

*Bassanio.* May you stead me? will you pleasure me? shall I know your answer?

*Shylock.* Three thousand ducats, for three months, and Antonio bound.

10

*Bassanio.* Your answer to that.

*Shylock.* Antonio is a good man.

*Bass.* Have you heard any imputation to the contrary?

*Shylock.* Oh, no, no, no, no: my meaning in saying he is a good man is to have you understand me that he is sufficient. Yet his means are in supposition: he hath an argosy bound to Tripolis, another to the Indies; I understand, moreover, upon the Rialto, he hath a third at Mexico, a fourth for England, and other ventures he hath, squandered abroad. But ships are but boards, sailors but men: there be land-rats and water-rats, water-thieves and land-thieves, I mean pirates, and then there is the peril of waters, winds and rocks. The man is, notwithstanding, sufficient. Three thousand ducats; I think I may take his bond.

*Bassanio.* Be assured you may.

*Shylock.* I will be assured I may; and, that I may be assured, I will bethink me. May I speak with Antonio?

*Bassanio.* If it please you to dine with us.

30

*Shylock.* Yes, to smell pork; to eat of the habitation which your prophet the Nazarite conjured the devil into. I will buy with you, sell with you, talk with you, walk with you, and so following, but I will not eat with you, drink with you, nor pray with you. What news on the Rialto? Who is he comes here?