

# The Merchant of Venice

## 2.8

*Enter Salerio and Solanio*

**SALERIO**

Why, man, I saw Bassanio under sail.  
With him is Graziano gone along,  
And in their ship I am sure Lorenzo is not.

**SOLANIO**

The villain Jew with outcries raised the Duke,  
Who went with him to search Bassanio's ship. 5

**SALERIO**

He came too late. The ship was under sail.  
But there the Duke was given to understand  
That in a gondola were seen together  
Lorenzo and his amorous Jessica.  
Besides, Antonio certified the Duke 10  
They were not with Bassanio in his ship.

**SOLANIO**

I never heard a passion so confused,  
So strange, outrageous, and so variable  
As the dog Jew did utter in the streets.  
`My daughter! O, my ducats! O, my daughter! 15  
Fled with a Christian! O, my Christian ducats!  
Justice! The law! My ducats and my daughter!  
A sealeÁd bag, two sealeÁd bags of ducats,  
Of double ducats, stol'n from me by my daughter!  
And jewels, two stones, two rich and precious stones, 20  
Stol'n by my daughter! Justice! Find the girl!  
She hath the stones upon her, and the ducats!'

**SALERIO**

Why, all the boys in Venice follow him,  
Crying, `His stones, his daughter, and his ducats!'

**SOLANIO**

Let good Antonio look he keep his day, 25  
Or he shall pay for this.

**SALERIO**

Marry, well remembered.

I reasoned with a Frenchman yesterday,  
Who told me in the narrow seas that part  
The French and English there miscarrieÁd

A vessel of our country, richly fraught. 30  
I thought upon Antonio when he told me,  
And wished in silence that it were not his.

**SOLANIO**

You were best to tell Antonio what you hear±±  
Yet do not suddenly, for it may grieve him.

**SALERIO**

A kinder gentleman treads not the earth. 35  
I saw Bassanio and Antonio part.  
Bassanio told him he would make some speed  
Of his return. He answered, `Do not so.  
Slubber not business for my sake, Bassanio,  
But stay the very riping of the time; 40  
And for the Jew's bond which he hath of me,  
Let it not enter in your mind of love.  
Be merry, and employ your chiefest thoughts  
To courtship and such fair ostents of love  
As shall conveniently become you there.' 45  
And even there, his eye being big with tears,  
Turning his face, he put his hand behind him  
And, with affection wondrous sensible,  
He wrung Bassanio's hand; and so they parted.

**SOLANIO**

I think he only loves the world for him. 50  
I pray thee let us go and find him out,  
And quicken his embraceÁd heaviness  
With some delight or other.

**SALERIO**

Do we so.

*Exeunt*