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Fine Arts And Global Literature II In the City Of Venice

SHAKESPEARE'S VENICE; A Great Venetian Story

1. Who are the likable characters in the play? Why do you like them? Does Shakespeare want you to like them? Does Shakespeare want you to like the characters you don't like? Are there characters Shakespeare doesn't want you to like?

I think that Portia is a likable character. She is a very intelligent, independent and compassionate woman committed to doing right. She is a skilled lawyer that uses wit and cunning to help the oppressed and defend the rights of disregarded groups. Portia's love for Bassanio and her willingness to sacrifice her happiness for his investment makes me like her a lot.

2. What is justice? Who in Venice gets to decide? In what ways does the play's discussion of Justice still resonate with us today?

Justice is particularly multiplexed in *The Merchant*, Shakespeare forces us to go back and examine the roots of justice, and consider if justice can be defined as morality.

The Merchant of Venice was inherently unsatisfactory artistically because it lacked a sense of justice. Shylock was simply removed from the trial, and broken relationships were mended in unrealistic ways as Portia and Nerissa forgave their husbands. Antonio is never called to account for his mistakes and there is little character development as the characters never realize their flaws and do not undergo transformation. *The Merchant of Venice* is a real work of art because life isn't always fair and things don't always end well.

3. What happens when a society intentionally marks someone else as "other"? How does the "otherness" of the Jewish population in Venice seem evident in Venetian society, and what experiences mark ethnic groups, or races, as "other" in American society? Give ONE example.

The play's main conflict is the bond that will give Jew Shylock a pound of Christian Antonio's "beautiful body". How Shylock and the audience finally learn that Shylock can't have Antonio's body without shedding his own blood. The loophole that allows for the "happy" ending also explains that it's impossible to separate the flesh from the blood. In *The Merchant of Venice*, comedies are expected to end with a wedding, after

which couples have sex, have children, and become a family. And if children inherit their parents' racial and religious identities, their flesh and blood are of great concern.

4. What does Shakespeare tell us about the Christianity of Venetians in his play? What might he be talking about Christianity in general?

Venetian merchant religion is not just a belief in a supreme being; It reflects moral standards and a way of life. In *The Merchant of Venice*, "the Christian ethic of generosity, love, and adventurous friendship is in stark contrast to the non-Christian morality, which is seen from the Christian point of view as stingy, resentful, and resentful. betrayal and self-interest." Although Shakespeare wrote the play from a Christian point of view, he illustrated religion with the conflicts of the Old and New Testaments in Venetian society and at his court. First, we see Antonio, a cranky, weak-minded gentleman whose wealth is unable to give him the satisfaction others deem appropriate. He is sad because of the lack of love. To fulfill this love, he helped Bassano find his own love. Although often depicted as a homosexual relationship, this is a depiction of love between friends or brothers, a different type of connection. This act of bonding gets Antonio the most attention. He helps a loved one by borrowing money from Shylock and committing his life to strengthen that relationship. This increased slavery reflected Antonio's selflessness, divinity, and most importantly, Christian ethics.