

St. Andrews Scots Sr. Sec. School

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Session: 2024 - 2025- NOTES

Class - VIII Subject - English Topic – The Merchant of Venice

B.RTC-

1. a) Portia spoke these words to Shylock.

b) According to Portia, mercy is freely given, flowing naturally and without force, much like the rain which falls gently from the sky. Mercy is a divine blessing which benefits both the man who shows mercy and the man who receives it. Mercy is enthroned in the hearts of kings when he shows mercy while dispensing justice.

2. a) Shylock is referring to the action he has taken by bringing Antonio to the court.

b) Antonio is supposed to get the penalty as he failed to repay the loan taken from Shylock.

c) The contract between Shylock and Antonio stipulated that if Antonio failed to repay the loan of 3,000 ducats within three months, Shylock would be entitled to a pound of Antonio's flesh.

3. a) Antonio uttered these words.

b) Antonio made this request when Shylock declared that there was no person in the world who could make him change his mind.

C.Answer these questions briefly-

1. Everyone was it within in the court for the trial of Antonio who took loan from Shylock and could not repay it within three months.

2. Unfortunately, Antonio's ships, which were supposed to bring him wealth, sank and as a result he was unable to repay Shylock's loan.

3. Portia is Bassanio's wife who disguises herself as a male lawyer. She was presenting the case from Antonio's side.

4. In response to Portia's plea for mercy, Shylock remained resolute and refused to show any leniency. He insisted on his legal right to a pound of Antonio's flesh as stated in the contract. And stated that there was no power in the tongue of man to make him change his mind.
5. Portia argued that while Shylock was entitled to the pound of flesh as stated in the contract, he must do so without shedding any blood, as that was not mentioned in the agreement. Since it was impossible to extract flesh without drawing blood, Portia concluded that Shylock could not legally claim his bond. This allowed her to save Antonio's life.
6. Bassanio offered Shylock twice the amount of the original loan in an attempt to persuade him to show mercy. After that he even offered to pay ten times that amount and pledged his hands.
7. Shylock refused to have a surgeon present during the trial because he wanted to continue with the terms of the agreement strictly. He didn't wish to show Antonio any mercy in carrying out the terms of the agreement.
8. The verdict given by the court was that Shylock must surrender half his wealth and property to state and the other half to Antonio. But Antonio stated that the half in trust with him should be inherited by his daughter and son-in-law.