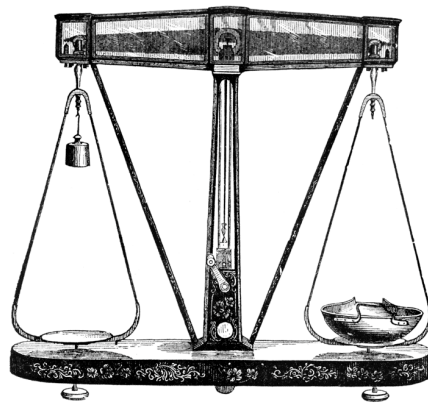


# THE MERCHANT OF VENICE

By

William Shakespeare

Act 3, Scene 3



SCENE. Venice. A street

(Enter SHYLOCK, SALARINO, ANTONIO, and Gaoler.)

SHYLOCK.

Gaoler, look to him. Tell not me of mercy;  
This is the fool that lent out money gratis:  
Gaoler, look to him.

ANTONIO.

Hear me yet, good Shylock.

SHYLOCK.

I'll have my bond; speak not against my bond.  
I have sworn an oath that I will have my bond.  
Thou call'dst me dog before thou hadst a cause,  
But, since I am a dog, beware my fangs;  
The Duke shall grant me justice. I do wonder,  
Thou naughty gaoler, that thou art so fond  
To come abroad with him at his request.

ANTONIO.

I pray thee hear me speak.

SHYLOCK.

I'll have my bond. I will not hear thee speak;  
I'll have my bond; and therefore speak no more.  
I'll not be made a soft and dull-eyed fool,  
To shake the head, relent, and sigh, and yield  
To Christian intercessors. Follow not;  
I'll have no speaking; I will have my bond.

(Exit.)

SALARINO.

It is the most impenetrable cur  
That ever kept with men.

ANTONIO.

Let him alone;  
I'll follow him no more with bootless prayers.  
He seeks my life; his reason well I know:  
I oft deliver'd from his forfeitures  
Many that have at times made moan to me;  
Therefore he hates me.

SALARINO.

I am sure the Duke  
Will never grant this forfeiture to hold.

ANTONIO.

The Duke cannot deny the course of law;  
For the commodity that strangers have  
With us in Venice, if it be denied,  
'Twill much impeach the justice of the state,  
Since that the trade and profit of the city  
Consisteth of all nations. Therefore, go;  
These griefs and losses have so bated me  
That I shall hardly spare a pound of flesh  
To-morrow to my bloody creditor.  
Well, gaoler, on; pray God Bassanio come  
To see me pay his debt, and then I care not.

(Exeunt.)