 1231		word.	
FTLN 1232	SOLANIO	I would she were as lying a gossip in that as	
FTLN 1233		ever knapped ginger or made her neighbors believe	10
FTLN 1234		she wept for the death of a third husband. But	
FTLN 1235		it is true, without any slips of prolixity or crossing	
FTLN 1236		the plain highway of talk, that the good Antonio,	
FTLN 1237		the honest Antonio—O, that I had a title good	
FTLN 1238		enough to keep his name company!—	15
FTLN 1239	SALARINO	Come, the full stop.	
FTLN 1240	SOLANIO	Ha, what sayest thou? Why, the end is, he	
FTLN 1241		hath lost a ship.	
FTLN 1242	SALARINO	I would it might prove the end of his losses.	
FTLN 1243	SOLANIO	Let me say “amen” betimes, lest the devil	20
FTLN 1244		cross my prayer, for here he comes in the likeness	
FTLN 1245		of a Jew.	

*Enter Shylock.*

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FTLN 1246       How now, Shylock, what news among the  
 FTLN 1247       merchants?

FTLN 1248   SHYLOCK   You knew, none so well, none so well as you,       25  
 FTLN 1249       of my daughter's flight.

FTLN 1250   SALARINO   That's certain. I for my part knew the tailor  
 FTLN 1251       that made the wings she flew withal.

FTLN 1252   SOLANIO   And Shylock for his own part knew the bird  
 FTLN 1253       was fledge, and then it is the complexion of them       30  
 FTLN 1254       all to leave the dam.

FTLN 1255   SHYLOCK   She is damned for it.

FTLN 1256   SALARINO   That's certain, if the devil may be her judge.

FTLN 1257   SHYLOCK   My own flesh and blood to rebel!

FTLN 1258   SOLANIO   Out upon it, old carrion! Rebels it at these       35  
 FTLN 1259       years?

FTLN 1260   SHYLOCK   I say my daughter is my flesh and my blood.

FTLN 1261   SALARINO   There is more difference between thy flesh  
 FTLN 1262       and hers than between jet and ivory, more between  
 FTLN 1263       your bloods than there is between red wine and       40  
 FTLN 1264       Rhenish. But tell us, do you hear whether Antonio  
 FTLN 1265       have had any loss at sea or no?

FTLN 1266   SHYLOCK   There I have another bad match! A bankrout,  
 FTLN 1267       a prodigal, who dare scarce show his head on  
 FTLN 1268       the Rialto, a beggar that was used to come so smug       45  
 FTLN 1269       upon the mart! Let him look to his bond. He was  
 FTLN 1270       wont to call me usurer; let him look to his bond. He  
 FTLN 1271       was wont to lend money for a Christian cur'sy; let  
 FTLN 1272       him look to his bond.

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

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

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

*Enter a man from Antonio.*

FTLN 1296 「SERVINGMAN」 Gentlemen, my master Antonio is at his  
 FTLN 1297 house and desires to speak with you both.  
 FTLN 1298 SALARINO We have been up and down to seek him. 75

*Enter Tubal.*

FTLN 1299 SOLANIO Here comes another of the tribe; a third  
 FTLN 1300 cannot be matched unless the devil himself turn  
 FTLN 1301 Jew.  
 「Salarino, Solanio, and the Servingman」 *exit.*  
 FTLN 1302 SHYLOCK How now, Tubal, what news from Genoa?  
 FTLN 1303 Hast thou found my daughter? 80  
 FTLN 1304 TUBAL I often came where I did hear of her, but  
 FTLN 1305 cannot find her.  
 FTLN 1306 SHYLOCK Why, there, there, there, there! A diamond  
 FTLN 1307 gone cost me two thousand ducats in Frankfurt!  
 FTLN 1308 The curse never fell upon our nation till now, I 85  
 FTLN 1309 never felt it till now. Two thousand ducats in that,  
 FTLN 1310 and other precious, precious jewels! I would my  
 FTLN 1311 daughter were dead at my foot and the jewels in her  
 FTLN 1312 ear; would she were hearsed at my foot and the

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FTLN 1313	ducats in her coffin. No news of them? Why so? And	90
FTLN 1314	I know not what's spent in the search! Why, thou	
FTLN 1315	loss upon loss! The thief gone with so much, and so	
FTLN 1316	much to find the thief, and no satisfaction, no	
FTLN 1317	revenge, nor no ill luck stirring but what lights a' my	
FTLN 1318	shoulders, no sighs but a' my breathing, no tears but	95
FTLN 1319	a' my shedding.	
FTLN 1320	TUBAL Yes, other men have ill luck, too. Antonio, as I	
FTLN 1321	heard in Genoa—	
FTLN 1322	SHYLOCK What, what, what? Ill luck, ill luck?	
FTLN 1323	TUBAL —hath an argosy cast away coming from	100
FTLN 1324	Tripolis.	
FTLN 1325	SHYLOCK I thank God, I thank God! Is it true, is it true?	
FTLN 1326	TUBAL I spoke with some of the sailors that escaped	
FTLN 1327	the wrack.	
FTLN 1328	SHYLOCK I thank thee, good Tubal. Good news, good	105
FTLN 1329	news! Ha, ha, 'heard' in Genoa—	
FTLN 1330	TUBAL Your daughter spent in Genoa, as I heard, one	
FTLN 1331	night fourscore ducats.	
FTLN 1332	SHYLOCK Thou stick'st a dagger in me. I shall never	
FTLN 1333	see my gold again. Fourscore ducats at a sitting,	110
FTLN 1334	fourscore ducats!	
FTLN 1335	TUBAL There came divers of Antonio's creditors in my	
FTLN 1336	company to Venice that swear he cannot choose	
FTLN 1337	but break.	
FTLN 1338	SHYLOCK I am very glad of it. I'll plague him, I'll	115
FTLN 1339	torture him. I am glad of it.	
FTLN 1340	TUBAL One of them showed me a ring that he had of	
FTLN 1341	your daughter for a monkey.	
FTLN 1342	SHYLOCK Out upon her! Thou torturest me, Tubal. It	
FTLN 1343	was my 'turquoise!' I had it of Leah when I was a	120
FTLN 1344	bachelor. I would not have given it for a wilderness	
FTLN 1345	of monkeys.	
FTLN 1346	TUBAL But Antonio is certainly undone.	
FTLN 1347	SHYLOCK Nay, that's true, that's very true. Go, Tubal,	
FTLN 1348	fee me an officer. Bespeak him a fortnight before. I	125

FTLN 1349 will have the heart of him if he forfeit, for were he  
 FTLN 1350 out of Venice I can make what merchandise I will.  
 FTLN 1351 Go, Tubal, and meet me at our synagogue. Go, good  
 FTLN 1352 Tubal, at our synagogue, Tubal.

*They exit.*

「Scene 2」

*Enter Bassanio, Portia, and all their trains, Gratiano,*

*「Nerissa.」*

PORTIA

FTLN 1353	I pray you tarry, pause a day or two	
FTLN 1354	Before you hazard, for in choosing wrong	
FTLN 1355	I lose your company; therefore forbear a while.	
FTLN 1356	There's something tells me (but it is not love)	
FTLN 1357	I would not lose you, and you know yourself	5
FTLN 1358	Hate counsels not in such a quality.	
FTLN 1359	But lest you should not understand me well	
FTLN 1360	(And yet a maiden hath no tongue but thought)	
FTLN 1361	I would detain you here some month or two	
FTLN 1362	Before you venture for me. I could teach you	10
FTLN 1363	How to choose right, but then I am forsworn.	
FTLN 1364	So will I never be. So may you miss me.	
FTLN 1365	But if you do, you'll make me wish a sin,	
FTLN 1366	That I had been forsworn. Beshrew your eyes,	
FTLN 1367	They have o'erlooked me and divided me.	15
FTLN 1368	One half of me is yours, the other half yours—	
FTLN 1369	Mine own, I would say—but if mine, then yours,	
FTLN 1370	And so all yours. O, these naughty times	
FTLN 1371	Puts bars between the owners and their rights!	
FTLN 1372	And so though yours, not yours. Prove it so,	20
FTLN 1373	Let Fortune go to hell for it, not I.	
FTLN 1374	I speak too long, but 'tis to peize the time,	
FTLN 1375	To eche it, and to draw it out in length,	
FTLN 1376	To stay you from election.	

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FTLN 1377	BASSANIO	Let me choose,	25
FTLN 1378		For as I am, I live upon the rack.	
	PORTIA		
FTLN 1379		Upon the rack, Bassanio? Then confess	
FTLN 1380		What treason there is mingled with your love.	
	BASSANIO		
FTLN 1381		None but that ugly treason of mistrust,	
FTLN 1382		Which makes me fear th' enjoying of my love.	30
FTLN 1383		There may as well be amity and life	
FTLN 1384		'Tween snow and fire, as treason and my love.	
	PORTIA		
FTLN 1385		Ay, but I fear you speak upon the rack	
FTLN 1386		Where men enforcèd do speak anything.	
	BASSANIO		
FTLN 1387		Promise me life and I'll confess the truth.	35
	PORTIA		
FTLN 1388		Well, then, confess and live.	
FTLN 1389	BASSANIO	"Confess and love"	
FTLN 1390		Had been the very sum of my confession.	
FTLN 1391		O happy torment, when my torturer	
FTLN 1392		Doth teach me answers for deliverance!	40
FTLN 1393		But let me to my fortune and the caskets.	
	PORTIA		
FTLN 1394		Away, then. I am locked in one of them.	
FTLN 1395		If you do love me, you will find me out.—	
FTLN 1396		Nerissa and the rest, stand all aloof.	
FTLN 1397		Let music sound while he doth make his choice.	45
FTLN 1398		Then if he lose he makes a swanlike end,	
FTLN 1399		Fading in music. That the comparison	
FTLN 1400		May stand more proper, my eye shall be the stream	
FTLN 1401		And wat'ry deathbed for him. He may win,	
FTLN 1402		And what is music then? Then music is	50
FTLN 1403		Even as the flourish when true subjects bow	
FTLN 1404		To a new-crownèd monarch. Such it is	
FTLN 1405		As are those dulcet sounds in break of day	
FTLN 1406		That creep into the dreaming bridegroom's ear	
FTLN 1407		And summon him to marriage. Now he goes,	55

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FTLN 1408 With no less presence but with much more love  
 FTLN 1409 Than young Alcides when he did redeem  
 FTLN 1410 The virgin tribute paid by howling Troy  
 FTLN 1411 To the sea-monster. I stand for sacrifice;  
 FTLN 1412 The rest aloof are the Dardanian wives, 60  
 FTLN 1413 With bleared visages, come forth to view  
 FTLN 1414 The issue of th' exploit. Go, Hercules!  
 FTLN 1415 Live thou, I live. With much much more dismay  
 FTLN 1416 I view the fight than thou that mak'st the fray.

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

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

BASSANIO

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



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

[*Bassanio is given a key.*]

PORTIA, [*aside*]

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

[*Bassanio opens the lead casket.*]

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

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

FTLN 1507	I would not be ambitious in my wish	155
FTLN 1508	To wish myself much better, yet for you	
FTLN 1509	I would be trebled twenty times myself,	
FTLN 1510	A thousand times more fair, ten thousand times	
FTLN 1511	More rich, that only to stand high in your account	
FTLN 1512	I might in virtues, beauties, livings, friends,	160
FTLN 1513	Exceed account. But the full sum of me	
FTLN 1514	Is sum of something, which, to term in gross,	
FTLN 1515	Is an unlessoned girl, unschooled, unpracticed;	
FTLN 1516	Happy in this, she is not yet so old	
FTLN 1517	But she may learn; happier than this,	165
FTLN 1518	She is not bred so dull but she can learn;	
FTLN 1519	Happiest of all, is that her gentle spirit	
FTLN 1520	Commits itself to yours to be directed	
FTLN 1521	As from her lord, her governor, her king.	
FTLN 1522	Myself, and what is mine, to you and yours	170
FTLN 1523	Is now converted. But now I was the lord	
FTLN 1524	Of this fair mansion, master of my servants,	
FTLN 1525	Queen o'er myself; and even now, but now,	
FTLN 1526	This house, these servants, and this same myself	
FTLN 1527	Are yours, my lord's. I give them with this ring,	175
	<i>Handing him a ring.</i>	
FTLN 1528	Which, when you part from, lose, or give away,	
FTLN 1529	Let it presage the ruin of your love,	
FTLN 1530	And be my vantage to exclaim on you.	
	BASSANIO	
FTLN 1531	Madam, you have bereft me of all words.	
FTLN 1532	Only my blood speaks to you in my veins,	180
FTLN 1533	And there is such confusion in my powers	
FTLN 1534	As after some oration fairly spoke	
FTLN 1535	By a belovèd prince there doth appear	
FTLN 1536	Among the buzzing pleasèd multitude,	
FTLN 1537	Where every something being blent together	185
FTLN 1538	Turns to a wild of nothing, save of joy	
FTLN 1539	Expressed and not expressed. But when this ring	
FTLN 1540	Parts from this finger, then parts life from hence.	
FTLN 1541	O, then be bold to say Bassanio's dead!	

NERISSA

FTLN 1542 My lord and lady, it is now our time, 190  
FTLN 1543 That have stood by and seen our wishes prosper,  
FTLN 1544 To cry "Good joy, good joy, my lord and lady!"

GRATIANO

FTLN 1545 My Lord Bassanio, and my gentle lady,  
FTLN 1546 I wish you all the joy that you can wish,  
FTLN 1547 For I am sure you can wish none from me. 195  
FTLN 1548 And when your honors mean to solemnize  
FTLN 1549 The bargain of your faith, I do beseech you  
FTLN 1550 Even at that time I may be married too.

BASSANIO

FTLN 1551 With all my heart, so thou canst get a wife.

GRATIANO

FTLN 1552 I thank your Lordship, you have got me one. 200  
FTLN 1553 My eyes, my lord, can look as swift as yours:  
FTLN 1554 You saw the mistress, I beheld the maid.  
FTLN 1555 You loved, I loved; for intermission  
FTLN 1556 No more pertains to me, my lord, than you.  
FTLN 1557 Your fortune stood upon the caskets there, 205  
FTLN 1558 And so did mine, too, as the matter falls.  
FTLN 1559 For wooing here until I sweat again,  
FTLN 1560 And swearing till my very roof was dry  
FTLN 1561 With oaths of love, at last (if promise last)  
FTLN 1562 I got a promise of this fair one here 210  
FTLN 1563 To have her love, provided that your fortune  
FTLN 1564 Achieved her mistress.

FTLN 1565 PORTIA Is this true, Nerissa?

NERISSA

FTLN 1566 Madam, it is, so you stand pleased withal.

BASSANIO

FTLN 1567 And do you, Gratiano, mean good faith? 215

FTLN 1568 GRATIANO Yes, faith, my lord.

BASSANIO

FTLN 1569 Our feast shall be much honored in your marriage.

FTLN 1570 GRATIANO We'll play with them the first boy for a  
FTLN 1571 thousand ducats.

FTLN 1572 NERISSA What, and stake down? 220  
 FTLN 1573 GRATIANO No, we shall ne'er win at that sport and  
 FTLN 1574 stake down.

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

FTLN 1575 But who comes here? Lorenzo and his infidel?  
 FTLN 1576 What, and my old Venetian friend Salerio?

BASSANIO

FTLN 1577 Lorenzo and Salerio, welcome hither— 225  
 FTLN 1578 If that the youth of my new int'rest here  
 FTLN 1579 Have power to bid you welcome. *['To Portia.']* By  
 FTLN 1580 your leave,  
 FTLN 1581 I bid my very friends and countrymen,  
 FTLN 1582 Sweet Portia, welcome. 230

PORTIA

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

LORENZO, *['to Bassanio']*

FTLN 1584 I thank your Honor. For my part, my lord,  
 FTLN 1585 My purpose was not to have seen you here,  
 FTLN 1586 But meeting with Salerio by the way,  
 FTLN 1587 He did entreat me past all saying nay 235  
 FTLN 1588 To come with him along.

FTLN 1589 SALERIO I did, my lord,  
 FTLN 1590 And I have reason for it. *['Handing him a paper.']*  
 FTLN 1591 Signior Antonio

FTLN 1592 Commends him to you. 240

FTLN 1593 BASSANIO Ere I ope his letter,  
 FTLN 1594 I pray you tell me how my good friend doth.

SALERIO

FTLN 1595 Not sick, my lord, unless it be in mind,  
 FTLN 1596 Nor well, unless in mind. His letter there  
 FTLN 1597 Will show you his estate. 245

*['Bassanio'] opens the letter.*

GRATIANO

FTLN 1598 Nerissa, cheer yond stranger, bid her welcome.—  
 FTLN 1599 Your hand, Salerio. What's the news from Venice?

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FTLN 1600	How doth that royal merchant, good Antonio?	
FTLN 1601	I know he will be glad of our success.	
FTLN 1602	We are the Jasons, we have won the Fleece.	250
	SALERIO	
FTLN 1603	I would you had won the fleece that he hath lost.	
	PORTIA	
FTLN 1604	There are some shrewd contents in yond same	
FTLN 1605	paper	
FTLN 1606	That steals the color from Bassanio's cheek.	
FTLN 1607	Some dear friend dead, else nothing in the world	255
FTLN 1608	Could turn so much the constitution	
FTLN 1609	Of any constant man. What, worse and worse?—	
FTLN 1610	With leave, Bassanio, I am half yourself,	
FTLN 1611	And I must freely have the half of anything	
FTLN 1612	That this same paper brings you.	260
FTLN 1613	BASSANIO O sweet Portia,	
FTLN 1614	Here are a few of the unpleasant'st words	
FTLN 1615	That ever blotted paper. Gentle lady,	
FTLN 1616	When I did first impart my love to you,	
FTLN 1617	I freely told you all the wealth I had	265
FTLN 1618	Ran in my veins: I was a gentleman.	
FTLN 1619	And then I told you true; and yet, dear lady,	
FTLN 1620	Rating myself at nothing, you shall see	
FTLN 1621	How much I was a braggart. When I told you	
FTLN 1622	My state was nothing, I should then have told you	270
FTLN 1623	That I was worse than nothing; for indeed	
FTLN 1624	I have engaged myself to a dear friend,	
FTLN 1625	Engaged my friend to his mere enemy	
FTLN 1626	To feed my means. Here is a letter, lady,	
FTLN 1627	The paper as the body of my friend,	275
FTLN 1628	And every word in it a gaping wound	
FTLN 1629	Issuing life blood.—But is it true, Salerio?	
FTLN 1630	Hath all his ventures failed? What, not one hit?	
FTLN 1631	From Tripolis, from Mexico and England,	
FTLN 1632	From Lisbon, Barbary, and India,	280
FTLN 1633	And not one vessel 'scape the dreadful touch	
FTLN 1634	Of merchant-marring rocks?	

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FTLN 1635	SALERIO	Not one, my lord.	
FTLN 1636		Besides, it should appear that if he had	
FTLN 1637		The present money to discharge the Jew,	285
FTLN 1638		He would not take it. Never did I know	
FTLN 1639		A creature that did bear the shape of man	
FTLN 1640		So keen and greedy to confound a man.	
FTLN 1641		He plies the Duke at morning and at night,	
FTLN 1642		And doth impeach the freedom of the state	290
FTLN 1643		If they deny him justice. Twenty merchants,	
FTLN 1644		The Duke himself, and the magnificoes	
FTLN 1645		Of greatest port have all persuaded with him,	
FTLN 1646		But none can drive him from the envious plea	
FTLN 1647		Of forfeiture, of justice, and his bond.	295
	JESSICA		
FTLN 1648		When I was with him, I have heard him swear	
FTLN 1649		To Tubal and to Chus, his countrymen,	
FTLN 1650		That he would rather have Antonio's flesh	
FTLN 1651		Than twenty times the value of the sum	
FTLN 1652		That he did owe him. And I know, my lord,	300
FTLN 1653		If law, authority, and power deny not,	
FTLN 1654		It will go hard with poor Antonio.	
	PORTIA		
FTLN 1655		Is it your dear friend that is thus in trouble?	
	BASSANIO		
FTLN 1656		The dearest friend to me, the kindest man,	
FTLN 1657		The best conditioned and unwearied spirit	305
FTLN 1658		In doing courtesies, and one in whom	
FTLN 1659		The ancient Roman honor more appears	
FTLN 1660		Than any that draws breath in Italy.	
FTLN 1661	PORTIA	What sum owes he the Jew?	
	BASSANIO		
FTLN 1662		For me, three thousand ducats.	310
FTLN 1663	PORTIA	What, no more?	
FTLN 1664		Pay him six thousand and deface the bond.	
FTLN 1665		Double six thousand and then treble that,	
FTLN 1666		Before a friend of this description	
FTLN 1667		Shall lose a hair through Bassanio's fault.	315

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

「BASSANIO reads」

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

PORTIA

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

BASSANIO

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

*They exit.*

「Scene 3」

*Enter 「Shylock,」 the Jew, and 「Solanio,」 and Antonio,  
 and the Jailer.*

SHYLOCK

FTLN 1692 Jailer, look to him. Tell not me of mercy.



FTLN 1693	This is the fool that lent out money gratis.	
FTLN 1694	Jailer, look to him.	
FTLN 1695	ANTONIO                      Hear me yet, good Shylock—	
	SHYLOCK	
FTLN 1696	I'll have my bond. Speak not against my bond.	5
FTLN 1697	I have sworn an oath that I will have my bond.	
FTLN 1698	Thou call'dst me dog before thou hadst a cause,	
FTLN 1699	But since I am a dog, beware my fangs.	
FTLN 1700	The Duke shall grant me justice.—I do wonder,	
FTLN 1701	Thou naughty jailer, that thou art so fond	10
FTLN 1702	To come abroad with him at his request.	
FTLN 1703	ANTONIO    I pray thee, hear me speak—	
	SHYLOCK	
FTLN 1704	I'll have my bond. I will not hear thee speak.	
FTLN 1705	I'll have my bond, and therefore speak no more.	
FTLN 1706	I'll not be made a soft and dull-eyed fool,	15
FTLN 1707	To shake the head, relent, and sigh, and yield	
FTLN 1708	To Christian intercessors. Follow not!	
FTLN 1709	I'll have no speaking. I will have my bond. <i>He exits.</i>	
	SOLANIO	
FTLN 1710	It is the most impenetrable cur	
FTLN 1711	That ever kept with men.	20
FTLN 1712	ANTONIO                      Let him alone.	
FTLN 1713	I'll follow him no more with bootless prayers.	
FTLN 1714	He seeks my life. His reason well I know:	
FTLN 1715	I oft delivered from his forfeitures	
FTLN 1716	Many that have at times made moan to me.	25
FTLN 1717	Therefore he hates me.	
FTLN 1718	SOLANIO                      I am sure the Duke	
FTLN 1719	Will never grant this forfeiture to hold.	
	ANTONIO	
FTLN 1720	The Duke cannot deny the course of law,	
FTLN 1721	For the commodity that strangers have	30
FTLN 1722	With us in Venice, if it be denied,	
FTLN 1723	Will much impeach the justice of the state,	
FTLN 1724	Since that the trade and profit of the city	

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

*They exit.*

「Scene 4」

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

LORENZO

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

PORTIA

FTLN 1740 I never did repent for doing good, 10  
 FTLN 1741 Nor shall not now; for in companions  
 FTLN 1742 That do converse and waste the time together,  
 FTLN 1743 Whose souls do bear an equal yoke of love,  
 FTLN 1744 There must be needs a like proportion  
 FTLN 1745 Of lineaments, of manners, and of spirit; 15  
 FTLN 1746 Which makes me think that this Antonio,  
 FTLN 1747 Being the bosom lover of my lord,  
 FTLN 1748 Must needs be like my lord. If it be so,  
 FTLN 1749 How little is the cost I have bestowed  
 FTLN 1750 In purchasing the semblance of my soul 20  
 FTLN 1751 From out the state of hellish cruelty!

FTLN 1752	This comes too near the praising of myself;	
FTLN 1753	Therefore no more of it. Hear other things:	
FTLN 1754	Lorenzo, I commit into your hands	
FTLN 1755	The husbandry and manage of my house	25
FTLN 1756	Until my lord's return. For mine own part,	
FTLN 1757	I have toward heaven breathed a secret vow	
FTLN 1758	To live in prayer and contemplation,	
FTLN 1759	Only attended by Nerissa here,	
FTLN 1760	Until her husband and my lord's return.	30
FTLN 1761	There is a monastery two miles off,	
FTLN 1762	And there we will abide. I do desire you	
FTLN 1763	Not to deny this imposition,	
FTLN 1764	The which my love and some necessity	
FTLN 1765	Now lays upon you.	35
FTLN 1766	LORENZO                      Madam, with all my heart.	
FTLN 1767	I shall obey you in all fair commands.	
	PORTIA	
FTLN 1768	My people do already know my mind	
FTLN 1769	And will acknowledge you and Jessica	
FTLN 1770	In place of Lord Bassanio and myself.	40
FTLN 1771	So fare you well till we shall meet again.	
	LORENZO	
FTLN 1772	Fair thoughts and happy hours attend on you!	
	JESSICA	
FTLN 1773	I wish your Ladyship all heart's content.	
	PORTIA	
FTLN 1774	I thank you for your wish, and am well pleased	
FTLN 1775	To wish it back on you. Fare you well, Jessica.	45
	<i>「Lorenzo and Jessica」 exit.</i>	
FTLN 1776	Now, Balthazar,	
FTLN 1777	As I have ever found thee honest true,	
FTLN 1778	So let me find thee still: take this same letter,	
FTLN 1779	And use thou all th' endeavor of a man	
FTLN 1780	In speed to 「Padua.」 See thou render this	50
FTLN 1781	Into my 「cousin's」 hands, Doctor Bellario.	
	<i>「She gives him a paper.」</i>	

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FTLN 1782	And look what notes and garments he doth give	
FTLN 1783	thee,	
FTLN 1784	Bring them, I pray thee, with imagined speed	
FTLN 1785	Unto the 'traject,' to the common ferry	55
FTLN 1786	Which trades to Venice. Waste no time in words,	
FTLN 1787	But get thee gone. I shall be there before thee.	
	BALTHAZAR	
FTLN 1788	Madam, I go with all convenient speed. <i>'He exits.'</i>	
	PORTIA	
FTLN 1789	Come on, Nerissa, I have work in hand	
FTLN 1790	That you yet know not of. We'll see our husbands	60
FTLN 1791	Before they think of us.	
FTLN 1792	NERISSA                                      Shall they see us?	
	PORTIA	
FTLN 1793	They shall, Nerissa, but in such a habit	
FTLN 1794	That they shall think we are accomplished	
FTLN 1795	With that we lack. I'll hold thee any wager,	65
FTLN 1796	When we are both accoutered like young men,	
FTLN 1797	I'll prove the prettier fellow of the two,	
FTLN 1798	And wear my dagger with the braver grace,	
FTLN 1799	And speak between the change of man and boy	
FTLN 1800	With a reed voice, and turn two mincing steps	70
FTLN 1801	Into a manly stride, and speak of frays	
FTLN 1802	Like a fine bragging youth, and tell quaint lies	
FTLN 1803	How honorable ladies sought my love,	
FTLN 1804	Which I denying, they fell sick and died—	
FTLN 1805	I could not do withal!—then I'll repent,	75
FTLN 1806	And wish, for all that, that I had not killed them.	
FTLN 1807	And twenty of these puny lies I'll tell,	
FTLN 1808	That men shall swear I have discontinued school	
FTLN 1809	Above a twelvemonth. I have within my mind	
FTLN 1810	A thousand raw tricks of these bragging jacks	80
FTLN 1811	Which I will practice.	
FTLN 1812	NERISSA                                      Why, shall we turn to men?	
FTLN 1813	PORTIA    Fie, what a question's that,	
FTLN 1814	If thou wert near a lewd interpreter!	

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

*They exit.*

「Scene 5」

*Enter 「Lancelet, the」 Clown, and Jessica.*

FTLN 1819 LANCELET Yes, truly, for look you, the sins of the father  
 FTLN 1820 are to be laid upon the children. Therefore I  
 FTLN 1821 promise you I fear you. I was always plain with you,  
 FTLN 1822 and so now I speak my agitation of the matter.  
 FTLN 1823 Therefore be o' good cheer, for truly I think you 5  
 FTLN 1824 are damned. There is but one hope in it that can do  
 FTLN 1825 you any good, and that is but a kind of bastard hope  
 FTLN 1826 neither.  
 FTLN 1827 JESSICA And what hope is that, I pray thee?  
 FTLN 1828 LANCELET Marry, you may partly hope that your father 10  
 FTLN 1829 got you not, that you are not the Jew's daughter.  
 FTLN 1830 JESSICA That were a kind of bastard hope indeed; so  
 FTLN 1831 the sins of my mother should be visited upon me!  
 FTLN 1832 LANCELET Truly, then, I fear you are damned both by  
 FTLN 1833 father and mother; thus when I shun Scylla your 15  
 FTLN 1834 father, I fall into Charybdis your mother. Well, you  
 FTLN 1835 are gone both ways.  
 FTLN 1836 JESSICA I shall be saved by my husband. He hath made  
 FTLN 1837 me a Christian.  
 FTLN 1838 LANCELET Truly the more to blame he! We were Christians 20  
 FTLN 1839 enow before, e'en as many as could well live  
 FTLN 1840 one by another. This making of Christians will  
 FTLN 1841 raise the price of hogs. If we grow all to be pork  
 FTLN 1842 eaters, we shall not shortly have a rasher on the  
 FTLN 1843 coals for money. 25

*Enter Lorenzo.*

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FTLN 1844	JESSICA	I'll tell my husband, Lancelet, what you say.	
FTLN 1845		Here he 「comes.」	
FTLN 1846	LORENZO	I shall grow jealous of you shortly, Lancelet,	
FTLN 1847		if you thus get my wife into corners!	
FTLN 1848	JESSICA	Nay, you need not fear us, Lorenzo. Lancelet	30
FTLN 1849		and I are out. He tells me flatly there's no mercy for	
FTLN 1850		me in heaven because I am a Jew's daughter; and	
FTLN 1851		he says you are no good member of the commonwealth,	
FTLN 1852		for in converting Jews to Christians you	
FTLN 1853		raise the price of pork.	35
FTLN 1854	LORENZO	I shall answer that better to the commonwealth	
FTLN 1855		than you can the getting up of the Negro's	
FTLN 1856		belly! The Moor is with child by you, Lancelet.	
FTLN 1857	LANCELET	It is much that the Moor should be more	
FTLN 1858		than reason; but if she be less than an honest	40
FTLN 1859		woman, she is indeed more than I took her for.	
FTLN 1860	LORENZO	How every fool can play upon the word! I	
FTLN 1861		think the best grace of wit will shortly turn into	
FTLN 1862		silence, and discourse grow commendable in none	
FTLN 1863		only but parrots. Go in, sirrah, bid them prepare for	45
FTLN 1864		dinner.	
FTLN 1865	LANCELET	That is done, sir. They have all stomachs.	
FTLN 1866	LORENZO	Goodly Lord, what a wit-snapper are you!	
FTLN 1867		Then bid them prepare dinner.	
FTLN 1868	LANCELET	That is done too, sir, only "cover" is the	50
FTLN 1869		word.	
FTLN 1870	LORENZO	Will you cover, then, sir?	
FTLN 1871	LANCELET	Not so, sir, neither! I know my duty.	
FTLN 1872	LORENZO	Yet more quarreling with occasion! Wilt	
FTLN 1873		thou show the whole wealth of thy wit in an	55
FTLN 1874		instant? I pray thee understand a plain man in his	
FTLN 1875		plain meaning: go to thy fellows, bid them cover the	
FTLN 1876		table, serve in the meat, and we will come in to	
FTLN 1877		dinner.	
FTLN 1878	LANCELET	For the table, sir, it shall be served in; for	60
FTLN 1879		the meat, sir, it shall be covered; for your coming in	

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

LORENZO

FTLN 1882 O dear discretion, how his words are suited!  
 FTLN 1883 The fool hath planted in his memory 65  
 FTLN 1884 An army of good words, and I do know  
 FTLN 1885 A many fools that stand in better place,  
 FTLN 1886 Garnished like him, that for a tricky word  
 FTLN 1887 Defy the matter. How cheer'st thou, Jessica?  
 FTLN 1888 And now, good sweet, say thy opinion 70  
 FTLN 1889 How dost thou like the Lord Bassanio's wife?

JESSICA

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

FTLN 1901 LORENZO Even such a husband  
 FTLN 1902 Hast thou of me as she is for *「a」* wife.

JESSICA

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

LORENZO

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

JESSICA

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

LORENZO

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

FTLN 1909 JESSICA Well, I'll set you forth.

*「They」 exit.*

## 「ACT 4」

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### 「Scene 1」

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

FTLN 1910 DUKE What, is Antonio here?

FTLN 1911 ANTONIO Ready, so please your Grace.

DUKE

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

FTLN 1913 A stony adversary, an inhuman wretch,

FTLN 1914 Uncapable of pity, void and empty 5

FTLN 1915 From any dram of mercy.

FTLN 1916 ANTONIO I have heard

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

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

FTLN 1919 And that no lawful means can carry me 10

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

FTLN 1921 My patience to his fury, and am armed

FTLN 1922 To suffer with a quietness of spirit

FTLN 1923 The very tyranny and rage of his.

DUKE

FTLN 1924 Go, one, and call the Jew into the court. 15

SALERIO

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

*Enter Shylock.*

DUKE

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



FTLN 1927	Shylock, the world thinks, and I think so too,	
FTLN 1928	That thou but ledest this fashion of thy malice	
FTLN 1929	To the last hour of act, and then, 'tis thought,	20
FTLN 1930	Thou 'lt show thy mercy and remorse more strange	
FTLN 1931	Than is thy strange apparent cruelty;	
FTLN 1932	And where thou now exacts the penalty,	
FTLN 1933	Which is a pound of this poor merchant's flesh,	
FTLN 1934	Thou wilt not only loose the forfeiture,	25
FTLN 1935	But, touched with humane gentleness and love,	
FTLN 1936	Forgive a moi'ty of the principal,	
FTLN 1937	Glancing an eye of pity on his losses	
FTLN 1938	That have of late so huddled on his back,	
FTLN 1939	Enow to press a royal merchant down	30
FTLN 1940	And pluck commiseration of 'his state'	
FTLN 1941	From brassy bosoms and rough hearts of 'flint,'	
FTLN 1942	From stubborn Turks, and Tartars never trained	
FTLN 1943	To offices of tender courtesy.	
FTLN 1944	We all expect a gentle answer, Jew.	35
SHYLOCK		
FTLN 1945	I have possessed your Grace of what I purpose,	
FTLN 1946	And by our holy Sabbath have I sworn	
FTLN 1947	To have the due and forfeit of my bond.	
FTLN 1948	If you deny it, let the danger light	
FTLN 1949	Upon your charter and your city's freedom!	40
FTLN 1950	You'll ask me why I rather choose to have	
FTLN 1951	A weight of carrion flesh than to receive	
FTLN 1952	Three thousand ducats. I'll not answer that,	
FTLN 1953	But say it is my humor. Is it answered?	
FTLN 1954	What if my house be troubled with a rat,	45
FTLN 1955	And I be pleased to give ten thousand ducats	
FTLN 1956	To have it baned? What, are you answered yet?	
FTLN 1957	Some men there are love not a gaping pig,	
FTLN 1958	Some that are mad if they behold a cat,	
FTLN 1959	And others, when the bagpipe sings i' th' nose,	50
FTLN 1960	Cannot contain their urine; for affection	
FTLN 1961	Masters 'oft' passion, sways it to the mood	

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FTLN 1962	Of what it likes or loathes. Now for your answer:	
FTLN 1963	As there is no firm reason to be rendered	
FTLN 1964	Why he cannot abide a gaping pig,	55
FTLN 1965	Why he a harmless necessary cat,	
FTLN 1966	Why he a woolen bagpipe, but of force	
FTLN 1967	Must yield to such inevitable shame	
FTLN 1968	As to offend, himself being offended,	
FTLN 1969	So can I give no reason, nor I will not,	60
FTLN 1970	More than a lodged hate and a certain loathing	
FTLN 1971	I bear Antonio, that I follow thus	
FTLN 1972	A losing suit against him. Are you answered?	
	BASSANIO	
FTLN 1973	This is no answer, thou unfeeling man,	
FTLN 1974	To excuse the current of thy cruelty.	65
	SHYLOCK	
FTLN 1975	I am not bound to please thee with my answers.	
	BASSANIO	
FTLN 1976	Do all men kill the things they do not love?	
	SHYLOCK	
FTLN 1977	Hates any man the thing he would not kill?	
	BASSANIO	
FTLN 1978	Every offence is not a hate at first.	
	SHYLOCK	
FTLN 1979	What, wouldst thou have a serpent sting thee twice?	70
	ANTONIO, 「to Bassanio」	
FTLN 1980	I pray you, think you question with the Jew.	
FTLN 1981	You may as well go stand upon the beach	
FTLN 1982	And bid the main flood bate his usual height;	
FTLN 1983	You may as well use question with the wolf	
FTLN 1984	Why he hath made the ewe 「bleat」 for the lamb;	75
FTLN 1985	You may as well forbid the mountain pines	
FTLN 1986	To wag their high tops and to make no noise	
FTLN 1987	When they are fretten with the gusts of heaven;	
FTLN 1988	You may as well do anything most hard	
FTLN 1989	As seek to soften that than which what's harder?—	80
FTLN 1990	His Jewish heart. Therefore I do beseech you	

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FTLN 1991	Make no more offers, use no farther means,	
FTLN 1992	But with all brief and plain conveniency	
FTLN 1993	Let me have judgment and the Jew his will.	
	BASSANIO	
FTLN 1994	For thy three thousand ducats here is six.	85
	SHYLOCK	
FTLN 1995	If every ducat in six thousand ducats	
FTLN 1996	Were in six parts, and every part a ducat,	
FTLN 1997	I would not draw them. I would have my bond.	
	DUKE	
FTLN 1998	How shalt thou hope for mercy, rend'ring none?	
	SHYLOCK	
FTLN 1999	What judgment shall I dread, doing no wrong?	90
FTLN 2000	You have among you many a purchased slave,	
FTLN 2001	Which, like your asses and your dogs and mules,	
FTLN 2002	You use in abject and in slavish parts	
FTLN 2003	Because you bought them. Shall I say to you	
FTLN 2004	"Let them be free! Marry them to your heirs!	95
FTLN 2005	Why sweat they under burdens? Let their beds	
FTLN 2006	Be made as soft as yours, and let their palates	
FTLN 2007	Be seasoned with such viands"? You will answer	
FTLN 2008	"The slaves are ours!" So do I answer you:	
FTLN 2009	The pound of flesh which I demand of him	100
FTLN 2010	Is dearly bought; 'tis mine and I will have it.	
FTLN 2011	If you deny me, fie upon your law:	
FTLN 2012	There is no force in the decrees of Venice.	
FTLN 2013	I stand for judgment. Answer: shall I have it?	
	DUKE	
FTLN 2014	Upon my power I may dismiss this court	105
FTLN 2015	Unless Bellario, a learnèd doctor	
FTLN 2016	Whom I have sent for to determine this,	
FTLN 2017	Come here today.	
FTLN 2018	SALERIO                      My lord, here stays without	
FTLN 2019	A messenger with letters from the doctor,	110
FTLN 2020	New come from Padua.	

DUKE

FTLN 2021     Bring us the letters. Call the messenger.

BASSANIO

FTLN 2022     Good cheer, Antonio! What, man, courage yet!

FTLN 2023     The Jew shall have my flesh, blood, bones, and all

FTLN 2024     Ere thou shalt lose for me one drop of blood! 115

ANTONIO

FTLN 2025     I am a tainted wether of the flock,

FTLN 2026     Meetest for death. The weakest kind of fruit

FTLN 2027     Drops earliest to the ground, and so let me.

FTLN 2028     You cannot better be employed, Bassanio,

FTLN 2029     Than to live still and write mine epitaph. 120

*Enter Nerissa, [disguised as a lawyer's clerk.]*

DUKE

FTLN 2030     Came you from Padua, from Bellario?

NERISSA, *[as Clerk]*

FTLN 2031     From both, my lord. Bellario greets your Grace.

*[Handing him a paper, which he reads, aside, while  
Shylock sharpens his knife on the sole of his shoe.]*

BASSANIO

FTLN 2032     Why dost thou whet thy knife so earnestly?

SHYLOCK

FTLN 2033     To cut the forfeiture from that bankrout there.

GRATIANO

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

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

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

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

SHYLOCK

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

GRATIANO

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

FTLN 2040     And for thy life let justice be accused;

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

FTLN 2042     To hold opinion with Pythagoras

FTLN 2043	That souls of animals infuse themselves	
FTLN 2044	Into the trunks of men. Thy currish spirit	135
FTLN 2045	Governed a wolf who, hanged for human slaughter,	
FTLN 2046	Even from the gallows did his fell soul fleet,	
FTLN 2047	And whilst thou layest in thy unhallowed dam,	
FTLN 2048	Infused itself in thee, for thy desires	
FTLN 2049	Are wolfish, bloody, starved, and ravenous.	140
	SHYLOCK	
FTLN 2050	Till thou canst rail the seal from off my bond,	
FTLN 2051	Thou but offend'st thy lungs to speak so loud.	
FTLN 2052	Repair thy wit, good youth, or it will fall	
FTLN 2053	To cureless ruin. I stand here for law.	
	DUKE	
FTLN 2054	This letter from Bellario doth commend	145
FTLN 2055	A young and learned doctor to our court.	
FTLN 2056	Where is he?	
FTLN 2057	NERISSA, <i>['as Clerk']</i> He attendeth here hard by	
FTLN 2058	To know your answer whether you'll admit him.	
	DUKE	
FTLN 2059	With all my heart.—Some three or four of you	150
FTLN 2060	Go give him courteous conduct to this place.	
	<i>['Attendants exit.']</i>	
FTLN 2061	Meantime the court shall hear Bellario's letter.	
	<i>['He reads.']</i>	
FTLN 2062	<i>Your Grace shall understand that, at the receipt of</i>	
FTLN 2063	<i>your letter, I am very sick, but in the instant that your</i>	
FTLN 2064	<i>messenger came, in loving visitation was with me a</i>	155
FTLN 2065	<i>young doctor of Rome. His name is Balthazar. I</i>	
FTLN 2066	<i>acquainted him with the cause in controversy between</i>	
FTLN 2067	<i>the Jew and Antonio the merchant. We turned o'er</i>	
FTLN 2068	<i>many books together. He is furnished with my opinion,</i>	
FTLN 2069	<i>which, bettered with his own learning (the greatness</i>	160
FTLN 2070	<i>whereof I cannot enough commend), comes with</i>	
FTLN 2071	<i>him at my importunity to fill up your Grace's request</i>	
FTLN 2072	<i>in my stead. I beseech you let his lack of years be no</i>	
FTLN 2073	<i>impediment to let him lack a reverend estimation, for I</i>	

FTLN 2074	<i>never knew so young a body with so old a head. I</i>	165
FTLN 2075	<i>leave him to your gracious acceptance, whose trial</i>	
FTLN 2076	<i>shall better publish his commendation.</i>	
FTLN 2077	You hear the learnèd Bellario what he writes.	
	<i>Enter Portia for Balthazar, 「disguised as a doctor of laws, with Attendants.」</i>	
FTLN 2078	And here I take it is the doctor come.—	
FTLN 2079	Give me your hand. Come you from old Bellario?	170
	PORTIA, 「as Balthazar」	
FTLN 2080	I did, my lord.	
FTLN 2081	DUKE                      You are welcome. Take your place.	
FTLN 2082	Are you acquainted with the difference	
FTLN 2083	That holds this present question in the court?	
	PORTIA, 「as Balthazar」	
FTLN 2084	I am informèd throughly of the cause.	175
FTLN 2085	Which is the merchant here? And which the Jew?	
	DUKE	
FTLN 2086	Antonio and old Shylock, both stand forth.	
	PORTIA, 「as Balthazar」	
FTLN 2087	Is your name Shylock?	
FTLN 2088	SHYLOCK                      Shylock is my name.	
	PORTIA, 「as Balthazar」	
FTLN 2089	Of a strange nature is the suit you follow,	180
FTLN 2090	Yet in such rule that the Venetian law	
FTLN 2091	Cannot impugn you as you do proceed.	
FTLN 2092	「To Antonio.」 You stand within his danger, do you	
FTLN 2093	not?	
	ANTONIO	
FTLN 2094	Ay, so he says.	185
FTLN 2095	PORTIA, 「as Balthazar」      Do you confess the bond?	
	ANTONIO	
FTLN 2096	I do.	
FTLN 2097	PORTIA, 「as Balthazar」      Then must the Jew be merciful.	
	SHYLOCK	
FTLN 2098	On what compulsion must I? Tell me that.	

PORTIA, *as Balthazar*

FTLN 2099	The quality of mercy is not strained.	190
FTLN 2100	It droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven	
FTLN 2101	Upon the place beneath. It is twice blest:	
FTLN 2102	It blesseth him that gives and him that takes.	
FTLN 2103	'Tis mightiest in the mightiest; it becomes	
FTLN 2104	The thronèd monarch better than his crown.	195
FTLN 2105	His scepter shows the force of temporal power,	
FTLN 2106	The attribute to awe and majesty	
FTLN 2107	Wherein doth sit the dread and fear of kings;	
FTLN 2108	But mercy is above this sceptered sway.	
FTLN 2109	It is enthronèd in the hearts of kings;	200
FTLN 2110	It is an attribute to God Himself;	
FTLN 2111	And earthly power doth then show likest God's	
FTLN 2112	When mercy seasons justice. Therefore, Jew,	
FTLN 2113	Though justice be thy plea, consider this:	
FTLN 2114	That in the course of justice none of us	205
FTLN 2115	Should see salvation. We do pray for mercy,	
FTLN 2116	And that same prayer doth teach us all to render	
FTLN 2117	The deeds of mercy. I have spoke thus much	
FTLN 2118	To mitigate the justice of thy plea,	
FTLN 2119	Which, if thou follow, this strict court of Venice	210
FTLN 2120	Must needs give sentence 'gainst the merchant	
FTLN 2121	there.	

SHYLOCK

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

PORTIA, *as Balthazar*

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

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

FTLN 2130	That malice bears down truth. <i>['To the Duke.']</i> And I	
FTLN 2131	beseech you,	
FTLN 2132	Wrest once the law to your authority.	
FTLN 2133	To do a great right, do a little wrong,	
FTLN 2134	And curb this cruel devil of his will.	225
	PORTIA, <i>['as Balthazar']</i>	
FTLN 2135	It must not be. There is no power in Venice	
FTLN 2136	Can alter a decree establishèd;	
FTLN 2137	'Twill be recorded for a precedent	
FTLN 2138	And many an error by the same example	
FTLN 2139	Will rush into the state. It cannot be.	230
	SHYLOCK	
FTLN 2140	A Daniel come to judgment! Yea, a Daniel.	
FTLN 2141	O wise young judge, how I do honor thee!	
	PORTIA, <i>['as Balthazar']</i>	
FTLN 2142	I pray you let me look upon the bond.	
	SHYLOCK	
FTLN 2143	Here 'tis, most reverend doctor, here it is.	
	<i>['Handing Portia a paper.']</i>	
	PORTIA, <i>['as Balthazar']</i>	
FTLN 2144	Shylock, there's thrice thy money offered thee.	235
	SHYLOCK	
FTLN 2145	An oath, an oath, I have an oath in heaven!	
FTLN 2146	Shall I lay perjury upon my soul?	
FTLN 2147	<i>['No,']</i> not for Venice!	
FTLN 2148	PORTIA, <i>['as Balthazar']</i> Why, this bond is forfeit,	
FTLN 2149	And lawfully by this the Jew may claim	240
FTLN 2150	A pound of flesh, to be by him cut off	
FTLN 2151	Nearest the merchant's heart.—Be merciful;	
FTLN 2152	Take thrice thy money; bid me tear the bond.	
	SHYLOCK	
FTLN 2153	When it is paid according to the tenor.	
FTLN 2154	It doth appear you are a worthy judge;	245
FTLN 2155	You know the law; your exposition	
FTLN 2156	Hath been most sound. I charge you by the law,	
FTLN 2157	Whereof you are a well-deserving pillar,	



FTLN 2158	Proceed to judgment. By my soul I swear	
FTLN 2159	There is no power in the tongue of man	250
FTLN 2160	To alter me. I stay here on my bond.	
	ANTONIO	
FTLN 2161	Most heartily I do beseech the court	
FTLN 2162	To give the judgment.	
FTLN 2163	PORTIA, <i>as Balthazar</i> Why, then, thus it is:	
FTLN 2164	You must prepare your bosom for his knife—	255
	SHYLOCK	
FTLN 2165	O noble judge! O excellent young man!	
	PORTIA, <i>as Balthazar</i>	
FTLN 2166	For the intent and purpose of the law	
FTLN 2167	Hath full relation to the penalty,	
FTLN 2168	Which here appeareth due upon the bond.	
	SHYLOCK	
FTLN 2169	'Tis very true. O wise and upright judge,	260
FTLN 2170	How much more elder art thou than thy looks!	
	PORTIA, <i>as Balthazar, to Antonio</i>	
FTLN 2171	Therefore lay bare your bosom—	
FTLN 2172	SHYLOCK Ay, his breast!	
FTLN 2173	So says the bond, doth it not, noble judge?	
FTLN 2174	"Nearest his heart." Those are the very words.	265
	PORTIA, <i>as Balthazar</i>	
FTLN 2175	It is so.	
FTLN 2176	Are there balance here to weigh the flesh?	
FTLN 2177	SHYLOCK I have them ready.	
	PORTIA, <i>as Balthazar</i>	
FTLN 2178	Have by some surgeon, Shylock, on your charge,	
FTLN 2179	To stop his wounds, lest he do bleed to death.	270
	SHYLOCK	
FTLN 2180	Is it so nominated in the bond?	
	PORTIA, <i>as Balthazar</i>	
FTLN 2181	It is not so expressed, but what of that?	
FTLN 2182	'Twere good you do so much for charity.	
	SHYLOCK	
FTLN 2183	I cannot find it. 'Tis not in the bond.	

PORTIA, *as Balthazar*

FTLN 2184      You, merchant, have you anything to say? 275

ANTONIO

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

BASSANIO

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

PORTIA, *aside*

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

GRATIANO

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

NERISSA, *aside*

FTLN 2214 'Tis well you offer it behind her back. 305

FTLN 2215 The wish would make else an unquiet house.

SHYLOCK

FTLN 2216 These be the Christian husbands! I have a

FTLN 2217 daughter—

FTLN 2218 Would any of the stock of Barabbas

FTLN 2219 Had been her husband, rather than a Christian! 310

FTLN 2220 We trifle time. I pray thee, pursue sentence.

PORTIA, *as Balthazar*

FTLN 2221 A pound of that same merchant's flesh is thine:

FTLN 2222 The court awards it, and the law doth give it.

FTLN 2223 SHYLOCK Most rightful judge!

PORTIA, *as Balthazar*

FTLN 2224 And you must cut this flesh from off his breast: 315

FTLN 2225 The law allows it, and the court awards it.

SHYLOCK

FTLN 2226 Most learnèd judge! A sentence!—Come, prepare.

PORTIA, *as Balthazar*

FTLN 2227 Tarry a little. There is something else.

FTLN 2228 This bond doth give thee here no jot of blood.

FTLN 2229 The words expressly are “a pound of flesh.” 320

FTLN 2230 Take then thy bond, take thou thy pound of flesh,

FTLN 2231 But in the cutting it, if thou dost shed

FTLN 2232 One drop of Christian blood, thy lands and goods

FTLN 2233 Are by the laws of Venice confiscate

FTLN 2234 Unto the state of Venice. 325

GRATIANO

FTLN 2235 O upright judge!—Mark, Jew.—O learnèd judge!

SHYLOCK

FTLN 2236 Is that the law?

FTLN 2237 PORTIA, *as Balthazar* Thyself shalt see the act.

FTLN 2238 For, as thou urgest justice, be assured

FTLN 2239 Thou shalt have justice more than thou desir'st. 330

GRATIANO

FTLN 2240 O learnèd judge!—Mark, Jew, a learnèd judge!

SHYLOCK

FTLN 2241 I take this offer then. Pay the bond thrice

FTLN 2242 And let the Christian go.

FTLN 2243 BASSANIO Here is the money.

PORTIA, *as Balthazar*

FTLN 2244 Soft! The Jew shall have all justice. Soft, no haste! 335

FTLN 2245 He shall have nothing but the penalty.

GRATIANO

FTLN 2246 O Jew, an upright judge, a learned judge!

PORTIA, *as Balthazar*

FTLN 2247 Therefore prepare thee to cut off the flesh.

FTLN 2248 Shed thou no blood, nor cut thou less nor more

FTLN 2249 But just a pound of flesh. If thou tak'st more 340

FTLN 2250 Or less than a just pound, be it but so much

FTLN 2251 As makes it light or heavy in the substance

FTLN 2252 Or the division of the twentieth part

FTLN 2253 Of one poor scruple—nay, if the scale do turn

FTLN 2254 But in the estimation of a hair, 345

FTLN 2255 Thou diest, and all thy goods are confiscate.

GRATIANO

FTLN 2256 A second Daniel! A Daniel, Jew!

FTLN 2257 Now, infidel, I have you on the hip.

PORTIA, *as Balthazar*

FTLN 2258 Why doth the Jew pause? Take thy forfeiture.

SHYLOCK

FTLN 2259 Give me my principal and let me go. 350

BASSANIO

FTLN 2260 I have it ready for thee. Here it is

PORTIA, *as Balthazar*

FTLN 2261 He hath refused it in the open court.

FTLN 2262 He shall have merely justice and his bond.

GRATIANO

FTLN 2263 A Daniel still, say I! A second Daniel!—

FTLN 2264 I thank thee, Jew, for teaching me that word. 355

SHYLOCK

FTLN 2265 Shall I not have barely my principal?

PORTIA, *as Balthazar*

FTLN 2266 Thou shalt have nothing but the forfeiture  
FTLN 2267 To be so taken at thy peril, Jew.

SHYLOCK

FTLN 2268 Why, then, the devil give him good of it!  
FTLN 2269 I'll stay no longer question. *He begins to exit.* 360

PORTIA, *as Balthazar* Tarry, Jew.

FTLN 2270 The law hath yet another hold on you.  
FTLN 2271 It is enacted in the laws of Venice,  
FTLN 2272 If it be proved against an alien  
FTLN 2273 That by direct or indirect attempts 365  
FTLN 2274 He seek the life of any citizen,  
FTLN 2275 The party 'gainst the which he doth contrive  
FTLN 2276 Shall seize one half his goods; the other half  
FTLN 2277 Comes to the privy coffer of the state,  
FTLN 2278 And the offender's life lies in the mercy 370  
FTLN 2279 Of the Duke only, 'gainst all other voice.  
FTLN 2280 In which predicament I say thou stand'st,  
FTLN 2281 For it appears by manifest proceeding  
FTLN 2282 That indirectly, and directly too,  
FTLN 2283 Thou hast contrived against the very life 375  
FTLN 2284 Of the defendant, and thou hast incurred  
FTLN 2285 The danger formerly by me rehearsed.  
FTLN 2286 Down, therefore, and beg mercy of the Duke.  
FTLN 2287

GRATIANO

FTLN 2288 Beg that thou mayst have leave to hang thyself!  
FTLN 2289 And yet, thy wealth being forfeit to the state, 380  
FTLN 2290 Thou hast not left the value of a cord;  
FTLN 2291 Therefore thou must be hanged at the state's  
FTLN 2292 charge.

DUKE

FTLN 2293 That thou shalt see the difference of our spirit,  
FTLN 2294 I pardon thee thy life before thou ask it. 385  
FTLN 2295 For half thy wealth, it is Antonio's;  
FTLN 2296 The other half comes to the general state,  
FTLN 2297 Which humbleness may drive unto a fine.

PORTIA, *as Balthazar*

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

SHYLOCK

FTLN 2299     Nay, take my life and all. Pardon not that. 390

FTLN 2300     You take my house when you do take the prop

FTLN 2301     That doth sustain my house; you take my life

FTLN 2302     When you do take the means whereby I live.

PORTIA, *as Balthazar*

FTLN 2303     What mercy can you render him, Antonio?

GRATIANO

FTLN 2304     A halter gratis, nothing else, for God's sake! 395

ANTONIO

FTLN 2305     So please my lord the Duke and all the court

FTLN 2306     To quit the fine for one half of his goods,

FTLN 2307     I am content, so he will let me have

FTLN 2308     The other half in use, to render it

FTLN 2309     Upon his death unto the gentleman 400

FTLN 2310     That lately stole his daughter.

FTLN 2311     Two things provided more: that for this favor

FTLN 2312     He presently become a Christian;

FTLN 2313     The other, that he do record a gift,

FTLN 2314     Here in the court, of all he dies possessed 405

FTLN 2315     Unto his son Lorenzo and his daughter.

DUKE

FTLN 2316     He shall do this, or else I do recant

FTLN 2317     The pardon that I late pronouncèd here.

PORTIA, *as Balthazar*

FTLN 2318     Art thou contented, Jew? What dost thou say?

SHYLOCK

FTLN 2319     I am content. 410

FTLN 2320     PORTIA, *as Balthazar*     Clerk, draw a deed of gift.

SHYLOCK

FTLN 2321     I pray you give me leave to go from hence.

FTLN 2322     I am not well. Send the deed after me

FTLN 2323     And I will sign it.

FTLN 2324     DUKE                     Get thee gone, but do it. 415

「GRATIANO」

FTLN 2325 In christ'ning shalt thou have two godfathers.  
 FTLN 2326 Had I been judge, thou shouldst have had ten more,  
 FTLN 2327 To bring thee to the gallows, not to the font.  
 「Shylock」 exits.

DUKE, 「to Portia as Balthazar」

FTLN 2328 Sir, I entreat you home with me to dinner.

PORTIA, 「as Balthazar」

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

DUKE

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

BASSANIO, 「to Portia as Balthazar」

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

ANTONIO

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

PORTIA, 「as Balthazar」

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

BASSANIO

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

FTLN 2350	Not as fee. Grant me two things, I pray you:	
FTLN 2351	Not to deny me, and to pardon me.	
	PORTIA, <i>as Balthazar</i>	
FTLN 2352	You press me far, and therefore I will yield.	
FTLN 2353	Give me your gloves; I'll wear them for your sake—	
FTLN 2354	And for your love I'll take this ring from you.	445
FTLN 2355	Do not draw back your hand; I'll take no more,	
FTLN 2356	And you in love shall not deny me this.	
	BASSANIO	
FTLN 2357	This ring, good sir? Alas, it is a trifle.	
FTLN 2358	I will not shame myself to give you this.	
	PORTIA, <i>as Balthazar</i>	
FTLN 2359	I will have nothing else but only this.	450
FTLN 2360	And now methinks I have a mind to it.	
	BASSANIO	
FTLN 2361	There's more depends on this than on the value.	
FTLN 2362	The dearest ring in Venice will I give you,	
FTLN 2363	And find it out by proclamation.	
FTLN 2364	Only for this, I pray you pardon me.	455
	PORTIA, <i>as Balthazar</i>	
FTLN 2365	I see, sir, you are liberal in offers.	
FTLN 2366	You taught me first to beg, and now methinks	
FTLN 2367	You teach me how a beggar should be answered.	
	BASSANIO	
FTLN 2368	Good sir, this ring was given me by my wife,	
FTLN 2369	And when she put it on, she made me vow	460
FTLN 2370	That I should neither sell nor give nor lose it.	
	PORTIA, <i>as Balthazar</i>	
FTLN 2371	That 'scuse serves many men to save their gifts.	
FTLN 2372	And if your wife be not a madwoman,	
FTLN 2373	And know how well I have deserved this ring,	
FTLN 2374	She would not hold out enemy forever	465
FTLN 2375	For giving it to me. Well, peace be with you.	
	<i>Portia and Nerissa exit.</i>	
	ANTONIO	
FTLN 2376	My Lord Bassanio, let him have the ring.	



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

BASSANIO

FTLN 2379 Go, Gratiano, run and overtake him. 470  
 FTLN 2380 Give him the ring, and bring him if thou canst  
 FTLN 2381 Unto Antonio's house. Away, make haste.

*Gratiano exits.*

FTLN 2382 Come, you and I will thither presently,  
 FTLN 2383 And in the morning early will we both  
 FTLN 2384 Fly toward Belmont.—Come, Antonio. 475

*They exit.*

「Scene 2」

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

PORTIA

FTLN 2385 Inquire the Jew's house out; give him this deed  
 FTLN 2386 And let him sign it. 「*She gives Nerissa a paper.*」 We'll  
 FTLN 2387 away tonight,  
 FTLN 2388 And be a day before our husbands home.  
 FTLN 2389 This deed will be well welcome to Lorenzo. 5

*Enter Gratiano.*

GRATIANO

FTLN 2390 Fair sir, you are well o'erta'en.  
 FTLN 2391 My Lord Bassanio, upon more advice,  
 FTLN 2392 Hath sent you here this ring, and doth entreat  
 FTLN 2393 Your company at dinner. 「*He gives her a ring.*」

FTLN 2394 PORTIA, 「*as Balthazar*」 That cannot be. 10

FTLN 2395 His ring I do accept most thankfully,  
 FTLN 2396 And so I pray you tell him. Furthermore,  
 FTLN 2397 I pray you show my youth old Shylock's house.

GRATIANO

FTLN 2398 That will I do.

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FTLN 2399	NERISSA, <i>as Clerk</i>	Sir, I would speak with you.	15
FTLN 2400	<i>Aside to Portia.</i>	I'll see if I can get my husband's	
FTLN 2401		ring,	
FTLN 2402		Which I did make him swear to keep forever.	
	PORTIA, <i>aside to Nerissa</i>		
FTLN 2403		Thou mayst, I warrant! We shall have old swearing	
FTLN 2404		That they did give the rings away to men;	20
FTLN 2405		But we'll outface them, and outswear them, too.—	
FTLN 2406		Away, make haste! Thou know'st where I will tarry.	
		<i>She exits.</i>	
	NERISSA, <i>as Clerk</i>		
FTLN 2407		Come, good sir, will you show me to this house?	
		<i>They exit.</i>	

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*Enter Lorenzo and Jessica.*

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

LORENZO                                 In such a night  
Stood Dido with a willow in her hand  
Upon the wild sea-banks, and waft her love  
To come again to Carthage.

LORRENZO                                 In such a night  
Did Jessica steal from the wealthy Jew,  
And with an unthrift love did run from Venice  
As far as Belmont.

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

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

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

*Enter [Stephano,] a Messenger.*

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

FTLN 2439   STEPHANO   A friend.

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

FTLN 2442   STEPHANO  
 FTLN 2442       Stephano is my name, and I bring word 35  
 FTLN 2443       My mistress will before the break of day  
 FTLN 2444       Be here at Belmont. She doth stray about  
 FTLN 2445       By holy crosses, where she kneels and prays  
 FTLN 2446       For happy wedlock hours.

FTLN 2447   LORENZO               Who comes with her? 40

FTLN 2448   STEPHANO  
 FTLN 2448       None but a holy hermit and her maid.  
 FTLN 2449       I pray you, is my master yet returned?

FTLN 2450   LORENZO  
 FTLN 2450       He is not, nor we have not heard from him.—  
 FTLN 2451       But go we in, I pray thee, Jessica,  
 FTLN 2452       And ceremoniously let us prepare 45  
 FTLN 2453       Some welcome for the mistress of the house.

*Enter [Lancelet, the] Clown.*

FTLN 2454   LANCELET   Sola, sola! Wo ha, ho! Sola, sola!

FTLN 2455   LORENZO   Who calls?

FTLN 2456   LANCELET   Sola! Did you see Master Lorenzo? Master  
 FTLN 2457       Lorenzo, sola, sola! 50

FTLN 2458	LORENZO	Leave holloaing, man! Here.	
FTLN 2459	LANCELET	Sola! Where, where?	
FTLN 2460	LORENZO	Here!	
FTLN 2461	LANCELET	Tell him there's a post come from my master	
FTLN 2462		with his horn full of good news. My master will	55
FTLN 2463		be here ere morning, sweet soul. <i>「Lancelet exits.」</i>	
	LORENZO, <i>「to Jessica」</i>		
FTLN 2464		Let's in, and there expect their coming.	
FTLN 2465		And yet no matter; why should we go in?—	
FTLN 2466		My friend <i>「Stephano,」</i> signify, I pray you,	
FTLN 2467		Within the house, your mistress is at hand,	60
FTLN 2468		And bring your music forth into the air. <i>「Stephano exits.」</i>	
FTLN 2469		How sweet the moonlight sleeps upon this bank.	
FTLN 2470		Here will we sit and let the sounds of music	
FTLN 2471		Creep in our ears; soft stillness and the night	
FTLN 2472		Become the touches of sweet harmony.	65
FTLN 2473		Sit, Jessica. Look how the floor of heaven	
FTLN 2474		Is thick inlaid with patens of bright gold.	
FTLN 2475		There's not the smallest orb which thou behold'st	
FTLN 2476		But in his motion like an angel sings,	
FTLN 2477		Still choiring to the young-eyed cherubins.	70
FTLN 2478		Such harmony is in immortal souls,	
FTLN 2479		But whilst this muddy vesture of decay	
FTLN 2480		Doth grossly close it in, we cannot hear it.	
		<i>「Enter Stephano and musicians.」</i>	
FTLN 2481		Come, ho! and wake Diana with a hymn.	
FTLN 2482		With sweetest touches pierce your mistress' ear,	75
FTLN 2483		And draw her home with music. <i>「Music plays.」</i>	
	JESSICA		
FTLN 2484		I am never merry when I hear sweet music.	
	LORENZO		
FTLN 2485		The reason is, your spirits are attentive.	
FTLN 2486		For do but note a wild and wanton herd	

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FTLN 2487	Or race of youthful and unhandled colts,	80
FTLN 2488	Fetching mad bounds, bellowing and neighing loud,	
FTLN 2489	Which is the hot condition of their blood,	
FTLN 2490	If they but hear perchance a trumpet sound,	
FTLN 2491	Or any air of music touch their ears,	
FTLN 2492	You shall perceive them make a mutual stand,	85
FTLN 2493	Their savage eyes turned to a modest gaze	
FTLN 2494	By the sweet power of music. Therefore the poet	
FTLN 2495	Did feign that Orpheus drew trees, stones, and	
FTLN 2496	floods,	
FTLN 2497	Since naught so stockish, hard, and full of rage,	90
FTLN 2498	But music for the time doth change his nature.	
FTLN 2499	The man that hath no music in himself,	
FTLN 2500	Nor is not moved with concord of sweet sounds,	
FTLN 2501	Is fit for treasons, stratagems, and spoils;	
FTLN 2502	The motions of his spirit are dull as night,	95
FTLN 2503	And his affections dark as 'Erebus.'	
FTLN 2504	Let no such man be trusted. Mark the music.	

*Enter Portia and Nerissa.*

PORTIA

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

NERISSA

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

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

NERISSA

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

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

NERISSA

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

PORTIA

FTLN 2518 The crow doth sing as sweetly as the lark  
 FTLN 2519 When neither is attended, and I think  
 FTLN 2520 The nightingale, if she should sing by day  
 FTLN 2521 When every goose is cackling, would be thought  
 FTLN 2522 No better a musician than the wren. 115  
 FTLN 2523 How many things by season seasoned are  
 FTLN 2524 To their right praise and true perfection!  
 FTLN 2525 Peace—how the moon sleeps with Endymion  
 FTLN 2526 And would not be awaked!

*「Music ceases.」*

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

PORTIA

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

FTLN 2531 LORENZO Dear lady, welcome home.

PORTIA

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

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

FTLN 2538 PORTIA Go in, Nerissa.

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

*「A trumpet sounds.」*

LORENZO

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

PORTIA

FTLN 2544 This night methinks is but the daylight sick;

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

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

BASSANIO

FTLN 2547 We should hold day with the Antipodes 140  
FTLN 2548 If you would walk in absence of the sun.

PORTIA

FTLN 2549 Let me give light, but let me not be light,  
FTLN 2550 For a light wife doth make a heavy husband,  
FTLN 2551 And never be Bassanio so for me.  
FTLN 2552 But God sort all! You are welcome home, my lord. 145  
*Gratiano and Nerissa talk aside.*

BASSANIO

FTLN 2553 I thank you, madam. Give welcome to my friend.  
FTLN 2554 This is the man, this is Antonio,  
FTLN 2555 To whom I am so infinitely bound.

PORTIA

FTLN 2556 You should in all sense be much bound to him,  
FTLN 2557 For as I hear he was much bound for you. 150

ANTONIO

FTLN 2558 No more than I am well acquitted of.

PORTIA

FTLN 2559 Sir, you are very welcome to our house.  
FTLN 2560 It must appear in other ways than words;  
FTLN 2561 Therefore I scant this breathing courtesy.

GRATIANO, *to Nerissa*

FTLN 2562 By yonder moon I swear you do me wrong! 155  
FTLN 2563 In faith, I gave it to the judge's clerk.  
FTLN 2564 Would he were gelt that had it, for my part,  
FTLN 2565 Since you do take it, love, so much at heart.

PORTIA

FTLN 2566 A quarrel ho, already! What's the matter?

GRATIANO

FTLN 2567 About a hoop of gold, a paltry ring 160  
FTLN 2568 That she did give me, whose posy was



FTLN 2569	For all the world like cutler's poetry	
FTLN 2570	Upon a knife, "Love me, and leave me not."	
	NERISSA	
FTLN 2571	What talk you of the posy or the value?	
FTLN 2572	You swore to me when I did give 'it' you	165
FTLN 2573	That you would wear it till your hour of death,	
FTLN 2574	And that it should lie with you in your grave.	
FTLN 2575	Though not for me, yet for your vehement oaths,	
FTLN 2576	You should have been respective and have kept it.	
FTLN 2577	Gave it a judge's clerk! No, God's my judge,	170
FTLN 2578	The clerk will ne'er wear hair on 's face that had it.	
	GRATIANO	
FTLN 2579	He will, an if he live to be a man.	
	NERISSA	
FTLN 2580	Ay, if a woman live to be a man.	
	GRATIANO	
FTLN 2581	Now, by this hand, I gave it to a youth,	
FTLN 2582	A kind of boy, a little scrubbèd boy,	175
FTLN 2583	No higher than thyself, the judge's clerk,	
FTLN 2584	A prating boy that begged it as a fee.	
FTLN 2585	I could not for my heart deny it him.	
	PORTIA	
FTLN 2586	You were to blame, I must be plain with you,	
FTLN 2587	To part so slightly with your wife's first gift,	180
FTLN 2588	A thing stuck on with oaths upon your finger,	
FTLN 2589	And so riveted with faith unto your flesh.	
FTLN 2590	I gave my love a ring and made him swear	
FTLN 2591	Never to part with it, and here he stands.	
FTLN 2592	I dare be sworn for him he would not leave it	185
FTLN 2593	Nor pluck it from his finger for the wealth	
FTLN 2594	That the world masters. Now, in faith, Gratiano,	
FTLN 2595	You give your wife too unkind a cause of grief.	
FTLN 2596	An 'twere to me I should be mad at it.	
	BASSANIO, <i>aside</i>	
FTLN 2597	Why, I were best to cut my left hand off	190
FTLN 2598	And swear I lost the ring defending it.	

GRATIANO

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

PORTIA What ring gave you, my lord?

FTLN 2605 Not that, I hope, which you received of me.  
 FTLN 2606

BASSANIO

FTLN 2607 If I could add a lie unto a fault, 200  
 FTLN 2608 I would deny it, but you see my finger  
 FTLN 2609 Hath not the ring upon it. It is gone.

PORTIA

FTLN 2610 Even so void is your false heart of truth.  
 FTLN 2611 By heaven, I will ne'er come in your bed  
 FTLN 2612 Until I see the ring! 205

FTLN 2613 NERISSA, *['to Gratiano']* Nor I in yours  
 FTLN 2614 Till I again see mine!

BASSANIO Sweet Portia,

FTLN 2616 If you did know to whom I gave the ring,  
 FTLN 2617 If you did know for whom I gave the ring, 210  
 FTLN 2618 And would conceive for what I gave the ring,  
 FTLN 2619 And how unwillingly I left the ring,  
 FTLN 2620 When naught would be accepted but the ring,  
 FTLN 2621 You would abate the strength of your displeasure.

PORTIA

FTLN 2622 If you had known the virtue of the ring, 215  
 FTLN 2623 Or half her worthiness that gave the ring,  
 FTLN 2624 Or your own honor to contain the ring,  
 FTLN 2625 You would not then have parted with the ring.

FTLN 2626 What man is there so much unreasonable,  
 FTLN 2627 If you had pleased to have defended it 220  
 FTLN 2628 With any terms of zeal, wanted the modesty  
 FTLN 2629 To urge the thing held as a ceremony?  
 FTLN 2630 Nerissa teaches me what to believe:  
 FTLN 2631 I'll die for 't but some woman had the ring!

BASSANIO

FTLN 2632	No, by my honor, madam, by my soul,	225
FTLN 2633	No woman had it, but a civil doctor,	
FTLN 2634	Which did refuse three thousand ducats of me	
FTLN 2635	And begged the ring, the which I did deny him	
FTLN 2636	And suffered him to go displeased away,	
FTLN 2637	Even he that had held up the very life	230
FTLN 2638	Of my dear friend. What should I say, sweet lady?	
FTLN 2639	I was enforced to send it after him.	
FTLN 2640	I was beset with shame and courtesy.	
FTLN 2641	My honor would not let ingratitude	
FTLN 2642	So much besmear it. Pardon me, good lady,	235
FTLN 2643	For by these blessed candles of the night,	
FTLN 2644	Had you been there, I think you would have begged	
FTLN 2645	The ring of me to give the worthy doctor.	

PORTIA

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

NERISSA

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

GRATIANO

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

ANTONIO

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

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

BASSANIO

FTLN 2664 Portia, forgive me this enforcèd wrong,  
FTLN 2665 And in the hearing of these many friends  
FTLN 2666 I swear to thee, even by thine own fair eyes,  
FTLN 2667 Wherein I see myself— 260

PORTIA Mark you but that!

FTLN 2669 In both my eyes he doubly sees himself,  
FTLN 2670 In each eye one. Swear by your double self,  
FTLN 2671 And there's an oath of credit.

BASSANIO Nay, but hear me. 265

FTLN 2673 Pardon this fault, and by my soul I swear  
FTLN 2674 I never more will break an oath with thee.

ANTONIO

FTLN 2675 I once did lend my body for his wealth,  
FTLN 2676 Which but for him that had your husband's ring  
FTLN 2677 Had quite miscarried. I dare be bound again, 270  
FTLN 2678 My soul upon the forfeit, that your lord  
FTLN 2679 Will never more break faith advisedly.

PORTIA

FTLN 2680 Then you shall be his surety. Give him this,  
FTLN 2681 *「Giving Antonio a ring.」*  
And bid him keep it better than the other.

ANTONIO

FTLN 2682 Here, Lord Bassanio, swear to keep this ring. 275

BASSANIO

FTLN 2683 By heaven, it is the same I gave the doctor!

PORTIA

FTLN 2684 I had it of him. Pardon me, Bassanio,  
FTLN 2685 For by this ring, the doctor lay with me.

NERISSA

FTLN 2686 And pardon me, my gentle Gratiano,  
FTLN 2687 For that same scrubbèd boy, the doctor's clerk, 280  
FTLN 2688 In lieu of this, last night did lie with me.

*「She shows a ring.」*

GRATIANO

FTLN 2689 Why, this is like the mending of highways  
 FTLN 2690 In summer, where the ways are fair enough!  
 FTLN 2691 What, are we cuckolds ere we have deserved it?

PORTIA

FTLN 2692 Speak not so grossly.—You are all amazed. 285  
*「She hands a paper to Bassanio.」*

FTLN 2693 Here is a letter; read it at your leisure.  
 FTLN 2694 It comes from Padua from Bellario.  
 FTLN 2695 There you shall find that Portia was the doctor,  
 FTLN 2696 Nerissa there, her clerk. Lorenzo here  
 FTLN 2697 Shall witness I set forth as soon as you, 290  
 FTLN 2698 And even but now returned. I have not yet  
 FTLN 2699 Entered my house.—Antonio, you are welcome,  
 FTLN 2700 And I have better news in store for you  
 FTLN 2701 Than you expect. Unseal this letter soon.

*「Handing him a paper.」*

FTLN 2702 There you shall find three of your argosies 295  
 FTLN 2703 Are richly come to harbor suddenly.  
 FTLN 2704 You shall not know by what strange accident  
 FTLN 2705 I chancèd on this letter.

FTLN 2706 ANTONIO I am dumb.

BASSANIO

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

GRATIANO

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

NERISSA

FTLN 2709 Ay, but the clerk that never means to do it,  
 FTLN 2710 Unless he live until he be a man.

BASSANIO, *「to Portia」*

FTLN 2711 Sweet doctor, you shall be my bedfellow.  
 FTLN 2712 When I am absent, then lie with my wife. 305

ANTONIO

FTLN 2713 Sweet lady, you have given me life and living;  
 FTLN 2714 For here I read for certain that my ships  
 FTLN 2715 Are safely come to road.

FTLN 2716	PORTIA	How now, Lorenzo?	
FTLN 2717		My clerk hath some good comforts too for you.	310
	NERISSA		
FTLN 2718		Ay, and I'll give them him without a fee.	
		<i>Handing him a paper.</i>	
FTLN 2719		There do I give to you and Jessica,	
FTLN 2720		From the rich Jew, a special deed of gift,	
FTLN 2721		After his death, of all he dies possessed of.	
	LORENZO		
FTLN 2722		Fair ladies, you drop manna in the way	315
FTLN 2723		Of starvèd people.	
FTLN 2724	PORTIA	It is almost morning,	
FTLN 2725		And yet I am sure you are not satisfied	
FTLN 2726		Of these events at full. Let us go in,	
FTLN 2727		And charge us there upon inter'gatories,	320
FTLN 2728		And we will answer all things faithfully.	
	GRATIANO		
FTLN 2729		Let it be so. The first inter'gatory	
FTLN 2730		That my Nerissa shall be sworn on is	
FTLN 2731		Whether till the next night she had rather stay	
FTLN 2732		Or go to bed now, being two hours to day.	325
FTLN 2733		But were the day come, I should wish it dark	
FTLN 2734		Till I were couching with the doctor's clerk.	
FTLN 2735		Well, while I live, I'll fear no other thing	
FTLN 2736		So sore as keeping safe Nerissa's ring.	
		<i>They exit.</i>	