

The Merchant of Venice

A1. Answer the following questions.

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 asked Antonio for a further loan because he wanted to make a trip to Belmont to seek the hand of Portia in marriage.
4. What did 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 favour when they met 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. Describe the relationship between Shylock and Antonio.
Ans. The relationship between Shylock and Antonio was one of hatred. Antonio despised Shylock very much and insulted him whenever he got a chance. Shylock also hated Antonio and was waiting for a chance to take revenge.
7. 'Just for fun, you shall sign a bond...' Did 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 implications 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. Yes, Portia wanted Bassanio to choose the right casket. She wanted to delay Bassanio from making his choice as she was afraid that he could 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 didn't 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. What two conditions did the young lawyer impose that made it impossible for Shylock to get his pound of flesh?

Ans. 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.