

## CHAPTER-1

### Answer the following questions:-

1. Why was Antonio hated by Shylock?

**Ans:** Antonio was a kind of a person who lent money to people in distress without charging interest. For this he was hated by Shylock, the Jewish money-lender.

2. Why was Antonio respected by all?

**Ans:** Antonio was much requested in Venice for his gentle and helpful nature

3. Why did Bassanio need money?

**Ans:** Bassanio had to plan to get rich. He wished to marry a rich lady, Portia, whose father had died leaving a fortune for her. He had visited her during her father's lifetime and it appeared that the lady liked him. But since he had no money, he needed Antonio's help to furnish himself with servants, dresses and gifts befitting a lover of a rich heiress. Therefore, he needed three thousand ducats.

4. Why did the two friends had to go to Shylock? Give two reasons.

**Ans:** The two friends had to go to Shylock because:

- a) Antonio did not have so much money at that time as all his ships were at sea, and all his wealth was tied up in those business ventures. He however agreed to help Bassanio, by standing surety for him, if money could be borrowed from someone else.
  - b) Unfortunately, none in Venice, at that time could lend three thousand ducats to Bassanio as their money was tied up in business ventures. The two friends decided to approach Shylock, the rich money lender for the loan.
5. What do you think of Antonio and Shylock from the conversation?

**Ans:** Antonio, the rich merchant of Venice is a true and a loyal friend and is ready to help his friend at any cost. He is a helpful and generous person. He is overconfident and that is why inspite of such a penalty cause and adjust Bassanio's warning consents to sign the bond.

Shylock, the moneylender on the other hand id mean, merciless and revengeful. The penalty clause that he puts up is a plot against Antonio. He is a cunning and embittered Jew.

6. What clause was put in the bond?

**Ans:** The penalty clause was that if Antonio failed to pay the debt when due, then Shylock would be entitled to a pound of Antonio's flesh from any part of his body that Shylock liked.

## CHAPTER-2

1. Write the suitable adjectives for Portia.

**Ans:** Beautiful, Intelligent and vivacious.

2. What were the two conditions laid down by Portia's late father?

**Ans:** The two conditions laid down by Portia's late father was:

- a) Whoever chose the right casket from among the three, would marry his daughter.
- b) The suitor would have to take an oath before making his choice, that if he failed in his attempt to choose the right casket, would never get married.

3. How did the Prince of Morocco plead for himself?

**Ans:** The Prince of Morocco requested Portia not to discard him for his black colour which was the result of living in a hot country. He said that he was skilled at swordsmanship.

4.

On what condition could Gratiano accompany Bassanio and why?

**Ans:** Bassanio allowed Gratiano to come along on the condition that he would not talk much there and behave decently so that Portia's impression remained favourable.

## CHAPTER-3

1. What plan for elopement was made?

**Ans:** Jessica sent a letter to Lorenzo through a servant, Launcelot, telling him about her plan to elope. Lorenzo agreed to this plan and sent words to her that she should be dressed as a page boy. The group of friends would meet at Gratiano's house that night. They decided that Jessica would be their torch-bearer.

2. Why did the Prince of Morocco choose the gold casket?

**Ans:** He chose the gold casket as it said, "Who chooses me shall get what many men desire?" He thought that men could only desire Portia.

3. What happened to the Prince of Morocco?

**Ans:** When the Prince of Morocco opened the casket he saw a skull, the emblem of death. A scroll told him, "All that glitters is not gold". Shocked and saddened, the Prince of Morocco departed immediately.

## 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 'manymen'.

**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, bowed 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. Bellario, for his advice.

Chapter : 8

(Portia arrives to save Antonio's life)

**Q1)** What had Dr. Bellario written in the letter?

**Ans)** Dr. Bellario had written in the letter that he would have come himself to plead for Antonio but was prevented by sickness. He further requested the Duke in his letter that the learned, young Dr. Balthazar (Portia in disguise) might be permitted to plead in his place.

**Q2)** How did Portia plead to Shylock to show mercy?

**Ans)** When the important trial began in the

court in Venice, Portia talked to Shylock and spoke about the noble quality of mercy. She said that mercy has two fold blessings. It blesses the one who shows mercy and also the one who receives it. It is a symbol of God Himself. In our prayers, we always ask for forgiveness. Thus, in this way she requested Shylock to show mercy.

**Q3)** What made Shylock proclaim Portia as 'Daniel' ?

**Ans)** In the court, when Bassanio offered Shylock as much payment as he desired, Shylock refused the offer. Bassanio then begged the young lawyer, Dr. Balthazar (Portia in disguise) to try to change the law a little to save Antonio's life. But Portia seriously answered that the laws could not

be changed. On hearing the lawyer speak in favour of him, Shylock proclaimed Portia as 'Daniel'.

**Q4)** What made Portia and Nerissa make sarcastic remarks?

**Ans)** Antonio bid farewell to Bassanio just before preparing himself for the knife. He told Bassanio that he should not think he was dying for him. Antonio also wished to convey his regards to Bassanio's wife.

(Portia) . Hearing Antonio's words, Bassanio answered emotionally to Antonio that he loved his wife but life itself, his wife and all the world are not as valuable as he (Antonio) was. He was ready to lose everything to save him. ( Antonio). Though not being really offended, Portia answered sarcastically saying that his (Bassanio's)

wife won't thank him if she heard that.

Gratiano also expressed his wish similar to Bassanio's. Nerissa then remarked that it was good he wished this behind her back otherwise there would have been marital trouble.

### Chapter: 9 Portia wins the case

**Q1)** To which request of Portia's did Shylock say, " It's not mentioned in the bond?"

**Ans:** Portia asked Shylock to have a surgeon ready in case Antonio bled to death. To this request of Portia, Shylock said those words.

**Q2)** Which two points raised by Portia tilted the scale in Antonio's favour?

**Ans:** The following two points raised by Portia tilted the scale in Antonio's favour.

During the case Portia said that while

cutting off the flesh from Antonio's body, Shylock must not shed a drop of blood nor cut a smaller or larger amount than an exact pound. She further said should the flesh weigh lighter or heavier by the merest fraction, he should pay the penalty with his own life and his property will be confiscated.

**Q3)** Why could Shylock not get any money?

**Ans)** Shylock could not get any money because Portia insisted that he had to keep to the strict terms of the bond. She further said that she would allow him only a pound of flesh no more no less.

**Q4)** What made Shylock totally devastated?

**Ans)** Shylock was devastated when Portia attacked him again. She said if any alien

plotted against the life of a Venetian then

half his possession would go to that citizen and the other half to the state. The life of the offender was at the mercy of the Duke. So she asked Shylock to kneel down and pray for forgiveness.

**Q5)** On which condition did Antonio give up his share of Shylock's wealth?

**Ans)** Antonio gave up his share of Shylock's wealth on the condition that he (Shylock) would sign a deed to make it over at his death to his daughter Jessica and her husband Lorenzo. Antonio knew that Shylock had disinherited his daughter for marrying a Christian.

**Q6)** Why did Portia not accept (a) the Duke's invitation and (b) fees from Antonio?

**Ans)** Portia did not accept the Duke's

invitation as she had to leave for Padua that night. Actually she had to rush back to Belmont before Bassanio arrived with his friends.

Portia did not accept the fees from Antonio saying that Antonio's acquittal was reward enough.

Chapter: 10

Antonio's ships return; all live happily ever after

**Q1)** Which two things did Portia ask for?

**Ans)** Portia asked for Bassanio's gloves. She also asked for the ring which she herself had given to him.

**Q2)** Why could Bassanio not give the ring?

**Ans)** Bassanio could not part with the ring

because it was his wife's gift and he had promised never to part with it.

**Q3)** For which two reasons did Bassanio ultimately give the ring to the lawyer?

**Ans)** Bassanio ultimately gave the ring to the lawyer because of the following reasons- he felt ashamed to appear so ungrateful to the lawyer and also because Antonio urged him to give the ring to the lawyer for his great service.

**Q4)** How did Portia learn of the loss of the ring?

**Ans)** A quarrel had begun between Gratiano and Nerissa as the ring given by Nerissa was missing from Gratiano's finger. Portia was annoyed and told Gratiano that he should not have parted with his wife's first gift.

Seeing this as a chance, Gratiano grabbed it

and said that his lord Bassanio also gave his ring to the lawyer. This is how Portia learnt of the loss of the ring.

**Q5)** How did Bassanio plead his case?

**Ans)** When Portia and Nerissa pretended to believe that their husband's had given the ring to some women, Bassanio honestly tried to plea his case. He said that no woman had the ring but the lawyer who refused 3000 ducats and begged for the ring. When he (Bassanio) refused to part with his ring, the lawyer went away in displeasure. He did not like to appear so ungrateful.

**Q6)** How did Antonio (a) feel and (b) stop the quarrel?

**Ans)** Antonio felt embarrassed as he was

the cause of this domestic quarrel (between Bassanio and Portia and between Gratiano and Nerissa) .

Antonio stopped the quarrel by saying that once he had lent his body for Bassanio's sake. That lawyer who took the ring had saved him. Now he pledged his soul that Bassanio will never break an oath with her.

**Q7)** How did they learn the truth?

**Ans)** Portia handed out the same ring which she had received from Bassanio in the court. Nerissa also followed her. Both the friends Antonio and Bassanio were surprised . Then Portia told them how she herself was the young lawyer and Nerissa was her clerk. She also produced

Dr. Bellario's letter as a proof. This is how  
the truth was learnt.

**Q8)** What good news did Portia give Antonio?

**Ans)** The good news which Portia shared with Antonio was that his ships  
which were supposedly lost had returned to the harbour.