



THE MERCHANT OF VENICE

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

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**THE
MERCHANT OF VENICE**

**BY
WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE**

ORIGINALLY WRITTEN BETWEEN 1596 AND 1598

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Scene 1

Sweet lady, you have given me life and living;
 For here I read for certain that my ships
 Are safely come to road.

PORTIA

How now, Lorenzo!
 My clerk hath some good comforts too for you.

NERISSA

Ay, and I'll give them him without a fee.
 There do I give to you and Jessica,
 From the rich Jew, a special deed of gift,
 After his death, of all he dies possess'd of.

LORENZO

Fair ladies, you drop manna in the way
 Of starved people.

PORTIA

It is almost morning,
 And yet I am sure you are not satisfied
 Of these events at full. Let us go in;
 And charge us there upon inter'gatories,
 And we will answer all things faithfully.

GRATIANO

Let it be so: the first inter'gatory
 That my Nerissa shall be sworn on is,
 Whether till the next night she had rather stay,
 Or go to bed now, being two hours to day:
 But were the day come, I should wish it dark,
 That I were couching with the doctor's clerk.
 Well, while I live I'll fear no other thing
 So sore as keeping safe Nerissa's ring.

Exeunt