

The Merchant of Venice

3.3

Enter Shylock the Jew, Solanio, Antonio, and the jailer

SHYLOCK

Jailer, look to him. Tell not me of mercy.
This is the fool that lent out money gratis.
Jailer, look to him.

ANTONIO Hear me yet, good Shylock.

SHYLOCK

I'll have my bond. Speak not against my bond.
I have sworn an oath that I will have my bond. 5
Thou called'st me dog before thou hadst a cause,
But since I am a dog, beware my fangs.
The Duke shall grant me justice. I do wonder,
Thou naughty jailer, that thou art so fond
To come abroad with him at his request. 10

ANTONIO I pray thee hear me speak.

SHYLOCK

I'll have my bond. I will not hear thee speak.
I'll have my bond, and therefore speak no more.
I'll not be made a soft and dull-eyed fool
To shake the head, relent, and sigh, and yield 15
To Christian intercessors. Follow not.
I'll have no speaking. I will have my bond.

Exit

SOLANIO

It is the most impenetrable cur
That ever kept with men.

ANTONIO Let him alone.

I'll follow him no more with bootless prayers. 20
He seeks my life. His reason well I know:
I oft delivered from his forfeitures
Many that have at times made moan to me.
Therefore he hates me.

SOLANIO I am sure the Duke
Will never grant this forfeiture to hold. 25

ANTONIO

The Duke cannot deny the course of law,
For the commodity that strangers have
With us in Venice, if it be denied,
Will much impeach the justice of the state,
Since that the trade and profit of the city 30
Consisteth of all nations. Therefore go.

These griefs and losses have so bated me
That I shall hardly spare a pound of flesh
Tomorrow to my bloody creditor.
Well, jailer, on. Pray God Bassanio come 35
To see me pay his debt, and then I care not.

Exeunt