

- Shed thou no blood, nor cut thou less nor more  
 320 But just a pound of flesh: if thou cut'st more  
 Or less than a just pound, be it but so much  
 As makes it light or heavy in the substance  
 Of the division of the twentieth part  
 Of one poor scruple, nay, if the scale do turn  
 325 But in the estimation of a hair,  
 Thou diest and all thy goods are confiscate.  
*Gra.* A second Daniel, a Daniel, Jew!  
 Now, infidel, I have you on the hip.  
*Por.* Why doth the Jew pause? take thy forfeiture.  
 330 *Shy.* Give me my principal, and let me go.  
*Bass.* I have it ready for thee; here it is.  
*Por.* He hath refused it in the open court:  
 He shall have merely justice and his bond.  
*Gra.* A Daniel, still say I, a second Daniell!  
 335 I thank thee, Jew, for teaching me that word.  
*Shy.* Shall I not have barely my principal?  
*Por.* Thou shalt have nothing but the forfeiture,  
 To be so taken at thy peril, Jew.  
*Shy.* Why, then the devil give him good of it!  
 340 I'll stay no longer question.  
*Por.* Tarry. Jew:  
 The law hath yet another hold on you.  
 It is enacted in the laws of Venice,  
 If it be proved against an alien  
 That by direct or indirect attempts  
 345 He seek the life of any citizen,  
 The party 'gainst the which he did contrive  
 Shall seize one-half his goods; the other half  
 Comes to the privy coffer of the state;  
 And the offender's life lies in the mercy  
 350 Of the duke only, 'gainst all other voice.  
 In which predicament, I say, thou stand'st;  
 For it appears, by manifest proceeding,  
 That indirectly and directly too  
 Thou hast contrived against the very life  
 355 Of the defendant; and thou hast incur'd  
 The danger formerly by me rehearsed.  
 Down therefore and beg mercy of the duke.