

Merchant Of Venice

Chapter-4

A. Answer the following questions:

1. Why did the Prince of Arragon reject the gold and lead caskets?

Ans. The Prince of Arragon rejected the lead casket because he was excessively conscious of his social status and did not like the inscription on the gold casket either because it included 'many men'.

2. Why, do you think, Portia asked Bassanio to stay there for a month or two?

Ans. Portia asked Bassanio to stay there for a month or two because she wanted to spend some time with Bassanio and teach him how to select the right casket.

3. Why did Bassanio reject the gold and silver caskets?

Ans. Bassanio rejected the 'gaudy gold' and the pale and common silver because an object should not be judged by the outward appearance.

4. What did Bassanio say to Portia?

Ans. When Bassanio chose the ordinary lead casket, he found Portia's portrait inside it. Both Portia and he were overjoyed and said, 'O, most beautiful lady, I stand here doubting what I see is true or not until you confirm, approve and accept me.'

5. What promises did the friends make to Portia and Nerissa?

Ans. Both the friends, Gratiano and Bassanio, vowed to wear the rings gifted by Nerissa and Portia respectively, all their life and never part with them.

Chapter-5

1. How was the cheerful mood at Belmont spoiled?

Ans. The cheerful mood at Belmont was spoiled as Lorenzo, Jessica and Salerio arrived there with the distressing news that Antonio's vessels had all been lost and he had failed to pay back his debt to Shylock at the right time.

2. How did Portia respond on hearing the sad news?

Ans. Portia offered to repay the debt twenty times over. She also said Bassanio that his friend Antonio should not suffer at any cost.

Chapter-6

1. Which qualities of Portia do you come to know about from this chapter ?

Ans. Portia was intelligent, quick-witted, and rational.

2. What was Portia's plan?

Ans. Portia knew her own powers and by the guidance of her own true and perfect judgement, she sent her servant, with a letter, to Padua, where her cousin, Dr. Bellario, a lawyer, lived. Portia stated the case to him, sought his opinion and requested him to send her a dress of a lawyer. She ordered the servant to wait for her at the port. Then she told others that she was going to visit certain monasteries with Nerissa. Until her return, her home would be looked after by Lorenzo and Jessica.

Chapter-7

1. What made it a memorable day for the Venetians?

Ans. The trial of a noble man like Antonio was going to be tried in the court made it a memorable day for the Venetians.

2. How did the Duke request Shylock to show mercy?

Ans. The Duke requested Shylock to show sympathy to Antonio as he had suffered heavy losses and remit his penalty.

3. What did Antonio have to say?

Ans. Antonio requested the Duke not to make any more appeals but give his judgement and let the Jew have his will.

4. Explain the words of Gratiano.

Ans. Gratiano means to say that Shylock's knife has been made sharp by the cruelty of his spirit, and not as a result of his rubbing the knife against the leather sole of a shoe.

5. For whom did the duke ask others to wait?

Ans. The duke asked all those in the court to wait for a learned lawyer, Dr. Belario, for his advice.