

Act IV, scene i – lines 65 – 104

Venice. A Court of Justice.

65 SHYLOCK I am not bound to please thee with my answers!

BASSANIO Do all men kill the things they do not love?

SHYLOCK Hates any man the thing he would not kill?

BASSANIO Every offence is not a hate at first!

SHYLOCK What! wouldst thou have a serpent sting thee twice?

70 ANTONIO I pray you think you question with the Jew.

You may as well go stand upon the beach

And bid the main flood bate his usual height;

You may as well use question with the wolf;

Why he hath made the ewe bleat for the lamb;

75 You may as well forbid the mountain pines

To wag their high tops, and to make no noise

When they are fretten with the gusts of heaven;

You may as well do anything most hard

As seek to soften that – than which what's harder? –

80 His Jewish heart! Therefore, I do beseech you,

Make no more offers, use no farther means,

But with all brief and plain conveniency

Let me have judgment, and the Jew his will!

BASSANIO For thy three thousand ducats, here is six!

85 SHYLOCK If every ducat in six thousand ducats

Were in six parts and every part a ducat,

I would not draw them; I would have my bond.

DUKE How shalt thou hope for mercy, rendering none?

90 SHYLOCK What judgment shall I dread, doing no wrong?

You have among you many a purchased slave,

Which, like your asses, and your dogs and mules,

You use in abject and in slavish parts,

Because you bought them; shall I say to you,

Let them be free, marry them to your heirs?

95 Why sweat they under burthens? let their beds

Be made as soft as yours, and let their palates

Be seasoned with such viands? You will answer

'The slaves are ours.' So do I answer you:

The pound of flesh which I demand of him

100 Is dearly bought; 't is mine and I will have it;

If you deny me, fie upon your law!

There is no force in the decrees of Venice!

I stand for judgment; answer, shall I have it?

DUKE Upon my power I may dismiss this court,

**Comment [A2]:** Restrictive. Constant mention of bound/bind suggests restriction. Antonio restricted and bound by bond. Mention of slaves in contrast with freedom. Furthermore, possessive 'ours' indicates bond and slaves are bound.

**Comment [AD3]:** Repetition of words kill and hate – harsh words with negative connotations. Hate – harsh consonant 't' further emphasising repulsion. Monosyllabic nature of line indicates violence, revenge, as if he's spitting it out. Contrast with love which Bassanio discusses which has soft consonants and is therefore peaceful and mercy. Phrase indicates he wouldn't let enemy live – further vilify

**Comment [A4]:** Exclamation marks show heightened tension – Bassanio and Shylock have rapid back and forth dialogue indicating spitefulness and rifts between two groups – Anti-Semitism – also B's sentence monosyllabic – spitting out - tension

**Comment [A5]:** Comparison of Shylock to serpent – connotations sly/calculating – further vilify. Sting – harsh 't' consonant - viscos

**Comment [A6]:** 'The Jew' not referred to by real name – seen as a race – grouped together

**Comment [A7]:** Repetition of this phrase emphasises hopelessness of situation – each situation further emphasises hopelessness

**Comment [A8]:** Wolf – typical villain comparison with Shylock  
Mother protecting child – child poor and defenseless – cruelty - vilify

**Comment [A9]:** Natural imagery – contrast with Shylock who is portrayed as hard/mechanical and emotionless

**Comment [A10]:** Anti-Semitism – emphasises divide between 2 religions – direct attack  
Jewish heart – differences in religion – even internally different

**Comment [A11]:** Phrase epitomizes Antonio as self-sacrificing – typical hero. However, gives Shylock power as 'Jew his will' thereby surrendering responsibility which allows him to be seen as hero

**Comment [A12]:** Generosity of Bassanio – contrast causes Shylock to seem worse

**Comment [A13]:** Repetition of 'ducat' – money hungry – stereotypical Jew - vilify

**Comment [A1]:** Despite position of authority – unjust – divide between 2 religions – Anti-Semitic

**Comment [A14]:** Shylock believes he is fair – audience believes S is irrational.

**Comment [A15]:** Rhetorical questions – trying to persuade and portray logical argument but in eyes of Shakespeare's audience he's still a villain

**Comment [A16]:** Nature of pound of flesh clearly irrational

**Comment [A17]:** 'Your Law' – different laws for Jews and Christians – contrast between religions

**Comment [A18]:** Imperative – he is seen as demandin