



中華書局編印

The Merchant of Venice

CHAPTER I

Shylock³ and His Bond⁴

Far away, on the shores of the blue Adriatic Sea, there is a city called Venice. It is a city of white marble houses like palaces.

Great painters¹⁰ have always loved to make pictures of¹¹ the grand old churches and other beautiful buildings that may be seen in Venice.¹²

Strange to say,¹³ there are very few¹⁴ streets¹⁵ in the city, for between the houses there are canals,¹⁶ crossed by many quaint old bridges;¹⁷ while¹⁸ boats, called gondolas,¹⁹ carry people to

^{1.} 商人. 2. Venice (ven'is) 威麗思 (意大利城名). 3. Shylock (shi'lok) 最洛克 (输太人). 4. 券. 借據. 5. Far away 遠方. 6. on the shores of the blue Adriatic (ā-dri-at'ik) Sea 亞得里亞碧海之濱. 7. there is a city called Venice 有城日威麗思 (there is 有). 8. 雲石, 大理石. 9. 宮殿, 邸第. 10. Great painters 名畫家. 11. have always loved to make pictures of 往往喜作...之圖. 12. the grand old churches and other beautiful buildings that may be seen in Venice 壯巍之古敦堂與其他精巧美麗之建築品, 今在威麗思. 倘得見焉 (buildings 亭臺樓陽等各種建築品). 13. Strange to say 言之可奇. 14. very few (≡not many) 寥寥無幾. 15. 街衢. 16. for between the houses there are canals 蓋屋含之間有河渠焉 (canal 人工開鑿之河渠). 17. crossed by many quaint old bridges 駕有許多精巧之古橋. 18. 而. 19. 狭長形之小艇.

and fro, for business or pleasure, over the blue water.

The sun shines brightly³ on Venice, and the air is very soft and warm⁴ while the song of the sea⁵ is sweet to⁶ the ears of those who love this fine old place.⁷

Once upon a time,⁸ there lived⁹ in Venice two men, named Antonio¹⁰ and Bassanio,¹¹ who were very great friends.¹² Antonio was a rich merchant. He owned¹³ a great many¹⁴ ships, which carried goods¹⁵ to distant lands;¹⁶ for in those days¹⁷ the people of Venice were famous as brave seamen and traders.¹⁸

Besides being known as a rich man of some importance, 19 Antonio was liked by everybody, 20

^{1.} for business or pleasure 或以事故,或資遊樂. 2. carry people to and fro, over the blue water 往返載人以渡此碧水之上 (to and fro 往返). 3. shines brightly 難映. 4. the air is very soft and warm 空氣珠爲和暖, 5. the song of the sea 海水蕩漾之鄰. 6. is sweet to... 與, 稅. 7. those who love this fine old place 彼愛此美雅之古城者. 8. Once upon a time 在昔某時 (once 往昔). 9. there lived 居有. 10. Antonio (an-tō'ni-ō) 安東尼. 11. Bassanio (ba-sā'ni-ō) 巴散奴. 12. were very great friends 相交莫遊 (great friend 至友). 13. 有. 14. a great many 多數 (此處 "many" 可視為 collective noun "many" 之後, 當有 "of," 因習慣故。省去). 15. 貨物. 16. distant lands 遠方. 17. in those days 當其時. 18. were famous as brave seamen and traders 以勇於航海及經商著名 (seaman 航海家; trader 商人). 19. Besides being known as a rich man of some importance 除以重要富人是知於世外. 20. was liked by everybody 為人人所喜愛.

for he was very good and kind and generous.¹ But his greatest friend was young Ba. anio.

Bassanio was handsome and clever.² He was not very well off,³ and perhaps he spent more than he should have done.⁴ But whenever⁵ he needed money, his good friend Antonio was always ready to give it to him,⁶ for he loved him as if he were his own brother.⁷

Antonio was a much quieter⁸ man. He made no display of his riches,⁹ and, indeed,¹⁰ preferred to live in a plainer manner.¹¹ But he was glad that Bassanio dressed more gaily,¹² after the fashion of the young men of his time, and he liked him to take his place amongst¹⁴ other Venetian gentlemen.¹⁵

Now¹⁶ Bassanio had made the acquaintance of¹⁷ a rich old man who lived at Belmont,¹⁸ a few

^{1.} 寬厚, 慷慨. 2. handsome and clever 美而悲. 3 not very well off 不甚富裕 (well off 富足). 4. spent more than he should have done (二 spent) 用財溫奢 (用溫其所當用'). 5. 無論何事. 6. was always ready to give it to him 常與之不稍延 (ready 迅速, 準備). 7. as (he would love him) if he were his own brother 儼如手足 (直譯 '一若彼爲其親弟兄者'; as if 一若). 8. 較爲恬淡. 9. made no display of his riches 並不夸炫其富 (display 顯示; riches 財富). 10. 竟然. 11. preferred to live in a plainer manner 自奉甯稍儉約. 12. dressed (himself) more gaily 服飾較麗. 13. after the fashion of. 仿. 之式. 14. to take his place amongst. 得謝於. 之列. 15. Venetian gentlemen 威麗思縉紳之士. 16. 二things being so 俗云"却說". 17. had made the acquaintance of... 當與... 訂交,嘗識... 18. Belmont 具爾孟德 (地名).

miles out of Venice. He had been to his house on a visit, and had seen his daughter Portia, who was a very beautiful young lady.

Bassanio felt sure that Portia liked him, and he knew that he loved her. Since his visit to Belmont her father had died, and Bassanio thought he would like to go there again and see whether Portia really loved him well enough to be his wife. 10

But when he came to¹¹ look into¹² his purse,¹³ he found he had not enough money¹⁴ to go on such a visit.¹⁵ He knew that Antonio would help him at once,¹⁶ and so he hastened to his house.¹⁷

Just at that time, 18 however, 10 Antonio had not much money by him. 20 He had been fitting out 21 his ships, and finding cargoes 22 for them, and

^{1.} a few miles of. ... 去... 僅數里. 2. had been to 會詣. 3. on a visit 投謁. 4. had seen his daughter Portia (pôr'shia) 嘗觀其女鮑希霞. 5. 女士, 婦女之尊和. 6. felt sure 意必. 7. 連詞無意義. 8. Since his visit to... 自彼往遊... 之後以迄斯際. 9. thought he would like to go there again 思欲重滋其地,思綾蕾遊. 10. and see whether Portia really loved him well enough to be his wife 且祭鮑希霞情好之篤果至願爲彼婦否。 11. came to... 此,及至... 12. look into 檢,察. 13. 錢囊. 14. had not enough money 泛充分之資。 15. to go on such a visit 以作此行。 16. at once 立即. 17. hastened to his house 急遭其唐. 18. Just at that time 適於其時,時值. 19. 但. 20. had not much money by him 存金不多. 21. had been fitting out... 適已裝備... 22. 船貨.

so all his ready money¹ had been spent upon² his vessels,³ which were at sea.⁴

It grieved Antonio very much to refuse such a request, so he began to think what could be done to help Bassanio.

"After all," thought he, "the ships are quite safe. They will soon reach the ports to which they are bound, o and I shall then have plenty of money in my hands. For once, then, I will go with Bassanio to a money-lender, and borrow as much as he needs. We shall be able to pay it back very soon."

It was not a thing which he liked to do; indeed, the rich money-lenders, who were Jews,¹⁷ were persons whom Antonio greatly disliked.¹⁸ He had often spoken against them,¹⁹ and told them how he hated²⁰ their grasping and miserly ways.²¹

^{1.} all his ready money 被所有之现金。
2. had been spent upon...
已報諸...上. 3. 船. 4. at sea 在海上. 大 grieved Antonio very much to refuse such a request 安東尼採以不定應命為德(It 知指 to refuse...—事; grieved 使...憂慮; to refuse such a request 却成一副。
6. began to think 始思. 7. what could be done 可任何部。 \$50 Kitter all 總之,畢竟. 9. 商埠,港. 10. 駛向 11 IETL 中中中大 以上 money 多 4. 12. For once 祇此一夫. 13. 放债人. 14. borrow as much as he needs 如彼所需之數而告貨焉. 15. pay back 歸償 16. very soon不失,形日. 17. 粉太人. 18. greatly disliked 深恶. 19. 文章 of the spoken against them 嘗屢屢請讓之. 20. 憎恶. 21. grasping and hearly ways 資別之行.

Still, so great was his love for Bassanio that he was willing to break through his rule, and go with him to borrow the necessary sum from old Shylock, a rich Jew, who was noted as the sharpest money-lender in Venice.

Shylock was a covetous⁷ and cruel old man. He always made those who borrowed his money pay very dearly for the sums they had.⁸ Thus, while they became poor, the Jew grew richer day by day.⁹

"Shylock has no reason to love me," said Antonio. "He is the worst of all the Jews in our city; and he knows just what I think of him, for I have often spoken openly of his cruel ways. Still, Bassanio, there can be no harm in asking his aid this once, for in three months we shall be full able to repay what he lends."

^{1.} 然而. 2. so great was his love for Bassanio that...彼與巴散奴情篤若斯因之... 3. was willing to break through his rule 顯破其常例.
4. necessary sum 要款,必需之款. 5. was noted as...以...著名.
6. 至苛,極酷. 7. 貪 8. made...pay very dearly of the sums they had 令...為其所得之款償倍稱之息. 9. day by day 逐日. 10. has no reason to love me 無愛我之理,末由愛我. 11. he knows just what I think of him 予視之何若彼深知之. 12. have often spoken openly of ...常公然道及... 13. 雖然. 14. there can be no harm in asking his aid this once 僅此一度乞彼助力當無害. 15. in three months we shall be full able to repay what he lends 三月之後吾曹當可償彼所假之款也 (full able 足可; what he lends 彼所假之款).

So the two friends went off arm in arm,¹ Bassanio talking gaily² about³ his visit to Belmont, and about the beautiful Lady Portia.

They found Shylock on the Rialto,⁴ which was the Exchange,⁵ or place where the merchants of the city met to do business with each other.⁶ It stood near a bridge which led to⁷ the great church of St. Mark,⁸ one of the most beautiful churches in Europe.⁹

The Rialto itself was a very fine building. All round the big halls were galleries, 10 where people could stand and look down upon the crowd of merchants who met here day by day. 11 For here were gathered 12 men of all ranks, 13 who came from different parts of the country 14 to buy and sell in Venice.

^{1.} went off arm in arm 擱手行去. 2. 歡然. 3. talking about 遊及, 言及. 4. Rialto (rā-āl'tō) 里窪爾幹 (商業薈萃之地). 5. 商場. 6. met to do business with each other 摹集互市 (to do business 交易; with each other 互相). 7. led to... 通至... 8. the great church of St. Mark 聖馬克大敦堂. 9. 歐洲. 10. All round the big halls were galleries 環於大堂之四周者皆歸合焉 (hall 廳堂; gallery 露合, 廠). 11. look down upon the crowd of merchants who met here day by day 俯瞰每日集此之墓商 (look down upon 俯瞰; crowd 墓). 12. here were gathered 皆集此焉. 13. men of all ranks 各界人士, 諸色人等. 14. came from different parts of the country 來自各方.

Here, too, were seen¹ groups² of Jews, who waited with their money-bags,³ to lend their gold to needy merchants,⁴ from whom they expected large interest for their loans.⁵ These greedy⁶ Jews brought sorrow and shame to⁻ many a⁶ home in Venice, as well as⁶ in other places. For there is an old proverb which says that¹o "they who go borrowing go sorrowing."¹¹¹

But amidst the noise and stir of 12 the Rialto there was, perhaps, not time enough to think of these things. 13 If a merchant needed money, he sought 14 out the nearest money-lender, and made a bargain with 15 him, for which, no doubt, he was very sorry afterwards, when he found it difficult to pay back the loan. 16

^{1.} were seen 見有. 2. 墓梁. 3. waited with their money-bags 持銀養以待. 4. needy merchants 困窘之商人. 5. from whom they expected large interest for their loans 若曹卽望此輩舉債而償以重息. 6. 貪. 7. brought sorrow and shame to...胎威辱於... (sorrow 悲戚; shame 羞辱). 8. many a (=many times one) 許多. 9. as well as 丼. 10. there is an old proverb which says that... 古諺有之目... 11. they who go borrowing go sorrowing 彼日惟以借貸為事者常處於悉苦之中. 12. But amidst the noise and stir of...顧在... 喧囂擾攘之中. 13. there was not time enough to think of these things 不遑念及此也. 14. 貸. 15. made a bargain with...與...罰約. 16. for which, no doubt, he was very sorry afterwards, when he found it difficult to pay back the loan 日後彼見離於償付必且深悔之也 (no doubt 無疑; it 卽指 to pay back the loan).

In the case of Antonio and Bassanio, however, things were rather different. Antonio only wanted the money to help his friend, and in three months' time he fully expected to pay it back.

So he went cheerfully⁴ with Bassanio towards the spot where Shylock stood⁵ in the Rialto. When they drew near,⁶ Bassanio first went up to Shylock by himself,⁷ and asked him whether he could lend the money, if Antonio gave his bond to repay⁸ it on a certain⁹ day.

The Jew looked sharply at¹⁰ Antonio, who stood a little way off.¹¹ Then rubbing¹² his hands, he turned to smile¹³ at Bassanio.

"It is only for three months, 14 you say, Signor 15 Bassanio; and Antonio will sign 16 a bond saying that he will repay me. Well, 17 Antonio is a good man."

^{1.} In the case of...就...而論,在... 2. things were rather different 情形頗有不同. 3. fully expected 滿擬, 深望. 4. 欣然. 5. the spot where Shylock stood 最洛克所在之地. 6. drew (themselves) near 行近. 7. first went up to Shylock by himself 先自詣嚴洛克處. 8. 歸價. 9. 某. 10. looked sharply at...熟視...,注視... 11. a little way off 相雕咫尺. 12. 擦 13. turned to smile 轉作散容. 14. It is only three months 此約祗以三月爲期. 15. 先生,君(意大利語). 16. 簽字於... 17. 器助詞,表示愜意之詞.

But he spoke in a scoffing way¹ which Bassanio did not quite like.²

"Have you ever heard anything against my friend?" he asked quickly; and Shylock drew back, lifting his hands as if to protest against such a thing.

"Oh dear no, no!" he cried. "What I meant was that his name was sufficient. But one must be careful, and Antonio's wealth is on his ships. Now, what are ships? They are boards of wood; and sailors are only men, after all. There are water-thieves. I mean mean well as land-thieves, and we know there are other dangers on the sea, such as storms and winds and rocks; therefore I must be cautious. Still, the man himself has a very good name, and I think I may take his bond."

^{1.} spoke in a scoffing way 言時作侮慢嘲笑之歌. 2. which Bassanio did not quite like 此則巴散奴殊不悅焉. 3. Have you ever heard anything against my friend? 汝嘗聞有詆毀吾友之言乎. 4. drew (himself) back 退後。 5. 擎, 高舉. 6. as if to protest against such a thing 若欲力辯其誣然。 7. Oh dear no, no! 惡, 否, 否. 8. What I meant was that his name was sufficient 予意乃謂其名已足(昭信)也. 9. But one must be careful 顧人要當卷懷耳. 10. 語助詞. 11. boards of wood 未极. 12. sailors are only men, after all 舟子終亦人耳. 13. water-thieves 海中匪徒, 14. pirates, I mean 余謂海盜耳. 15. and we know there are other dangers on the sea 且在海中猜別有種種危險此晉人所知也. 16. such as 諸如. 17. 暴風雨. 18. 礁. 19. 防維周密. 20. 接受.

"Indeed I am sure you may," said Bassanio.

"Yes, yes, I also am sure of that," replied the cunning Jew. "Now may I speak to Antonio?"

But, as Antonio came towards them, Shylock ground his teeth,⁴ for he hated him with all his soul.⁵ He hated him partly because of⁶ the scorn⁷ with which Antonio treated⁸ himself and his tribe,⁹ partly because Antonio lent people money without charging any interest,¹⁰ and so brought down¹¹ the rate of interest¹² in Venice. "Now," thought Shylock, "I have a chance to revenge myself on¹³ this proud¹⁴ merchant."

Antonio, however, did not know what was in the Jew's mind,¹⁵ so he bowed courteously.¹⁶

"Shylock," he said, "I neither lend for gain, nor do I borrow as a rule. 17 But to oblige 18 my

I. Indeed I am sure you may (take his bond) 予固斷言君可 (受納也).

2. 即指受納借券之事。 3. 狡猾. 4. ground his teeth 咬牙切齒.

5. hated him with all his soul 假之刺骨 (with all one's soul 直譯爲全神 貫注). 6. partly because of 一則爲... 7. 侮慢. 8. 待遇. 9. 族類.

10. lent people money without charging any interest 假人以金而不索絲毫之息. 11. and so brought down...且從而貶折... 12. the rate of interest 利率. 13. I have a chance to revenge myself on...沒有向... 報復之機會矣. 14. 倨傲. 15. did not know what was in the Jew's mind 初未知此猶太人心中所著之念也. 16. bowed courteously 鞠躬盡禮.

17. I neither lend for gain, nor do I borrow as a rule 我既不以放債而歸 利我亦不以奉债爲價事. 18. 惠及,她副...之顧.

friend, who wants a sum of money very urgently, I am going to break my custom? and ask you for the amount. May we depend upon you, 3 Shylock?"

"Signor Antonio," said Shylock, "here, in this Rialto, you have often rated me about my money, and the interest I charge for it; you have called me names; you spoke of me as if I were a dog. But, see, I will be friends with you. I will forget all that you have said against me, and take no interest for the money which I am going to lend you."

"Indeed, this is very kind," exclaimed Bassanio, who was listening, and could scarcely believe what he heard.

"Come with me, and sign a bond saying when you will repay the money," said Shylock. "But, just as a merry joke, 10 we will say that, if you do not pay the sum on a certain day, 11 I may cut off

^{1.} 急切。 2. I am going to break my custom 余且破予成例。
3. May we depend upon you? 余傳可仰賴君乎。 4. 賣麗。 5. you have called me names 汝傳以惡言加我。 6. spoke of me as if I were a dog 骶余若犬。 7. I will forget all that you have said against me 余願盡忘汝所毀余之言。 8. 呼曰. 9. 殊難。 10. just as a merry joke 直同戲謔然。 11. if you do not pay the sum on a certain day 果如期而君不償此款者。

a pound of flesh¹ from any part of your body that I please."²

"I am quite willing," said Antonio. "I will certainly sign that bond, and say there is much kindness in the Jew."

But Bassanio started forward.* "You shall not sign such a bond for me," he cried, for he did not trust Shylock.

"Do not be afraid, Bassanio," said Antonio, putting his hand on the young man's arm. "A month before the money is due my ships will be here, and I shall have three times the sum that Shylock has lent you."

Then Antonio went to a lawyer's¹⁰ with Shylock and signed the bond, but still Bassanio was not happy.¹¹

"I do not like this way of doing business," he said.

^{1.} I may cut off a pound of flesh 予得%一磅肉. 2. 喜. 3. and say there is much kindness in the Jew 且稱循太人多惠也. 4. started forward 亟望而前. 5. You shall not 君勿 (shall 含命令意). 6. Donot be afraid 君毋懼也. 7. A month before the money is due 償債期未屬以前之一月中. 8. will be here 將抵此. 9. three times the sum ... 三倍于... 之款. 10. 律師事務所. 11. was not happy 怏怏不樂.

"Come, come," replied Antonio, "there is nothing to fear.¹ My ships will come home in time,² and all will be well."

Bassanio shook his head; but his friend reminded him that³ he now was able to visit Belmont. So he bade farewell to⁴ Antonio, and set off⁵ with a heart full of gratitude and joy.⁶

He took with him⁷ a number of⁸ servants, and another friend called Gratiano,⁹ who was a young man full of fun and high spirits.¹⁰ They soon arrived at¹¹ the fine old house where the Lady Portia lived.

CHAPTER II The Three Caskets12

The lady whom Bassanio wished to marry was very rich, for her father had left her a large fortune.¹³

^{1.} there is nothing to fear 無所懼也. 2. in time 如期. 3. reminded him that...警告之日... 4. bade farewell to...向...道 別. 5. set off 首途. 6. with a heart full of gratitude and joy 寸裏感快無旣. 7. took with him 隨帶. 8. a number of—many 亲. 9. Gratiano (grā'te-ā'no) 格來替. 10. full of fun and high spirits 與我彌高且善該諧. 11. arrived at 行抵. 12. 箧, 盒. 13. had left her a large fortune 嘗有鉅產遺彼.

He had always been afraid that some one might wish to marry her only for the sake of her money,¹ so he made a plan to try and prevent it.²

Before he died he gave her three boxes.³ One was made of gold, one was of silver,⁵ and the third was made of lead.⁶ On the gold box were the words:⁷ "Who chooses me shall gain what many men desire.¹⁰" On the silver box was written:¹¹ "Who chooses me shall get as much as he deserves."¹² And on the leaden box were the words: "Who chooses me must give and risk all that he has."¹³

But in one of these boxes there was a portrait¹⁴ of Portia, and, by her father's will,¹⁵ the man who chose¹⁶ the box in which this¹⁷ was hidden would be Portia's husband. There were several people¹⁸

I. had always been afraid that some one might wish to marry her only for the sake of her money 常恐人有美其女富而顯聚之者 (only for the sake of...僅為...之故).

2. so he made a plan to try and prevent it 彼乃設法而務法此弊焉.

3. 盒. 4. was made of...以...製之.

5. =was made of silver (silver 銀).

6. 鉛. 7. On the gold box were the words: 金盒之上有交目...

8. 擇. 9. shall gain 當得 (shall 含許諾意,下二句同).

10. 欲得. 11. on the silver box was written...銀盒之上書有交目... 12. as much as he deserves 如所應得之數.

13. must give and risk all that he has 必識捨其所有而冒險一試. 14. 肯像. 15. by her father's will 奉其父之遺言. 16. choose 之過去式.

17. 指 portrait. 18. several people 數人.

who wished to marry Portia, though she only cared for the brave young Bassanio, whom she had seen when he came to visit her father. But before Bassanio could reach Belmont others came.

The first was a Prince from Africa, who appeared with a great crowd of servants and soldiers. He stood before the three boxes for some time, wondering which he should choose. "Ah!" he said when he had looked at the golden box, let me see this once more—'who chooses me shall gain what many men desire, why, he that shall gain what many men desire, why, he that shall want her. So please give me the key that I may open this box. Then take it, Prince, said Portia. "If my Portrait is found inside, then I am yours." But when the Prince unlocked the golden box, he found there was only a skull in it, with these words:

T. only cared for... 催屬意於... 2. 第. 3. before Bassanio could reach Belmont others came 巴散奴未及行抵貝爾孟德之前即有數人 展此. 4. The first 其第一人. 5. a Prince from Africa 來自非洲之親王. 6. appeared with a great crowd of servants and soldiers 率僕卒多人而至. 7. for some time 有頃. 8. 躊躇不決. 9. once more 再, 復. 10. 咦. 11. =that is 是即. 12. please give me the key 請授我鍵. 13. that I may open this box 俾予可以啓此盒也. 14. 在內. 15. then I am yours 則此身爲君有矣. 16. 啓. 17. 顱骨.