

O my Antonio, had I but the means
To hold a rival place with one of them, 180
I have a mind presages me such thrift,
That I should questionless be fortunate!

Antonio. Thou know'st that all my fortunes are at
sea,

Neither have I money nor commodity
To raise a present sum: therefore go forth;
Try what my credit can in Venice do:
That shall be rack'd, even to the uttermost,
To furnish thee to Belmont, to fair Portia.
Go, presently inquire, and so will I, 190
Where money is, and I no question make
To have it of my trust or for my sake. [Exeunt.

SCENE II. *Belmont. A room in Portia's house.*

Enter PORTIA and NERISSA.

Portia. By my troth, Nerissa, my little body is aweary
of this great world.

Nerissa. You would be, sweet madam, if your miseries
were in the same abundance as your good fortunes are:
and yet, for aught I see, they are as sick that surfeit
with too much as they that starve with nothing. It is
no mean happiness therefore, to be seated in the mean:
superfluity comes sooner by white hairs, but competency
lives longer.

Portia. Good sentences and well pronounced. 10

Nerissa. They would be better, if well followed.

Portia. If to do were as easy as to know what were
good to do, chapels had been churches and poor men's
cottages princes' palaces. It is a good divine that follows
his own instructions: I can easier teach twenty what