

Shylock in *The Merchant of Venice*, a Rising Voice against Christian Oppression: A Critical Analysis

Rakib Uddin

Assistant Professor
Department of English
Prime University,
Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Abstract

The study aims at exploring the causes and realities of the rising voice of Shylock in Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice* by way of connecting his voices to the strength, identity, and ideology within the drama. The purposes of this study are to represent the relationship between Jew and Christian in 16th century England, to explore the problems especially the Jewish community faced and to examine the poetic Justice Shakespeare did in *The Merchant of Venice*. The research is conducted considering qualitative approach and the data were collected from both primary and secondary sources. The findings suggest that oppression, social inequality, negligence and frequent maltreatment were the causes of Shylock's rising voice. It also shows that the relations between Christian and Jew were hostile during 16th century England and the writer, William Shakespeare could not show proper poetic justice in his drama, *The Merchant of Venice*.

Keywords: CDA, voice of Shylock, oppression, social inequality, negligence, maltreatment.

Introduction:

CDA (Critical Discourse Analysis) is a unique technique in discourse analysis which focuses on the discursive conditions, additives and effects of power (Van Dijk, 1995, p. 24). CDA is an application principle worried with commonplace social troubles which highlight the exercise of those in power, such as the Christians in Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice*; they reveal the ideology of the Christians who're interacting with the Jews inside the play. Ideology represents the values strolling a society. In other words, it displays the hobbies and assumptions of a selected group (Hodge, 2012), so there's poor ideology consisting of discrimination, and there is positive ideology such as anti- discrimination. Through the practice of power, one's identity may be established, and who has electricity has a specific identification within the society. For instance, in *The Merchant of Venice*, Christian identity is prominent through authority, specially within the courtroom scene within the play. Words once in a while have hidden meanings to which the receivers might not pay attention. Consequently, it is believed that phrases have a selected which means in them, and they have some other in a specific context. So, whilst analysing speech, one need to examine where, whilst and why such an utterance is produced. This study, as such, will observe the social interaction among Jews and Christians in Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice*. Its miles recognized that Christians have energy over Jews in the play which leads to destruction on the end of the play to a Jew service provider known as Shylock. As an example, Shylock attempts to defeat the Christian service provider within the court scene, but unexpectedly, he's defeated. This character may be severely analyses according together with his social and linguistic interactions with Christians.

Artwork and theatre are dynamic, and subject to interpretation from actors, directors, audiences and readers. Many critics have argued that *The Merchant of Venice* is a lesson approximately analyzing and interpretation. for the duration of the play, characters interpret (and misread) matters: Shylock's interpretation of the "pound of flesh" is literal while Antonio to begin with reads Shylock s conduct as benign; Portia (disguised because the physician) interprets the law and the exceptional of mercy; Gratiano and Bassanio misread the health practitioner and his clerk, and are tricked into believing that their betrothed are men; and Portia s suitors are forged apart due to the fact they misinterpret the caskets. in many approaches our studying of Shylock is prompted via our cutting-edge lenses. Similarly, we will see how the portrayal of Shylock and the hassle of anti-Semitism have also changed through the years.

Even earlier than the play starts off evolved, the dramatis personae provide Shylock as an archetype, Shylock, the Jew. In the course of the play, the other characters always talk over with him as surely, the Jew. This

characterization dehumanizes and de-personalizes Shylock and reduces him from a person to a class. Throughout Shakespeare's time, Shylock, and Jews in general, were portrayed at the degree as comical, yet villainous figures. The gown covered an orange wig, a bulbous nose, and a big and sinister cape. Jews were types, now not people.

Shylock is an interloper, both literally (living apart from Christian society in the Jewish ghetto) and figuratively (being pressured into the margins). He is continually insulted, degraded via the alternative characters and defined in bestial phrases as a dog and a wolf. At other factors within the play, Shylock (and by way of extension all Jews) is equated with the Satan and with evil. He is spat upon with the aid of Antonio and reviled even with the aid of his servants. Shylock's daughter, Jessica, abandons him via walking away and marrying, and with the aid of symbolically leaving the Jewish faith and converting to Christianity. Ultimately, Shylock's greed results in his damage. He's left without a livelihood, and in many methods, without a life. Shakespeare's creation of Shylock mirrored the emotions, fears and myths about Jews that have been typically held in his day. But the maximum well-known strains from the play appear to infuse the man or woman of Shylock with some sympathy and humanity, even though contradictions abound. Hath not a Jew eyes? Hath now not a Jew hands, organs, measurement, senses, affection, passions; fed with the equal meals, hurt with the identical guns, difficulty to the equal sicknesses, healed by the equal manner, warmed and cooled via the same wintry weather and summer as a Christian is? if you prick us, do we no longer bleed? If you tickle us will we not chortle? If you poison us can we now not die? And if you wrong us shall we now not revenge? If we're like you in the rest, we will resemble you in that. If a Jew wrongs a Christian, what is his humility? Revenge. If a Christian wrongs a Jew, what need to his sufferance be through Christian instance? Why revenge. The villainy you educate me i'm able to execute, and it shall go difficult however i will better the education. 3:I.forty nine-fifty nine

With those lines Shylock defends his humanity. This speech about human dignity stands in evaluation, however, to the previous few lines, a cry for vengeance. Even as Shylock claims that he is flesh and blood, he needs simply this from Antonio a pound of flesh. These traces continue to be interpreted in more than a few methods. a few have argued that those strains show that Shakespeare by some means transcended the anti-Semitism of his time and argues that Jewish person's humanity must be identified and respected. Others study the speech as a cynical and sarcastic one, showing over again that Shylock will use trickery to outwit and cheat his Christian clients. The pound of flesh that Shylock seeks from Antonio is another extraordinarily troubling factor of the play. His inhumane (and unmerciful) cry for murderous vengeance provides to the despicable nature of his person, particularly in light of Portia's phrases about the high-quality of mercy. Shylock's greed and lust for cash are paralleled by means of his cruelty. You will read this scene as a assessment among the vengeful Jew and the merciful Christian, and by extension a clash among old testimony and New testimony readings and values. Strikingly, although, the mercy that Portia so eloquently describes is not ever prolonged to the Jews of the play.

The mystery of Shakespeare's intentions and the meanings of the play, mainly the rationale behind Shylock, have allowed for several interpretations over the years. When you consider that Shakespeare wrote *The Merchant of Venice*, Shylock has been performed and visible as a comedian buffoon, a cruel villain, and as a sad and sympathetic outsider. In Shakespeare's time Shylock turned into performed as a comic determine. Within the mid-1700s an English actor, Charles Macklin, created a giant and despicable villain. Later, in the early 19th century, the actor, Edmund Kean, challenged the traditional thinking and created a completely sympathetic man or woman. Starting within the Victorian duration, and persevering with through our modern-day instances, maximum actors play Shylock as a tragic and human determine.

at the same time as it is easy to debate the character of Shylock's person, there is no question that Shylock has been used to fossilize and perpetuate the stereotypes of the evil Jew as effective, foxy, money-hungry, and inhuman. As with the ardour plays, stereotypical depictions of Jews may additionally have had dangerous repercussions and fanned the fires of anti-Semitism. a few historians have argued that Nazi Germany affection for Shakespeare as a purveyor of Aryan values was reinforced by way of the numerous, many performances of *The Merchant of Venice* that have been launched throughout that term. College students ought to be privy to the numerous methods that *The Merchant of Venice*, and other works of fiction, had been historically used as motors of anti-Semitism.

Background:

Many studies have been performed to alleviate the talk in Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice*. The controversial problems inside the play are endless. This sort of issues is the word "mean" that's discussed by way of Rubinstein and Harris (2004). They observe using the phrase "imply" and find that it has more than one meaning. Such a meaning is "merit". They claim that Shakespeare is punning, and through the analysis of Jessica's speech, they find out numerous puns in the word "mean" that it's far used for "sexual sex for financial advantage" which reasons a thread during the play. Further, it is used by Shylock to discuss cash deal. "The numerous meanings and puns in 'suggest'--a middle ground, moderation, finances, cause, and pandering to sexual sex for economic gain--run like a thread at some stage in the play" (p. 72).

The annotations of critics have popular Blanchard (2009). The author discusses the distinctions among justice, mercy, love, and law wherein she notices that Shylock suffers from inconstancy. In different phrases, Shylock is seen as uncomfortable for love, mercy or justice. "In the usage of Shylock to contrast Hebrew tension with Christian adaptability, Shakespeare conveys that everyone proves inconstant ultimately, and consequently all should learn to favor love over regulation, mercy over technique, and attempt over effect" (p. 218). Ganyi (2013) analysed Shylock, Iago, and Barabbas as sufferers of racial occasions. He shows that if those characters are analysed from recent day perspectives, they may be complex because their movements will now not be understood in order that they may actually be visible as victims of social circumstances. He factors out that "the Jew nonetheless stays a peripheral character within the active social and moral universe..." (p. 130). He provides that Shylock can be seen as intelligible crook and a victim of his instances in place of a villain.

However, Shylock is depicted as a "scapegoat" through Deng and Wu (2013). This characterization leads Deng and Wu to maintain that Shylock defends the ruling elegance's ideology which makes them sense that greedy human beings may additionally go through unfair remedy. They see that Shylock is a victim of the racial prejudices. So, it is clear that those authors believe that Shakespeare's description of Shylock is merely a photo of his time. However, it is hard to stand with or against this concept in view that a few movements within the play show that Shylock is not most effective a victim, however is also a villain. For example, Shylock's insistence at the literal implementation of the bond could be a clean support for his villainy.

Due to the significance of gender and economic system in the play, Marzola (1997) tackles these troubles. Through her interpretation, she explores many perspectives in the play including the connection between subjectivity and gender. as an instance, the satisfied ending of the play is visible because of a lady disguised as a person at the courtroom scene. There, Portia's question "that is the service provider right here and that is the Jew?" (four.1.172) confirms the state-of-the-art knot of identities. Moreover, Bassanio's language is visible as "confusion of electricity" and rhetorical due to the fact he wants to marry Portia in an effort to get sexual identification, frame, flesh and money. Additionally, the language of the traders may additionally end up a political and cultural exercise that's confirmed at the court docket scene.

Furthermore, within the play, the bitter and merciless inhumanity of Shylock is depicted in opposition to friendship and romantic love (Hieatt, 2002). "in keeping with the usual interpretation, Shylock, the moneylender is inquisitive about money by myself while the adolescents of Venice, even though not wonderful, are worried in far extra noble matters which includes love and friendship" (Heller, 2000, p. 157). Moreover, the themes of money, romance usury, and dialogue of the primary characters are negotiated by Harp (2010). Harp additionally discusses the principle characters of the play, which includes Shylock and Antonio Antonio is visible because the hero of the play for he's taking risks in enterprise and love. Shylock's speech "Hath no longer a Jew eyes? Hath no longer a Jew palms, passions..." makes Harp now not to depict Shylock as a villain. Harp states that "some of Shylock's anger can be justified as a reaction to the contempt with which he is handled" (p. 43).

Horwich (1977) tackles the dilemma and the riddle within the play. He points out that the play discusses difficult alternatives. Any such alternatives are the setting of the play, Venice and Belmont. Those locales are prominent that Venice is infested with social and monetary issues, whereas Belmont is a quiet area where all the problems disappear. The settings of the play are important due to the fact one among has no Jews. Furthermore, the caskets are visible as riddles when you consider that one will win Portia's heart. The winner is visible as the one who rightly loves, no longer as the one who is ideal at solving riddle games. But, after solving the hassle of the caskets, Portia disguised as a attorney and went to the court docket to behavior the trial of Shylock. Furthermore, a literary complaint is supplied by using Weinstein (2007) to *The Merchant of Venice*. Weinstein explains usury in addition to the availability of the 4 violations of "Talmudic legal guidelines

regarding the lending of cash" by means of Shylock. One of the Talmudic legal guidelines violated by using Shylock is the taking of the hobby. Any other Talmudic regulation violated by using Shylock is murder because in Shylock's call for of Antonio's flesh, Antonio may also die. The 1/3 Talmudic regulation violated by means of Shylock is whilst he does not display any mercy on the court docket. Shylock has to show mercy so as now not to violate the guidance of "prophet Micah". Additionally, it is stated that folks who display mercy, mercy is shown to them, and those who do no longer display mercy, mercy is not shown to them (p.188). Consequently, "Shylock is distorting Jewish culture, way of life, and regulation" (p. 189).

But, the principle point in this observe is discourse analysis of Shylock consequently, the look at purports to determine how Shylock's character is depending on his linguistic and social interaction with the Christians. In brief, the observation is confined to Shylock's identity, energy, and beliefs on the subject of those of Christians. The not unusual assumption that Christopher Marlowe's *The Jew of Malta* is the forerunner of this Shakespearian play turns into untenable beneath examination, albeit it has a stable ground if one considers the wave of anti-Semitism that turned into initiated after the execution of Queen Elizabeth's Jewish health practitioner, Roderigo Lopez, who changed into convicted of treason. The proof that Shakespeare has burrowed the plot turned into manifested in the writings of Gregorio Leti (1685:229) who said that during 1587, Paul Mario Sechi, a service provider of Rome, gained records that Sir Francis Drake, the English Admiral, had conquered San Domingo. He communicated this piece of information to Simone Cenade, a Jewish service provider, to whom it appeared incredible, and he stated: "I wager a pound of flesh that it's far untrue." "And i lay a thousand scudi against it," spoke back Sechi. A bond changed into drawn up to that effects after a few days, information arrived of Drake's fulfillment, and the Christian insisted on the fulfillment of his bond. In vain the Jew pleaded, but Sechi swore that not anything ought to fulfill him however a pound of the Jew's flesh. In his extremity, the Jew went to the governor. The governor of the town promised his assistance, communicated the case to Pope Sixtus, who condemned each to the galleys—the Jew for making this type of wager, the Christian for accepting it. They released themselves from imprisonment through every paying a fine of thousand scudi closer to the hospital that the Pope turned into erecting.

Objectives

The supreme objective of the study is to show the causes and realities of rising voice of Shylock raised in Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice*. The other specific objectives are:

1. To represent the relationship between Jew and Christian in 16th century England
2. To explore the problems specially the Jewish community faced
3. To examine the poetic Justice Shakespeare did in *The Merchant of Venice*

Research Questions:

Based on the background of the research, the research question can be formulated as follows:

1. What are the causes and realities of rising voice of Shylock raised in Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice*?
2. How was the relationship between Jew and Christian in 16th century England?
3. What are the problems specially the Jewish community faced?
4. How was the poetic Justice Shakespeare did in *The Merchant of Venice*?

Methodology:

The research is conducted considering qualitative approach. The materials are taken from both primary and secondary sources. The primary source of information is *The Merchant of Venice* written by William Shakespeare. The secondary sources of information are Shakespeare's writings, relevant websites, books, research articles etc. For better ideas of the research, the researcher studied some of the research papers prepared by the teachers and the students of literature of different universities from home and abroad. The researcher is going to describe and critically analyses the character of Shylock in Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice*. Various theories of critical discourse evaluation may be implemented to expose the social and verbal interaction between Jews and Christians within the play. Additionally, in order to achieve the aims of this study, different rising utterances of Shylock will be analyzed depending on the context of usage and the way of articulation.

Discussion and Findings

A Short Record of Anti-Semitism

Anti-Semitism is prejudice and/or discrimination against Jews. Anti-Semitism can be based totally on hatred against Jews because of their religious beliefs, their group membership (ethnicity) and sometimes the inaccurate notion that Jews are a race. Anti-Semitism, frequently called the longest hatred, is both an age-vintage hassle and a cutting-edge challenge. For centuries Jews were accused of treacherous acts, including the murder of Jesus, poisoning wells, the ritual homicide of Christian children, the Bubonic plague and controlling the media and the banks. A lot of these falsities have roots in historical circumstances, and longstanding fear and false impression. Tragically, those lies remain launched against Jews. Recently, Jews have been blamed for the entirety from the assaults on Sep 11 and the Iraq battle to the tsunami that devastated Southeast Asia. The chronic demonizing and scapegoating of the Jew as different highlights the want to investigate and speak the depiction of Jews in literature. Without an examination of each historical and modern anti-Semitism, college students may be left with stereotypical and negative conceptions of Jews and Judaism. In reality one of the most function and troubling factors of *The Merchant of Venice* is that the depiction of Shylock reinforces the stereotype of Jews as money hungry and greedy. This stereotype has been round for centuries, and continues to be perpetuated these days. Having college students learn about some of the historic roots and reasons of anti-Semitism, in addition to a number of the extraordinarily lethal consequences of this hatred, offers them a history for a discussion of the play.

Christianity and Judaism in *The Merchant of Venice*

Religion has always been a as an alternative touchy challenge in literature as well as in day after day lifestyles. The clash between Christianity and Judaism is in particular present in Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice*. The person of Shylock is regularly ridiculed for his faith, to which he retaliates with some robust points. Even though he appears cruel and crude, Shylock can't always be blamed for his cruelty when one sees the manner in which he is dealt with attributable to his religion. The struggle between Christianity and Judaism inside the merchant of Venice is something that has been and is still applicable in nearly each society because this term. All through the play, Shylock is without delay addressed as handiest "Jew." Once in a while he is called a "Jew dog" as properly. It's far dubious that he is the best man who practices Judaism in Venice, however the Christians who dislike him for one reason or another, do no longer name him with the aid of his real name and instead, really talk over with him simplest by his choice of religion. Nowadays, it isn't constantly in particular Christianity and Judaism that oppose every other. It takes place with some of religions round the world. For example, in the United States nowadays, there are many ignorant individuals who accept as true with that every one Muslims are terrorists who hate Americans. This is, of direction, a stereotype, but plainly these stereotypes have been no unique in Venice at the moment. Assuming that these insults were instead derogatory, as they could be taken into consideration in modern times, Shylock's actions possibly seem logical in his very own thoughts; however it is essential to note that calling him "Jew," is not the most effective way in which he's ridiculed for his beliefs.

Most of the mocking takes vicinity at the trial over what Antonio will lose, whether or not it's miles a pound of his personal flesh, or some sum of money. At one factor, Antonio, who could still probable die at the final results of the trial, speaks to Bassanio approximately seeking to purpose with Shylock. He says, "I pray you, think you question with the Jew?... you could as nicely do anything maximum hard, As are seeking to melt that – than which what's tougher? – his Jewish coronary heart," (IV. i. 70, 79-81). He is basically pronouncing that there may be no way to purpose with someone of the Jewish faith and that because he's Jewish, his heart is aware of no mercy. He states this at the same time as Shylock is maximum possibly standing immediately in the front of them and Antonio speaks as though he is not even present. He also doesn't appear to thoughts the fact that he could very well be significantly maimed due to Shylock. This is a completely impolite exchange, but truly there have been equivalences of lack of information in latest years. Shylock retaliates via insulting the Christians, "these be the Christian husbands. I've a daughter./ could any of the stock of Barabbas/ have been her husband, rather than a Christian!" (IV. i. 286-288). There may be this steady conflict among the 2 religions. A Jewish father wishes his daughter to marry a Jewish man. This is still a compulsion that many dad and mom have nowadays as well. There are numerous families who insist that their kids marry inside their own faith. Additionally, Shylock's daughter does break out with marrying a Christian man, by means of eloping. This is also something that takes place in modern times whilst parental ideals war with that of their youngsters'.

Shakespeare may also have written his literature loads of years in the past, but there are some standards in today's societies that correlate with the ones in his time in addition to the time intervals he wrote about. Religious tolerance is something this international has been in need of for some time. As Shylock stated, "Hath not a Jew eyes? Hath now not a Jew fingers, organs, dimensions, senses, affections, passions? Fed with the equal meals, hurt with the equal weapons, subject to the equal sicknesses, healed through the equal way, warmed and cooled by way of the identical wintry weather and summer time as a Christian is?" (III. i. 48-54). We're all of the identical bodily and mentally. We're capable of the same thoughts and beliefs. It is all approximately preference in what one man or woman thinks is right. All of us have that strength to select, and we ought to be capable of workout it. It is able to be a cliché, but humans don't trade, at the least, they don't trade speedy.

In Shakespeare's Merchant of Venice the Jewish persona of Shylock refers to the biblical story of Jacob tricking his uncle Laban (1.3.68-98) via tampering with the procreative method of Laban's flock of sheep (Genesis 30.25-43). In the following, I will try to factor out why Shylock tails this story, and in which literary context he ruminates upon it. Besides a indispensable evaluation of how his speech interacts with the authentic biblical story, I will furthermore discuss this analogy important in terms of its spiritual and dramatic features inside the play. Against this background, it will be made evident that 'usury' as a poor Jewish stereotype, presumed by the judging eyes of medieval Christians, is put in the centre of consideration here. It will be argued that as a prevalent assertion in Merchant of Venice, a superiority of the New Testament to the Old Testament, of Christianity to Judaism, can be derived, and that this conclusion is strongly linked with the majoritarian mindset in Shakespeare's instances and cultural sphere, alternatively than with Shakespeare's non-public attitude towards Jews or Judaism, an frequently supposed attitude of improvable nature.

After Antonio has informed Shylock, whose profession is that of a moneylender, that he himself "neither lend[s] nor borrow[s] / By taking nor by way of giving of excess" (1.3.56-57), however in "order to furnish the ripe desires of [his] friend / [he would] break a custom" (1.3.58-59), Shylock recounts the biblical story in which Jacob is capable to inspire an increase in parti-colored offspring of his uncle Laban's sheep and goats with the aid of placing noticed rods earlier than the eyes of the animals which leads to the preferred result. According to his settlement with Laban, the offspring belongs to Jacob. Shylock calls the end result a "thrift [which] is blessing, if men steal it not" (1.3.87). First of all, it is substantial that Shylock speaks of Jacob's father as "our holy Abram" (1.3.69), not Abraham. Thus, he solely refers to the father of the Isrealites, as he formerly speaks of "our sacred nation" (1.3.42), not to the father of all nations which Abram later becomes: "As for me, behold, my covenant is with thee, and thou shalt be a father of many nations. Neither shall thy title any extra be called Abram, but thy title shall be Abraham" (Genesis 17.4-5). The literal function of the whole allusion in the structure of an argumentative try is to justify Shylock's gains thru activity contrary to the Christian Antonio. The latter at first engages in this argumentative discussion and replies that "this was a assignment [...] that Jacob served for- / [...] fashioned via the hand of heaven" (1.3.88-90). Antonio no longer only denies that Jacob himself used to be the producer of the increase, he also does now not take delivery of the analogy between residing creatures and material objects: "[I]s your gold and silver ewes and rams?" (1.3.92). Therefore, he nonetheless doubts the excellent nature of interest. While Shylock refers to the agreement that Jacob had with his uncle Laban, Antonio is interested whether Jacob himself was the producer of the increase or not. As I will point out, this already alludes to two exceptional spiritual structures with whose heritage we are confronted here.

The interconnection of Jews and cash can be traced lower back to the story of Judas in the New Testament: "Then one of the twelve, named Judas Iscariot went to the chief clergymen and said, 'What are you inclined to give me to betray Him to you?' And they weighed out thirty pieces of silver to him. From then on he started out looking for a proper probability to betray Jesus." (John 26:14-16). In 1179 Catholic representatives on the III Consilium Lateranum had prohibited money lending at hobby for Christians. It even became section of the seven lethal sins. Every margin of earnings that was once no longer completed with the aid of enhancing the condition of items through someone's very own efforts used to be regarded being usury. Since Jews were not allowed to research a alternate or to purchase property, money lending was once one of the final kinds of recreation for them in order to make a living. The clients of the disdained Jews were humans who have been no longer creditworthy somewhere else and consequently had to pay high interests. This reality also brought to the photo of the Jewish profiteer. In the 13th century however, the reevaluation of the loan gadget underwent a necessary alternate because of a modified financial system. Then additionally Christians progressively started

out to participate in that variety of business, however basically margins of income were nonetheless connoted negatively. As we see, the argumentative debate between Shylock and Antonio is unexpectedly over, when Shylock compares monetary make bigger with the herbal manner of breeding, and moreover, ascribes this natural system to the efforts now not of God, but of a human being, in this case himself: "I make it breed as fast" (1.3.93). Here, Shylock refers to an Aristotelian argument in opposition to money, an inert object, breeding itself in an unnatural way. Antonio takes Shylock's probable malicious humor actually here. This is ironic considering it is Shylock who is continuously confronted with the allegation of heartless literal interpretation in terms of faith and law. Antonio responds with an apparent simple proverbial generalization: "The devil can cite scripture for his purpose" (1.3.96). What Antonio utters right here can be traced lower back to the Gospel according to Matthew and Luke in the New Testament: "Then the Satan took Him into the holy metropolis and had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, 'If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down; for it is written [...]' (Matth. 4:6), 'for it is written 'He will command his angels [...]' (Luk. 4:10). Both quotations describe the biblical story in which the devil cites scripture as he tempts Jesus. The New Testament additionally explains the position of the Jews, responsible in unique wrongdoing, in that matter: Jesus turns to the Jews and says "You are of your father the devil, and you choose to do the needs of your father. He was a assassin from the beginning, and does not stand in the reality because there is no fact in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his personal nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies" (John 8:44). According to Derek Cohen, the equalization of Jew and devil takes place 9 times in Merchant of Venice. One example is expressed by

Lancelot: "Certainly the Jew is the very devil incarnation" (2.2.22-23). Antonio continues and refers to Shylock as "a villain with a smiling cheek, / A goodly apple rotten at the heart" (1.3.99- 100). For the biblically well versed audiences in Shakespeare's times, the equalization of Jew and devil, and the thought of evil seeming air, were familiar themes. The thought of Jews having a appropriate literal outside, but a bad non secular inside, like a properly searching apple rotten at the heart, "may be meant to replicate the supposed rottenness of literalistic Jewish hermeneutic practices", argues Janet Adelman. This idea is a recurrent theme in Merchant of Venice. One instance is the famous scene of the desire of the three caskets, where, according to Coolidge, the "beautiful inside of suitable Christian scriptural interpretation, epitomized by the lead casket" is used as a metaphor. As we will see, this theme will lead to the genuine victory of Christian love and mercy over the concept of Jewish revenge due to the fact of literal exegesis at the quit of the play where Shylock loses his money, his daughter, and where he is compelled to convert to Christianity.

The equalization of Jew and Satan can additionally be determined in the position of Martin Luther, the father of Protestantism: "Know Christian, that subsequent to the devil thou hast no enemy greater cruel, greater venomous and violent than a true Jew". In England, this attitude did no longer arise with King Henry VIII who did not only have advisors who were sympathetic to the new ideas of Martin Luther, but who additionally cut up the English church off from the Roman church. The hatred towards Jews has its commencing in the Christian allegation that they had refused to accept Christ as their Messiah abs initio and also in the Christian declare that the Jews have been responsible for the crucifixion of Christ. Again, now not solely Shakespeare, however also the Elizabethan audiences who lived in a Christian England that had massacred Jews on a grand scale in the 13th century and that had ultimately expelled them in 1290 by way of a decree of King Edward I, have been featured with something that in modern phrases would be known as mind-set of anti-Semitism, primarily based on religious way of life that had commenced to grow in antiquity and that had advanced into a sturdy cultural magnitude in European society in medieval times. Yet there is an true allusion between the Christian view of the involvement in Christ's crucifixion and Shylock's situation on trial in Merchant of Venice. Portia makes a speech in the court in which she says: "mercy is above this scattered sway" (4.1.197) and "Therefore, Jew, / Though justice be thy plea, think about this- / That in the route of justice none of us / Should see salvation. We do pray for mercy" (1.4.201-204). Shylock yet utters "I crave the law" (1.4.210).

In the biblical equivalent it is Pilate who says: "Then what shall I do with Jesus who is referred to as Christ?' They [the Jews] all said, 'Crucify Him!'" (Matth. 27:22-23). Shylock, numerous times addressed as honestly the Jew, repeats his demand quite number times. Only one example is his direct statement to Antonio, where he utters: "I charge you by using the law" (4.1.43). Shylock who, from a Christian factor of view, seemed to have been nearly greater Christian than the actual Christians via proposing the different refers to Shylock as "a villain with a smiling cheek, / A goodly apple rotten at the heart".

Shakespeare's Shylock:

The play orbits round Shylock. The Jewish cash-lender is the enigmatic centre of *The Merchant of Venice*. Albeit he's portrayed as a villain, an abundance of cruelties were committed towards him: his servant left him for a Christian nobleman, his daughter, in contrast to her miser father, does no longer restrain herself from imparting her lover Lorenzo with cash and jewellery, and in the end escapes with him. Shylock's cry towards the atrocities of his surroundings is manifested within the proverbial word: "hath no longer a Jew eyes?" (3.1.14). The play does not recognition at the aforementioned occasions but as an alternative on Shylock refusing any form of options to his "pound of flesh" collateral of the mortgage; as a result "the Jew" is a persona non grata and seems petty and merciless. Greed is also a function that changed into attributed by way of The Bard to Shylock, and that is visible thru his reaction while he became informed approximately his daughter's escape: "Thou stickest a dagger in me: I shall by no means see my gold once more: fourscore ducats in a sitting! Fourscore ducats!" (three.1.67-sixty eight). Outwitted via Portia, the smart heiress and Bassanio's lover, Shylock is compelled to compromise and to promise his wealth to Jessica, his daughter, and her lover after his loss of life and subsequently converts to Christianity. It's miles profitable to mention that cutting-edge readings started out to explore the character of Shylock from a awesome attitude from the historic ones, denying that he changed into a villain but as an alternative a sufferer of the indignities of the British society.

Age:

The difference between Shylock and the relaxation of the characters is his age. He appears to be the handiest elderly amongst them. The Bard appears to cast light on and the inevitable collision among know-how, represented by means of Shylock, and kids specifically embodied in Gratiano in preference to an emphasis on the non secular clash between the Christians and the Jew, and it's miles depicted inside the following speak between them:

Gratiano

O, be thou damn'd, inexorable dog! And for thy existence let justice be accused.
Thou almost makest me waver in my faith To preserve opinion with Pythagoras,
That souls of animals infuse themselves Into the trunks of guys: thy currish spirit
Govern'd a wolf, who, hold'd for human slaughter, Even from the gallows did his fell soul fleet,
And, at the same time as thou lay'st in thy unhallow'd dam, Infused itself in thee; for thy goals
Are wolfish, bloody, starved and ravenous.

Shylock

till thou canst rail the seal from off my bond, Thou but offend'st thy lungs to speak so loud: restore thy wit,
exact youngsters, or it will fall
To cureless smash. I stand here for regulation. (4.1.130-146)

Bodily Description:

The Merchant of Venice does now not talk about Shylock's bodily appearance, nor does verify any age-antique stereotypes approximately a bottle-nosed Jew. But, Frank Falsenstein (1999:158) states that "it became the eighteenth century actor Charles Macklin who first gave Shylock a red hat and a big nose. He justified the purple hat to Alexander Pope, who requested approximately it, by using announcing "he had study that the Jews in Italy, especially in Venice, wore hats of that color1." It's far noteworthy to mention that the Bard makes connection with circumcision as a bodily difference between the Gentiles and Jews, as Gratiano swears: "Now, by my hood, a gentle and no Jew." (2.6.53). He considers his "hood" because the foreskin emblematic of his Christianity and confirms that Jessica is a "gentle" or Gentile. Shakespeare's avoidance of Shylock's bodily tendencies suggests that the English audience is acquainted with the Jews and that the latters lived in Elizabethan England despite the reality that Edward I expelled them of the US in 1290.

Moral Description:

While analyzing the play, one notices Shylock's tendency for egocentric conduct and thinking, further to the fact that he's unreasonable and demanding. The usurer takes immense pride in his "merry recreation" of

exacting “an equal pound/Of...fair flesh to be cut off and taken/In what part of [the] frame pleaseth me” (1.three.146-151), however he poses as a sufferer of racism and discrimination due to the fact nobody has visible him beyond his Jewishness in the passage: “Hath not a Jew eyes? Hath not a Jew arms, organs, dimensions, senses, affections, passions? » (three.1.fifty four). despite the fact that he's punished for the violence that he set in movement , the target market can't assist but query the values of Christian love and mercy , to deduce that Shylock's nemeses are not higher than him.

Faith:

The word Jew and other strongly associated terms together with: Jewish, Jewess and Hebrew had been employed seventy 4 instances inside the play .Its use will become anti-Semitic when it's far related terrible racial traits and prejudices, and Shylock is addressed as “Shylock” most effective seventeen instances at some stage in the play. The phrase Jew has a direct no impartial connotation albeit it become used to specific foreignness to the non-Jews, and it became meant to depersonalize the character in a few parts of the play, as a result justifying the hostility of his enemies. After the good deal among Antonio and Shylock became struck, the previous murmurs: "Hie thee gentle Jew. / The Hebrew will flip Christian, he grows type" (1.three.177-178).Antonio's ironic tone shows contempt of Shylock for his faith and this exceedingly moderate anti-Semitism is omnipresent in the play. yet, the Bard makes only a few institutions between Shylock and evil inside the beginning of the play , and the sort of connections is manifested in Launcelot's monologue whilst he's debating himself approximately leaving Shylock's provider :” absolutely the Jew is the very devil incarnation, and in my sense of right and wrong, my sense of right and wrong is however a kind of hard conscience, to provide to counsel me to stay with the Jew" (2.2.27-30).The repetition of the word Jew in this context indicates that Launcelot's aggressive attitude in the direction of Shylock conforms with the medieval semi-legendary construt approximately the Jews and is fed by way of both literary (Chaucer) and theological (Luther) help , Albert B. Friedman (1974) mentions that Martin Luther warned Christians stating :” next to the satan thou hast no enemy greater cruel, greater venomous and violent than a real Jew.” the superiority of the picture of Jews as killers of Jesus Christ contributed to a outstanding quantity to the increase of such anti-Jewish attitude.

But Shakespeare hatches a similar plot for Christianity , and makes it apparent that Shylock's vehement statements toward Antonio and his Christian cohorts are mere reflections in their cunning acts, specially whilst Shylock swore revenge :”...If a Jew wrongs a Christian, what need to his sufferance be through Christian example? Why, revenge! The villainy you train me i'm able to execute, and it shall move tough but i can better the training." (3.1.sixty eight-73). The Bard of Avon appears to attribute the attention-for-an-eye execution to Christianity as opposed to Shylock or his religion. However, for the reason that Elizabethan target market perceived the Jews as fiendish creatures, Shakespeare offers them a satisfied finishing through the conversion of Shylock and as a result saving his soul in Elizabethan phrases. The fact that Shylock is a Jew made him an outcast, however its miles to his best sorrow that the pattern of the Jew is related to other negative traits, one of them is usury.

Usury:

A few of the negative trait that Shylock becomes careworn with, usury and avarice are the most dominant ones. Shakespeare makes it clear that Bassanio loves cash as a great deal as Shylock does. In addition to that, the younger Venetian, with his fortune at its lowest ebb after squandering all his money, turns to Antonio to finance his undertaking to the wealthy heiress Portia. Antonio hated Shylock for lending cash with pastimes and taken into consideration him a parasite to the Venetian economic system, even as Shylock made it clear that he loathes Antonio for his anti-Semitism and because of the reality that “He lends out cash gratis and brings down / The price of usance right here with us in Venice” (1.3.34-35), Antonio defends his function through confirming that he's going to now not lend money with interests :” I oft brought from his forfeitures / many that have at times made moan to me” (3.3.22-23).

In Elizabethan parlance, a “usurer” is a moneylender who takes even the slightest amount of money as hobbies on his loan, further to the truth that Antonio follows the medieval ideal of refusing hobbies just as Chaucer's service provider, while Shylock is a continuance to Marlowe's Barabas, who additionally combines money lending with Jewish faith and origins. The play itself turned into written within the midst of massive debates

approximately usury especially because of the discovery of the brand new global and the upward thrust of commercial banking similarly to the tough transition from feudal society to modern capitalism.

Many pamphlets had been written to disgrace usury which includes the death of Usury (1594) and The Usurers Almanacke (1624).inflicting a massive controversy approximately the interest, the latter led the residence of Commons to claim that “all usury was against the law of God». This provided a fertile ground for the affiliation of the Jewish religion and usury, in particular after the Spaniards of Jewish origins, which persisted to live in England, did not cease to exercise usury. Although, Antonio’s assault on Shylock is defective because of the truth that usury turned into a legal commercial activity that changed into practiced through both Christians and Jew for the duration of the time of the writing of the play, and that Shylock lent money to Antonio without hobby. Anecdotal evidence lies inside the fact that Shakespeare had non-public purpose for addressing the problem of usury; his father become sentenced for lending money at immoderate hobby, charging twenty kilos hobby on loans of 80 and 100 kilos, and that occasion appears to have an impact at the dramatist specifically that it changed into a cursed hobby and many clerks preached towards it.

The Jew as a Villain:

The dominant picture of the Jews in English literature is a negative one; epitomized by Marlowe’s Barabas and George du Maurier’s Svengali , it's far base on the stereotypes of a villain Jew who allies with Christians’ enemies and use his con and seduction to dominate the “innocent” Christians. The stereotypes approximately the Jews contributed to the extra quantity to associate usury and villainy with them, and admittedly they lived in Britain from the Norman Conquest until their expulsion, their life did now not alternate the parable.

From the ballads and morality plays of medieval and Renaissance England to the novels of the Victorian Age, the portrayal of Jews has followed the coolest- awful polarity to the intense, and inside the case of Chaucer’s Prioress’s tale, Marlowe’s Jew of Malta and Shakespeare’s *The Merchant of Venice* the villain Jew paid the ultimate rate or suffered humiliation and shame, on this appreciate, Rosenberg states: "In Chaucer he was torn by way of wild horses and hanged additionally. In Gower a lion tears him to demise. Marlowe has him burned in a cauldron. Shylock, the fox at bay, loses daughter and ducats, as well as his religion."

but inside the case of Victorian writers including Charles Dickens, one ought to solid mild on a few more-literary phenomena including the writer’s psyche and social milieu. In his Novel *Oliver Twist*, Dickens referred to Fagin hundred and 57 times as “The Jew” while neglecting any of the opposite characters’ religion or ethnicity, similarly to that, Dickens has fervently supported the genocide towards Indians in response to the Indian rebellion of 1857.every other crucial element is that the author projected his adolescence snap shots of the “antique-clo” in conjunction with other ogreish photographs on Oliver’s view of Fagin as a toddler-snatcher. The function of the usurer Jew prevailed at some point of the Victorian Age as Dickens defined his house’s client as a “Jewish moneylender” and it changed into taken into consideration as a discriminatory statement.

Shakespeare’s service *The Merchant of Venice*, like Hamlet, may be interpreted thru Marxist literary theories. Magnificence oppression is visible in this play in a manner that the higher elegance human beings oppress and make the most the lower magnificence people. By means of his acquaintance with Shakespeare’s performs, Marx referred to “*The Merchant of Venice* into his whole critique of capitalism” (Wells 1993, one hundred). The capitalist ruling magnificence assembles false ideologies that only server their hobbies, then they instill them in humans’s minds to just accept them as something natural. Truly, “it's far one of the features of ideology to 'naturalize' social reality, to make it appear as innocent and unchangeable as Nature itself. Ideology seeks to convert lifestyle into Nature, and the 'herbal' signal is one in every of its guns” (Eagleton, p. 117).

The Marxist idea of ideology may be perceived within the characters of this drama, considering that “... a brand new ideology of mercantile interest was emerging in Shakespeare’s day, and Shakespeare seems to have shared it” (Ferber, p. 447). Shakespeare, as a meticulous observer of his society, portrayed exceptional ideologies which had been rampant among his people in his play, *The Merchant of Venice*. “Shakespeare, to summarize, has superimposed differences drawn inside several incompatible ideological discourses:

- (1) Between the landed aristocracy, ... and the service provider elegance usually, who've the vice of greed;
- (2) Between proper merchants, who take dangers to offer useful goods and might consequently claim income, and the cash-lenders, who hazard not anything (because of bonds and collateral) and contribute nothing to the nicely-being of others; and

(3) Among the Christian doctrine of mercy or forgiveness and the 'Jewish' doctrine of legality and vengeance" (Ferber, p. 437).

it is perceivable that during this play, lower class those who suffered years of class oppression don't have any tremendous social function and their voices aren't heard through the upper class and they're marginalized within the society with the aid of oppressive people from the higher elegance. Launcelot, old Gobbo, Balthazar and Stephano (servants of Portia), Leonardo (Servant of Bassanio) are all from the decrease elegance who're dominated via their better elegance lords and girls. The top elegance people regard those human beings as their very own commodities and they think they may be allowed to 'use' these oppressed individuals however they prefer.

The voices of the servants and the employees are ruthlessly smothered by way of the nobles and they are purported to be submissive and docile inside the eyes of the powerful ones. except magnificence discrimination, the misuse of money and usury are portrayed on this play. through surveying records, Marxism believes that money reasons discord and department a few of the humans of the identical society and it support the basis of capitalism for the future time. "the overall critique of usury in the early modern-day duration has been traced to society's transition from the situations of declining feudalism to the ones associated with an rising capitalism. in particular *The Merchant of Venice* dramatizes this emerging capital in its portrayal of the struggle and enmity transpiring between the usurer and the merchant" (Lim, p. 355).

Shylock, like Bassanio, changed into capable of commodifying different human beings even his personal daughter. He related to the arena only thru his cash. "...Karl Marx himself condemned Shylock's conduct" (Mahon and Macleod Mahon, p. sixteen). In Marxist angle, Shylock became a person who taken into consideration all things and every person as commodities. The way he behaved towards Antonio and others represents that he's a usurer who generally speak with humans for their change price. In case of his daughter, his maltreatment to Jessica makes it clear that she changed into like his different properties and things. while he found out Jessica stole his money and eloped with her lover, Lorenzo, he were given so indignant that it appeared that he was unhappy for the loss of his money as a whole lot as the lack of his daughter. Salanio described Shylock's conduct after his popularity of the truth: "I by no means heard a passion so pressured, So atypical, outrageous, and so variable, because the dog Jew did utter inside the streets: 'My daughter! O my ducats! O my daughter! Fled with a Christian! O my Christian ducats! Justice! the regulation! my ducats, and my daughter! A sealed bag, two sealed baggage of ducats, of double ducats, stolen from me by my daughter! And jewels, two stones, rich and precious stones, Stolen by way of my daughter! Justice! discover the woman; She hath the stones upon her, and the ducats" (II. viii. 12-22). For this reason, it's quite apparent that with these words, Shylock valued his daughter as a minimum as tons as his ducats. He had an amazing experience of loss for each his cash and daughter. The way he uttered his daughter's name precisely after his ducats indicates that Jessica was like his other commodities for him. He commodified her like a component or an object. He was not reluctant to sacrifice each person for the sake of cash and his dreams. He felt a sturdy feel of alienation from society and even from his daughter, so he changed into not capable of talk with others thru affection, kindness, and accept as true with. Shakespeare depicted Shylock as someone who feels 'alienated' and may speak with others most effective via money. Marx in German Ideology asserts this type of manner of alienation "turned into already recognized to Shakespeare higher than to our theorising petty bourgeois" (p. 230).

Conclusion:

To finish, Shylock ultimately surrendered to the will of the Christians in which he changed into pressured to exchange his religion because he become a victim of his villainy. When the religion changed, the ideology modified and so did the identity. Shylock had to undertake Christian identification so as no longer to have transactions with hobbies. He might not threaten each person in the future. He would be forced to comply with the rules of Venice the way Christians appreciated. Therefore, he lost all forms of power for his homes had been confiscated, and after his dying, he had to will 1/2 of his property to his "Christian" daughter and her Christian lover. Shylock's ideology went beneath exchange leading to a trade in his self and identity. "but, there may be some other factor wherein Shylock is a Jew. He looks as a Venetian, he behaves as a Venetian, he smiles as a Venetian, but he prays as a Jew" (Heller, 2000, p. 153).

But, he needed to behave like Christians, smell pork, consume with them, drink with them, and pray with them: yes, to scent pork; to eat of the habitation which your prophet the Nazarite conjured the satan into. i can purchase with you, sell with you, speak with you, stroll with you, and so following; but i will now not consume

with you, drink with you, nor pray with you. What news on the Rialto? Who is he comes right here? (1.three.30-35). Shylock became defined as malign and terrible (Bloom, 1998). it is able to be the motive that made Antonio ask Shylock to embody Christianity. He may want him to be high quality irrespective of the fact that Antonio will be known as as poor, too. But, Shylock tried to create, establish and insert his Jewish identification and ideology between Christians. We may want to see Shylock interacted with Christians, and seldom with Jews. Consistent with Heller (2000, p. one hundred fifty), "we do no longer see Shylock's behaviour inside the organization of Jews", but "we simplest see him within the corporation of Venetian gentiles" (Christians).

If one does nothave electricity, s/he turns into underneath the mercy of others' ideologies and identities. Shylock "is depraved, because he desired Antonio's flesh, although he likes money fine, and he is comic, because he loses and turns into the sufferer of a trick that he himself played" (Heller, 2000, p. one hundred fifty five). Shylock turned into the loser for he had no electricity, ideology and identification. While he tried to locate all of these, he lost the whole lot, like his faith and cash, or monetary energy. If one has no power, others might also control, manage, insult, or even abuse him/ her. Consequently, those charged in energy can reproduce the language suiting their interests, and may have an effect on others' identification and beliefs. Moreover, if one's religion changes, his identification and ideology may also alternate, as nicely.

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