

There Once Was a Merchant from Venice, Whose Body Was Shaped like a...

by J-F Bibeau

NERISSA

Do you not remember, lady, in your father's time, a Venetian, a scholar, and a soldier, that came hither in company of the Marquis of Montferrat?

PORTIA

Yes, yes, I remember all three!

LAUNCELOT

Turn up on your right hand at the next turning, but, at the next turning of all, on your left; marry, at the very next turning, turn of no hand, but turn down indirectly to the Jew's house.

OLD GOBBO

Gramercy! These be the same directions I hath obtained from yonder mapquest!

SALERIO

I reason'd with a Frenchman yesterday...

SALANIO

Nothing short of amazing that feat is!

BASSANIO

Antonio, I am married to a wife...

ANTONIO

I thank thee for the precision: I was
Starting to harbour a doubt about thee.

TUBAL

One of them showed me a ring that he had of your daughter for a monkey.

SHYLOCK

Would daughter and monkey fall in my clutches, that I could spank them both!

MOROCCO

Therefore, I pray you, lead me to the caskets
To try my fortune. By this scimitar
That slew the Sophy and a Persian prince...

BALTHASAR

But certainly thou meanest: Sophy the
Persian artist formerly known as Prince?

JESSICA

Who are you? Tell me, for more certainty,
Albeit I'll swear that I do know your tongue.

LORENZO

Lorenzo, and thy love.

JESSICA

Praise be and rejoicings: I know thee both!

LEONARDO

My lord Bassanio sends me here to free
The unjustly imprisoned Antonio.

GAOLER

Be gone from hither! 'Tis not in the script!

GRATIANO

In christening shalt thou have two god-fathers:
Had I been judge, thou shouldst have had ten more,
To bring thee to the gallows, not the font.

DUKE

By my soul thou shall be judge when yonder
Chicago Cubs do win the World Series.

ARRAGON

And well said too; for who shall go about
To cozen fortune and be honorable
Without the stamp of merit? Let none presume
To wear an undeserved dignity.
Or a lip ring; those are just plain nasty.