

The Merchant of Venice abbreviated

Act 3, Scene 1

Revenge

Situation: Shylock's daughter Jessica has run off with the Christian Lorenzo and has taken with her some of her father's gold and jewels. This turn of events has put Shylock in an angry mood, to say the least. In this irritated state Shylock decides that he will ask Antonio "to look to his bond" if, as rumored, his ships full of cargo have been "wracked" in the English Channel.

SHYLOCK: Thee I have another bad match! He was wont to call me usurer; let him look to his bond.

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

SHYLOCK: To bait fish withal.

Shylock to Salarino

**It will feed my revenge, if it will feed
Nothing else. We know not where this will lead,
But he hath hindered and disgraced me, mocked
My gains, laughed at my losses, heated mine
Enemies, cooled my friends, and proudly talked
Me down. Are we not fed with the same fine
Food, healed by God's grace, cooled in the winter,
And blessedly warmed by the same summer
Sun as a Christian is? Hath not a Jew
Eyes? Hath not a Jew hands, senses, passions?
If you poison us, do we not die? Do
We not laugh if you tickle us? Christians
Seek revenge if wronged by a Jew. If you
Wrong us, are we not like you in that, too?**

A Servingman enters.

SERVINGMAN: Gentlemen, my master Antonio is at his house and desires to speak with you both.

Salarino, Solanio and the Servingman exit. Tubal, another moneylender, enters.

SHYLOCK: How now, Tubal, what news from Genoa? Hast thou found my daughter?

TUBAL: I often came where I did hear of her, but cannot find her.