

*Shylock.* I had forgot ; three months ; you told me so. Well then, your bond ; and let me see ; but hear you ; Methought you said you neither lend nor borrow Upon advantage.

*Antonio.* I do never use it.

70

*Shylock.* When Jacob grazed his uncle Laban's sheep— This Jacob from our holy Abram was, As his wise mother wrought in his behalf, The third possessor ; ay, he was the third—

*Antonio.* And what of him ? did he take interest ?

*Shylock.* No, not take interest, not, as you would say, Directly interest : mark what Jacob did.

When Laban and himself were compromised That all the earlings which were streak'd and pied Should fall as Jacob's hire.

80

This was a way to thrive, and he was blest ; And thrift is blessing, if men steal it not.

*Antonio.* This was a venture, sir, that Jacob served for ; A thing not in his power to bring to pass, But sway'd and fashion'd by the hand of heaven. Was this inserted to make interest good ? Or is your gold and silver ewes and rams ?

*Shylock.* I cannot tell ; I make it breed as fast : But note me, signior.

*Antonio.* Mark you this, Bassanio, The devil can cite Scripture for his purpose.

90

An evil soul producing holy witness Is like a villain with a smiling cheek, A goodly apple rotten at the heart : O, what a goodly outside falsehood hath !

*Shylock.* Three thousand ducats ; 'tis a good round sum. Three months from twelve ; then, let me see ; the rate—