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Before You Read

Shylock

I am a moneylender[1] living in Venice, Italy. I make[2] a lot of money by lending money to others and charging[3] them high interest[4]. People in Venice hate me because I am Jewish[5] and greedy[6]. But I don't care. I hate them, too, particularly[7], Antonio.

1. **moneylender** [ˈmʌniˌlendər] (n.) 放貸的人
2. **make money** 賺錢
3. **charge** [tʃɑːrdʒ] (v.) 索價；索費
4. **interest** [ˈɪntərest] (n.) 利息
5. **Jewish** [ˈdʒuːʃ] (a.) 猶太人的
6. **greedy** [ˈgridi] (a.) 貪婪的
7. **particularly** [pərˈtikjələrli] (adv.) 特別地

Antonio

Like Shylock, I am a moneylender. I am, however, quite different from[1] him. I like helping people when they are in trouble[2]. I often lend money to others and don't charge any interest. Shylock hates me for doing this. I hate him, too, because he is heartless[3] and greedy.

1. **be different from** 與……不相同
2. **be in trouble** 在困難中；有難
3. **heartless** [ˈhɑːrtləs] (a.) 無情的；冷酷的

Bassanio

I am Antonio's best friend. Whenever I need money, Antonio helps me. Recently, I fell in love with[1] a wonderful woman named Portia. I need some money to buy Portia some gifts before I propose to[2] her. As always, I will ask Antonio to help me.

1. **to fall in love with sb** 愛上某人　　2. **to propose to sb** 向某人求婚

Portia

My father recently passed away[1], and I inherited[2] a lot of money. Before he died, he set up[3] some conditions[4] for suitors[5] who want to marry me. They must go through[6] a test.

1. **to pass away** 過世
2. **inherit** [in`herɪt] (v.) 繼承
3. **to set up** 設立
4. **condition** [kən`dɪʃən] (n.) 條件
5. **suitor** [`suːtər] (n.) 求婚者
6. **to go through** 通過

Gratiano and Nerissa

We are Bassanio and Portia's servants[1]. Even though[2] we are inferior to[3] them, they treat us like[4] their own family. We will always be loyal to[5] them.

1. **servant** [`sɜːrvənt] (n.) 僕役
2. **even though** 即使
3. **be inferior to sb** 地位較低的
4. **to treat sb like** 待某人如……
5. **be loyal to sb** 對某人忠誠

The Moneylenders

I have a story to tell. It is a story of love and hatred. A story of giving and taking. A story of laughter and tears. This story was told a long time ago. But it still has as much meaning today as it did then.

It happened in a city called Venice[1] in Italy. This beautiful city rests[2] like a crown[3] jewel[4] on the Adriatic Sea[5].

1. **Venice** [ˋvɛnɪs] (n.)
   義大利城市威尼斯
2. **rest** [rɛst] (v.)
   擺放；置在……上
3. **crown** [kraʊn] (n.) 皇冠
4. **jewel** [ˋdʒuːəl] (n.)
   寶石；珠寶
5. **Adriatic Sea** 亞得里亞海
   （義大利和巴爾幹半島間的內海）
6. **merchant** [ˋmɜːtʃənt] (n.)
   商人
7. **repay** [rɪˋpeɪ] (v.) 償還；回報
   (repay-repaid-repaid)
8. **in terrible ways** 以悽慘的方式
9. **simply** [ˋsɪmplɪ] (adv.)
   單純地；只是

The Merchant of Venice

There lived a moneylender named Shylock in Venice. He earned a lot by lending money to merchants[6].

Many people hated Shylock. Some people hated him because he forced merchants to repay[7] him in terrible ways[8]. Others hated him simply[9] because he was Jewish.

> **One Point Lesson**
>
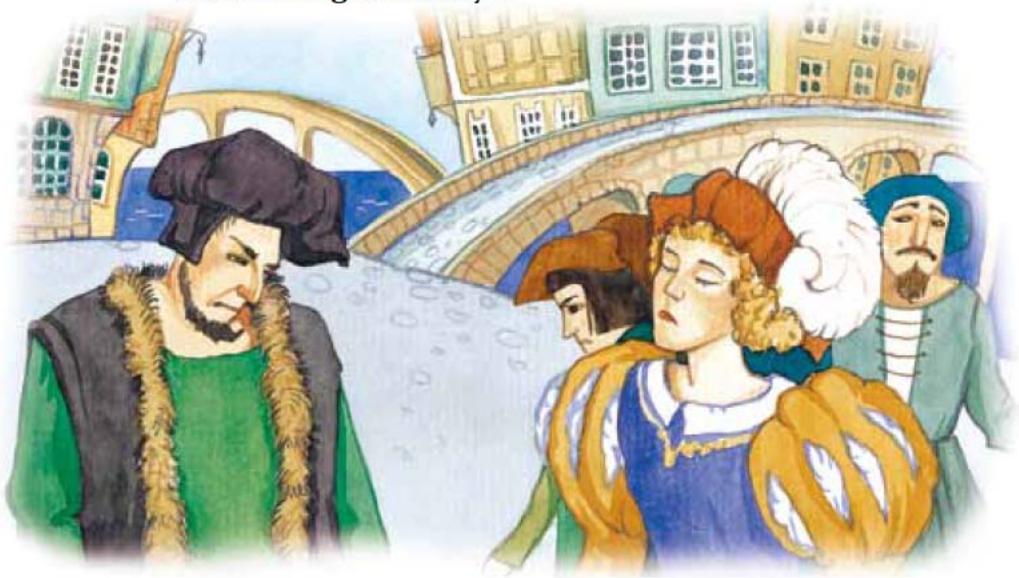> 🔹 **Some** people . . . **Others** hated him simply because he was Jewish.
> 有些人……其他人憎恨他，只因為他是猶太人。
>
> ---
>
> **Some . . . Others . . . :** 有些……，其他的……（對照用法）
>
> **e.g. Some** say that he is innocent. **Others** say that he is guilty. 有些人說他是無辜的，其他人說他有罪。

🎧 2

Of all the merchants who lived in Venice, one hated Shylock more than the others. His name was Antonio.

Shylock hated Antonio as well[1]. This was because Antonio was a very generous moneylender. He lent money to people in trouble and often didn't charge them interest. Shylock lost a lot of business because of Antonio's generosity[2].

1. **as well** 也
2. **generosity** [ˌdʒenəˈrɑːsəti] (n.) 慷慨；寬宏大量
3. **Christian** [ˈkrɪstʃən] (n.) 基督徒
4. **Jew** [dʒuː] (n.) 猶太人
5. **in those days** 在以前
6. **agree about sth** 同意某事
7. **religion** [rɪˈlɪdʒən] (n.) 宗教
8. **culture** [ˈkʌltʃər] (n.) 文化
9. **run into sb** 巧遇某人

More importantly, Shylock hated Antonio because he was a Christian[3]. And Antonio hated Shylock because he was a Jew[4]. In those days[5], Jews and Christians didn't like each other. They couldn't agree about[6] anything. They couldn't understand each other's religion[7] or culture[8].

Antonio and Shylock often ran into[9] each other at the Rialto[10]. The Rialto was the business center[11] of Venice. When the two met, they would have arguments[12]. Antonio would often yell at[13] Shylock for the heartless way of doing business[14]. Shylock often thought about[15] ways to get even with[16] Antonio.

✔ Check Up

There's no _____ thing between Antonio and Shylock.

a troublesome   b different   c common

Ans: c

10. **rialto** [rɪˋæltou] (n.) 威尼斯市中心、財政金融中心
11. **business center** 商業中心
12. **argument** [ˋɑːrgumənt] (n.) 爭論；爭吵（動詞 argue）
13. **yell at sb** 對某人吼叫；叫罵
14. **do business** 做事業
15. **think about sth** 思考某事
16. **get even with sb** 對某人施以報復

A Fill in the blanks with the given words.

religion   merchandise   decisions   arguments   loan

1 When Shylock and Antonio met, they would have

_____.

2 Jews and Christians couldn't understand each other's

_____.

3 Bassanio came to Antonio for another _____.

4 Antonio spent all of his money on _____.

5 Portia can make _____ for herself.

B Write down the persons who said the following words.

1 You know that my money is your money.

_____

2 I'm a woman who can't even choose her own husband.

_____

3 There are so many bad men out there.

_____

4 She'll never marry me unless I give her some gifts.

_____

C Choose the best answer to each question.

❶ Why did merchants especially like Antonio?

(a) Because he was a Christian.

(b) Because he was rich and good-looking.

(c) Because he helped them when they were in trouble.

❷ Why did Portia's father arrange the conditions of her marriage?

(a) Because he didn't want to give her his money.

(b) Because he didn't trust Portia's judgment.

(c) Because he was a very greedy man.

D Match the characters with the descriptions.

❶ Shylock ❷ Portia ❸ Antonia

ⓐ independent ⓑ heartless ⓒ generous