

Why, I am sure if he forfeit, thou wilt not take his flesh! What's that good for?

To bait fish withal;

if it will feed nothing else, it will feed my revenge.

He hath disgraced me and hindered me half a million,

laughed at my losses,

mocked at my gains,

scorned my nation,

thwarted my bargains,

cooled my friends,

heated mine enemies—

and what's his reason?

I am a Jew.

Hath not a Jew eyes?

Hath not a Jew hands, organs, dimensions, senses, affections, passions?

Fed with the same food, hurt with the same weapons, subject to the same diseases, healed by the same means, warmed and cooled by the same winter and summer as a Christian is?

If you prick us, do we not bleed?

If you tickle us, do we not laugh?

If you poison us, do we not die?

And if you wrong us, shall we not revenge?

If we are like you in the rest, we will resemble you in that.

If a Jew wrong a Christian, what is his humility?

Revenge. If a Christian wrong a Jew, what should his sufferance be by Christian example?

Why, revenge! The villainy you teach me I will execute, and it shall go hard but I will better the Instruction.

The quality of mercy is not strained.

It droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven upon the place beneath.

It is twice blest:

It blesseth him that gives and him that takes.

'Tis mightiest in the mightiest;

it becomes the thronèd monarch better than his crown.

His scepter shows the force of temporal power,

The attribute to awe and majesty wherein doth sit the dread and fear of kings;

But mercy is above this sceptered sway.

It is enthronèd in the hearts of kings;

It is an attribute to God Himself;

And earthly power doth then show likest God's when mercy seasons justice.

Therefore, Jew, though justice be thy plea, consider this:

That in the course of justice none of us should see salvation.

We do pray for mercy, and that same prayer doth teach us all to render the deeds of mercy.

I have spoke thus much to mitigate the justice of thy plea,

Which, if thou follow, this strict court of Venice must needs give sentence 'gainst the merchant