

The Merchant of Venice

4.2

Enter Portia and Nerissa, still disguised

PORTIA

Enquire the Jew's house out, give him this deed,
And let him sign it. We'll away tonight,
And be a day before our husbands home.
This deed will be well welcome to Lorenzo.

Enter Graziano

GRAZIANO Fair sir, you are well o'erta'en. 5

My lord Bassanio upon more advice
Hath sent you here this ring, and doth entreat
Your company at dinner.

PORTIA That cannot be.

His ring I do accept most thankfully,
And so I pray you tell him. Furthermore, 10
I pray you show my youth old Shylock's house.

GRAZIANO

That will I do.

NERISSA Sir, I would speak with you.

(Aside to Portia) I'll see if I can get my husband's ring
Which I did make him swear to keep for ever.

PORTIA *(aside to Nerissa)*

Thou mayst; I warrant we shall have old swearing 15
That they did give the rings away to men.
But we'll outface them, and outswear them too.
Away, make haste. Thou know'st where I will tarry.

Exit [at one door]

NERISSA *(to Graziano)*

Come, good sir, will you show me to this house?
Exeunt [at another door]