

## The Merchant of Venice abbreviated

Act 3, Scene 2

### Courtesy

**Situation:** Thrilled that Bassanio has chosen the lead chest, Portia does her dramatic best to describe herself, and to let him know who she is and how she'll conduct herself. She gives him a ring. She lets him know that it's in his best interest to take good care of it.

PORTIA: You see me, Lord Bassanio, where I stand, such as I am.

**Portia to Bassanio**

I'm not so ambitious to wish for me  
Much better, yet for you, I'd be twenty  
Times myself, a thousand times more fair, ten  
Thousand times more rich, stand up high to be  
Counted. If virtue and friends added, then  
I'd exceed count. But the full sum of me  
Is an unschooled, unpracticed girl, unread;  
Yet she's not so old nor so dully bred  
That she can't learn. Happily, she accords  
This home, these aides, and all that she doth bring  
To you, her governor. They're yours, my lord's.  
But be warned, I give them all with this ring,  
Which, if lost or given away, you'll rue  
Your love, that I might cry out against you.

Portia gives Bassanio a ring.

BASSANIO: Madam, you have bereft me of all words. When this ring parts from this finger, then parts life from hence. O, then be bold to say Bassanio's dead!

NERISSA: My lord and lady, it is now our time to cry "Good joy, good joy, my lord and lady!"

GRATIANO: My Lord Bassanio, and my gentle lady, I wish you all the joy that you can wish, for I am sure you can wish none from me. I do beseech you even at that time I may be married too.