

The Merchant of Venice

A1. Answer the following questions in 40 -50 words each

1. How does the writer suggest that Antonio was a rich and prosperous merchant ?

Ans. The writer suggests that Antonio was a rich and prosperous merchant by saying that Antonio's ships were on nearly every sea and he traded with Portugal ,Mexico, England and India .

2 Was Bassanio careful with his expenditure ?How can you say?

Ans. No, Bassanio was not careful with his expenditure ,and he was even unable to repay his debts .He went to Antonio to borrow money for his Belmont trip.

3. Why did Bassanio ask Antonio for a further loan?

Ans. Bassanio us Antonio for a further loan because he wanted to make a trip to Belmont to seek the hand of Portia in marriage I.

4. What made Bassanio think that he could woo the lady from Belmont ?Was he right?

Ans. Bassanio thought that he could woo the lady from Belmont because she had looked at him with great favor when they made the previous time. He was right in thinking so.

5. Why was Antonio not in a position to give money to his friend? Why did he have to take a loan?

Ans. Antonio was not in a position to give money to his friend because all his ships were at sea and he had no money with him that is why he had to take a loan.

6. Discribe the relationship between Shylock and Antonio.

Ans. The relationship between Shylock and Antonio was one of hatred. Antonio despise Shylock very much and insulted him whenever he got a chance Ehylock also hated Antonio and was waiting for a chance to take revenge.

7. 'Just for fun, you shall sign a bond ...'Dd shylock want the bond just for fun ?Did Antonio understand the implications?

Ans. No, shylock wanted the bond not just for fun. He actually wanted to take the life of Antonio and was hoping that he would get a chance for that .Antonio did not understand the implication of the bond.

8. What made Shylock's love for his daughter turn into hatred?

Ans. Shylock ' s love for his daughter turned into hatred because she ran away with her lover and she took bags full of gold and money with her.

9. Do you think Portia wanted Bassanio to choose the right casket ?How can you tell?

Ans. Portia wanted Bassanio to choose the right casket. She wanted to delay Bassanio from making his choice as she was afraid that he would choose the wrong casket.

10. Portia gave something to Bassanio and asked him never to part with it .What was it did Bassanio honour the promise?

Ans. Portia gave Bassanio a ring and asked him never to part with it .Bassanio did not honour the promise as he gave the ring to the young lawyer as a token of gratitude for saving Antonio's life.

11. What news reached Bassanio that upset him greatly ?What did his wife ask him to do?

Ans. The news that Antonio was ruined and that Shylock demanded from the Duke the fulfilment of the bond upset Bassanio greatly. Portia asked him to take her to church first and marry her and then to go to Venice at once to help Antonio.

12. The young lawyer imposed the conditions that Shylock should not spill a drop of Antonio's blood while cutting his flesh and also that he should not take more than one pound of flesh.

A2. Answer the following questions in 80-100 words each.

1. Write a short note on the friendship between Antonio and Bassanio.

Ans. Antonio was Bassanio's best friend .It was to Antonio that Bassanio turned to whenever he was in need .Antonio helped Bassanio as much as he could. He was even ready to forfeit his life for getting a loan from Shylock .In Bassanio's own words ,he owed to Antonio the most in money and in love.

2. Portia was not only beautiful but also very intelligent. Comment.

Ans. Kindly write this answer on your own.

3. How were the tables turned on Shylock?

Ans. Shylock was entitled for a pound of Antonio's flesh as per the bond .But Portia ,disguised as a young lawyer, argued that Shylock is only entitled to one pound of flesh and it should not be more than that .He also argued that not a single drop of blood should be spilled. He withdrew his demand .Portia now told him that his life and property were forfeited by the Venetian law for seeking to take the life of a Venetian.

4. Draw a character sketch of Antonio.

Ans. Antonio was a rich and prosperous merchant of Venice .He was a good hearted man and found joy in helping his friends. Antonio was ready to do anything for his friends he even went to Shylock to get a loan from him so that he could help his friend. He was not even hesitant to forfeit his life for his friend. He lent money to needy people without charging any interest. When he was in danger he did not inform Bassanio as he thought it would spoil Bassanio's festive mood.