

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 incurr'd

The danger formerly by me rehearsed.

Down therefore and beg mercy of the duke.