

h.¹[*Exeunt.*

SANIO,

r

ce.

That thou but lead'st this fashion of thy malice
To the last hour of act; and then 't is thought
Thou'lt show thy mercy and remorse¹ more strange

20

Thar. is thy strange apparent cruelty;
And where² thou now exact'st the penalty,
Which is a pound of this poor merchant's flesh,
Thou wilt not only loose the forfeiture,
But, touch'd with human gentleness and love,

25

Forgive a moiety³ of the principal;
Glancing an eye of pit, on his losses,
That have of late so huddled on his back,
Enow to press a royal merchant down
And pluck commiseration of his state
From brassy bosoms and rough hearts of flint,
From stubborn Turks and Tartars, never train'd
To offices of tender courtesy.

30

We all expect a gentle answer, Jew.

Shy. I have possess'd⁴ your grace of what I purpose;

35

And by our holy Sabbath have I sworn
To have the due and forfeit of my bond:
If you deny it, let the danger light

Upon your charter and your city's freedom.

Yo 'll ask me, why I rather choose to have

40

A weight of carrion flesh than to receive
Three thousand ducats: I'll not answer that:

But, say, it is my humour⁵: is it answer'd?

What if my house be troubled with a rat

And I be pleased to give ten thousand ducats

45

To have it baned⁶? What, are you answer'd yet?

Some men there are love not a gaping⁷ pig,

Some, that are mad if they behold a cat;

And others, at the bagpipe; for affection,

Mistress of passion, sways it to the mood

50

¹ Remorse—Pity.

² Where—Whereas.

³ Moiety—Literally, half; here, a large portion.

⁴ Possess'd—Informed.

⁵ Humour—Disposition, whim, hobby.

⁶ Baned—Given ratsbane, poisoned.

⁷ Gaping—Squalling, or mouth held open with a lemon.