

*Por.* Your wife would give you little thanks for that,  
If she were by, to hear you make the offer.

*Gra.* I have a wife, whom, I protest, I love:

I would she were in heaven, so she could  
Entreat some power to change this currish Jew.

*Ner.* 'T is well you offer it behind her back;  
The wish would make else an unquiet house.

*Shy.* These be the Christian husbands. I have a daughter;  
Would any of the stock of Barrabas  
Had been her husband rather than a Christian. [*Aside.*  
We trifle time: I pray thee, pursue<sup>1</sup> sentence.

*Por.* A pound of that same merchant's flesh is thine:  
The court awards it, and the law doth give it.

*Shy.* Most rightful judge!

*Por.* And you must cut this flesh from off his breast:  
The law allows it, and the court awards it.

*Shy.* Most learned judge! A sentence! Come, prepare

*Por.* Tarry a little; there is something else.  
This bond doth give thee here no jot of blood;  
The words expressly are "a pound of flesh";  
Take then thy bond, take thou thy pound of flesh;  
But, in the cutting it, if thou dost shed  
One drop of Christian blood, thy lands and goods  
Are, by the laws of Venice, confiscate  
Unto the state of Venice.

*Gra.* O upright judge! Mark, Jew: O learned judge!

*Shy.* Is that the law?

*Por.* Thyself shall see the act:  
For, as thou urgest justice, be assured  
Thou shalt have justice, more than thou desirest.

*Gra.* O learned judge! Mark, Jew: a learned judge!

*Shy.* I take this offer, then; pay the bond thrice  
And let the Christian go.

*Bass.* Here is the money.

*Por.* Soft!  
The Jew shall have all justice; soft! no haste:  
He shall have nothing but the penalty.

*Gra.* O Jew! an upright judge, a learned judge!

*Por.* Therefore prepare thee to cut off the flesh.

<sup>1</sup> Pursue—Pronounce pur'-sue.