



TOPIC – THE MERCHANT OF VENICE ACT III SCENE 4 & 5

Summary

ACT III: SCENE 4

Back at Belmont, after Bassanio's hasty departure, Lorenzo and Portia are conversing. Lorenzo reassures Portia that if she knew what a "true gentleman" Antonio is, she would only be prouder of her good deed. Portia replies that she never regrets doing good. She adds that if Bassanio loves Antonio so much, they must be alike. If so, 3000 ducats is a small sum for the purchase of his life.

Portia then asks Lorenzo whether he and Jessica will manage her estate, as she has vowed to live in prayer and contemplation in a monastery outside Belmont for as long as Bassanio is gone. Lorenzo agrees. He and Jessica exit. Portia then asks her servant, Balthazar, to take a letter to her cousin, Doctor Bellario, in Padua. She tells Balthazar that Bellario will give him some documents and clothing and that Balthazar should bring these with all possible speed to Venice. Balthazar exits. Next, Portia tells Nerissa that they will dress up as young men and see their future husbands while they are in disguise. Nerissa is confused. Portia promises to reveal the entirety of her plan in the coach that is already waiting outside to take them to Venice.

ACT III: SCENE 5

At Belmont, Launcelot quotes the old saying that fathers' sins are visited on their children and teases that he is worried that Jessica is damned. Jessica retorts that her marriage to Lorenzo will save her. Launcelot responds with a series of puns, then exits to prepare dinner.

Lorenzo asks Jessica what she thinks of Portia. Jessica replies that she finds Portia more perfect than she can express and compares her to a god or angel. In reply, Lorenzo jokes that he is just as good a husband as Portia is a wife. Then they head to dinner.

Section A

1. Where does Scene 4 of Act III take place?
 - a) A street in Venice
 - b) Venice
 - c) In a room in Portia's house in Belmont.
 - d) Venice. A court of justice
2. Which of the statements are spoken in praise of Portia by Lorenzo?
 - a) Portia has a noble and honest understanding of friendship.
 - b) Portia nobly bears the absence of her husband.
 - c) Portia will have greater pride and joy.
 - d) All of the above
3. Which of the statements are NOT CORRECT with regards to Portia's view on friendship?
 - a) Two close friends are united by the bond of mutual love.
 - b) The two friends have many things in common.
 - c) They may differ in their dealings with the world.
 - d) There must be certain similarities of features, mind behaviour and disposition.
4. What has Portia instructed her servants?
 - a) They should take care of Lorenzo and Jessica.
 - b) They should accept Lorenzo and Jessica as their master and mistress during her absence.
 - c) Complete their household chore in time.
 - d) Prepare the dinner.
5. In what state will Portia and Nerissa's husband see them in Venice?
 - a) Dressed as merchants.
 - b) In the form of spirits.
 - c) Dressed as slaves.
 - d) They will see them dressed as young men.
6. Which of the statements is NOT CORRECT about Portia's plan to behave and speak when in disguise?
 - a) She will wear a sword boldly.
 - b) She will speak in the crackling voice of a boy who is maturing into adulthood.
 - c) She will walk like a lady.
 - d) She will speak of fights like a boastful youth.
7. Where will Portia tell the rest of her plan to Nerissa?
 - a) Belmont
 - b) Monastery
 - c) In Venice
 - d) In the Coach



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8. What is the significance of Act III scene 4?
 - a) Fills up the time gap
 - b) Acquaints the readers of Portia's plan.
 - c) Highlights theme of friendship
 - d) All of the above.
9. How would Jessica's becoming a Christian affect the price of hogs?
 - a) Supply of Pork will increase.
 - b) She will increase the number of Pork eaters.
 - c) Community will stop eating pork.
 - d) None of the above.
10. Why according to Launcelot will Jessica be damned?
 - a) She is dishonest to her father.
 - b) As she eloped with a Christian.
 - c) She stole her father's ducats and jewels.
 - d) Due to the sins of her father.
11. In Act III, scene IV, whom does Portia leave in charge of her house while she is gone?
 - a) Bassanio
 - b) Nerissa
 - c) Launcelot
 - d) Lorenzo
12. Where does Portia tell everyone that she is going?
 - a) to Padua
 - b) to a monastery
 - c) to her room
 - d) to Venice
13. Where is she really going?
 - a) to Venice to see Bassanio
 - b) to see her cousin in Padua
 - c) to a monastery
 - d) to Nerissa's house
14. In Act III, scene v, what does Lorenzo chastise Launcelot for?
 - a) Joking about bacon prices
 - b) Judging Shylock
 - c) Flirting with Portia
 - d) Impregnating a Moorish Servant
15. Who does Portia send to Padua to secure clothing and documents for herself and Nerissa?
 - a) Portia's cousin, Doctor Bellario
 - b) Portia's servant, Balthazar
 - c) Portia's servant, Nerissa
 - d) Lorenzo
16. What is Portia's response to Nerissa when she asks of Bassanio and Gratiano "shall they see us?"
 - a) no, we will stay hidden
 - b) yes, but we'll be dressed like men
 - c) yes, and we will provide them inspiration
 - d) no, but they will hear our voices
17. At the beginning of Act III scene v, who tells Jessica that he thinks that, even though she marries a Christian, she is still damned?
 - a) Launcelot
 - b) Lorenzo
 - c) Nerissa
 - d) Gratiano
18. Where does Act 3 Scene 5 take place?
 - a) A room in Portia's house in Belmont.
 - b) A garden in Belmont
 - c) A street in Venice
 - d) At Shylock's house
19. Where does Portia's cousin live?
 - a) Padua.
 - b) Rome.
 - c) Venice.
 - d) Paris.
20. What is the professional occupation of Portia's cousin?
 - a) Soldier.
 - b) Governor.
 - c) Lawyer.
 - d) Jailer.
21. After Bassanio leaves to save Antonio, where does Portia claim she is going?
 - a) to Venice to save Antonio
 - b) to a monastery to pray and meditate
 - c) to the notary to read the details of the loan
 - d) to Padua to get clothes from her cousin
22. Act 3, Scene 5 starts out with a discussion between Launcelot and Jessica. What does Launcelot accuse her of?
 - a) Raising the price of pork
 - b) Only wanting Lorenzo's money
 - c) Being wasteful with money
 - d) Being insincere in her love for Lorenzo
23. Which one of the following statements is not true?
 - a) Portia says that she has never repented of doing a good deed in the past.
 - b) Portia entrusts the responsibility of her house to Launcelot and Jessica .
 - c) Portia informs everyone at Belmont that she and Nerissa would be staying in a monastery until the return of their husbands.



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24. What is the name of Portia's cousin, the doctor?
- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| a) Bellario | b) Bram |
| c) Brandon | d) Bassanio |
25. Who does Lorenzo favourably compare himself to when speaking to Jessica?
- | | |
|------------|--------------|
| a) Antonio | b) Bassanio |
| c) Portia | d) Launcelot |

Section B**Identify the speakers:**

- Madam, with all my heart;
I shall obey you in all fair commands
- Yes, truly; for, look you, the sins of the father are to
be laid upon the children; therefore, I promise you, I fear you.
- A thousand raw tricks of these bragging Jacks,
Which I will practise.

Section C

I. Read the following extract from Act 3 of 'The Merchant of Venice' and answer the questions that follow by choosing the most appropriate response from the choices given below:

Portia:

..... for mine own part,
I have toward heaven breathed a secret vow
To live in prayer and contemplation,
Only attended by Nerissa here,
Until her husband and my lord's return:

- What responsibility has Portia given to Lorenzo?

(a) Husbandry and manage of Portia's house in Belmont.	(b) Prepare a masque scene.
(c) Arrange for a party.	(d) Provide 3000 ducats to Bassanio.
- Which of the information given by Portia about her whereabouts to Lorenzo is NOT CORRECT?

(a) She has taken a vow.	(b) She will be praying and contemplating only attended by Nerissa.
(c) She will go to Venice.	(d) She will be in a monastery two miles off.
- Where is Portia heading to in reality?

(a) Venice	(b) Belmont
(c) Cardoza	(d) Genoa
- Whom does Portia meet soon after Lorenzo and Jessica exit?

(a) Salarino	(b) Balthazar
(c) Salanio	(d) Gratiano
- Whom must Balthazar meet?

(a) Dr Ballario	(b) Duke
(c) Antonio	(d) Shylock

II. Read the following extract from 'The Merchant of Venice' and answer the questions that follow by choosing the most appropriate response from the choices given below:

Portia:

And, look, what notes and garments he doth give thee,
Bring them, I pray thee, with imagined speed

- Why does she choose Balthazar to do the errand for her?



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1. a) Balthazar is her honest and trustworthy servant. b) Balthazar is the fastest.
c) Balthazar is not lazy. d) Balthazar knows Doctor Bellario.
2. What does Balthazar take with him?
a) A letter b) Some books.
c) A letter and some clothes. d) Documents
3. What was NOT the purpose of sending Balthazar to Portia's cousin?
a) To hand over to him Portia's letter. b) Bring back from him certain notes
c) Bring back from him certain garments d) To pay 3000 Ducats
4. Where should Balthazar bring those items to hand over to Portia?
a) Venice b) Tranject, to the common ferry
c) Court of Justice d) Belmont
5. Where does Dr Ballario stay?
a) Cordoza b) Genoa
c) Venice d) Padua

III. Read the following extract from 'The Merchant of Venice' and answer the questions that follow by choosing the most appropriate response from the choices given below:

JESSICA

Past all expressing. It is very meet
The Lord Bassanio live an upright life;
For, having such a blessing in his lady,
He finds the joys of heaven here on earth;

1. Who is Jessica talking to?
a) Gratiano b) Launcelot
c) Salarino d) Lorenzo
2. Who is the 'lady' that is being talked about here?
a) Nerissa b) Portia
c) Jessica d) None of the above.
3. What is Jessica's opinion about Portia?
a) Admires her b) Hates her
c) Neutral d) Jealous
4. How should Bassanio live his life ahead?
a) Dishonest life b) Live freely
c) Life of a vagabond d) An upright life
5. Which of the statements is NOT TRUE?
a) If two Gods were to play a heavenly bet on two earthly women, Portia being one of them, the other woman would need to have something else pledged with her to make the stakes equal.
b) There is no match for Portia in this poor, crude world.
c) There are many women like Portia in Belmont.
d) A and B given above are true.

IV. Read the following extract from 'The Merchant of Venice' and answer the questions that follow by choosing the most appropriate response from the choices given below:

Portia:

But come, I'll tell thee all my whole device
When I am in my coach, which stays for us at the park gate'

1. Who is Portia speaking to?
a) Balthazar b) Nerissa
c) Lorenzo
2. The meaning of the word 'device in the above context is _____
a) Equipment b) Plan



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- c) Tool
3. When will Portia outline the rest of the plan to Nerissa?
- as soon as they reach Venice.
 - once they are in the coach parked at gate park.
 - once they meet their husbands.
4. What order does Portia not give to Balthazar a little earlier in the scene?
- Portia orders Balthazar to go to Padua as fast as he can to meet her cousin Doctor Bellario there.
 - She tells him that Bellario will hand over some clothes and papers.
 - Balthazar had to bring the clothes and pages to Venice by ferry.

V. Read the following extract from 'The Merchant of Venice' and answer the questions that follow by choosing the most appropriate response from the choices given below:

Lorenzo:

But if you knew to whom you show this honour,
How true a gentleman you send relief,

- Who is referred to as a true gentleman?
 - Bassanio
 - Antonio
 - The Duke
- Who is Lorenzo speaking to?
 - Jessica
 - Nerissa
 - Portia

Answer Key

Section A

- In a room in Portia's house in Belmont.
- All of the above
- They may differ in their dealings with the world.
- They should accept Lorenzo and Jessica as their master and mistress during her absence.
- They will see them dressed as young men.
- She will walk like a lady.
- In the Coach
- All of the above.
- She will increase the number of Pork eaters.
- Due to the sins of her father.
- Lorenzo
- to a monastery
- to Venice to see Bassanio
- Impregnating a Moorish Servant
- Portia's servant, Balthasar
- yes, but we'll be dressed like men
- Launcelot
- A garden in Belmont
- Padua.
- Lawyer
- to a monastery to pray and meditate
- Raising the price of pork
- Portia entrusts the responsibility of her house to Launcelot and Jessica .
- Bellarario
- Portia

Section B

- Lorenzo



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2. Launcelot
3. Portia

Section C

- I.
 1. Husbandry and manage of Portia's house in Belmont.
 2. She will go to Venice.
 3. Venice
 4. Balthazar
 5. Dr Ballario
- II.
 1. a) Balthazar is her honest and trustworthy servant.
 2. A letter
 3. To pay 3000 Ducats
 4. Tranject, to the common ferry
 5. Padua
- III.
 1. Lorenzo
 2. Portia
 3. Admires her
 4. An upright life
 5. There are many women like Portia in Belmont.
- IV.
 1. Nerissa
 2. Plan
 3. once they are in the coach parked at gate park.
 4. Balthazar
- V.
 1. Antonio
 2. Portia