

DOES SHYLOCK GET WHAT HE DESERVES IN THE MERCHANT OF THE VENICE

Merchant of Venice: Shylock gets what he deserves. Extracts from this document.. . Introduction. In this coursework I will be answering the question "Shylock gets."

From my point of view, this is the worst treatment Shylock could ever receive. But the missionary spirit sweeps all before it, and, after centuries of intense Merchant of Venice criticism, Roman honor still lies neglected in the ditch. How I see it ending for Shylock, is for him to end his life on his own terms. Recently, Antonio suffered losses from another external conflict with nature. They were treated despicably, so as the play starts and as Shylock is introduced as a Jew it is certain that he is going to be depicted as the lowest of the low, as being mercenary and sadistic. At this point in the play, just before Shylock cuts Antonio, I felt as if Shylock was receiving his justice, even if it is sick and wrong. A modern audience might argue that there is a moral case to answer, too, given his treatment of Shylock. He was a character in the merchant of Venice which was written by Shakespeare. Although Antonio is rich, all his money is tied up in his business of shipping "Thou know'st that all my fortunes are at sea". Adding to his pain, Shylock chooses to go through with exacting his payment, presumably in retaliation for his loss of his daughter and money, which is another incident of an external conflict Shylock is also told he would have to beg for his life, beg mercy of the Duke. He leaves the court having lost everything – his daughter, his wealth, his religious freedom and the engagement ring given him by his wife. Christian mercy, it seems, only stretches so far. Shylock is never seen again. He is ganged up on by almost every Venetian because he is a Jew. Antonio "hath disgraced me, and hindered me half a million, laughed at my losses, mocked at my gains, scorned my nation, thwarted my bargains, cooled my friends, heated mine enemies - and what's his reason? Shylock is a human being and he suffers during the course of the play, but he creates suffering. Clearly, the Duke, the supposed impartial judge in this case, is anything but impartial. Shylock has no choice but to seek justice to the letter. Although Shylock is forced to become a banker he plays a vital role in the city of Venice, without Shylock the city would struggle economically So generous is Antonio that does not even need to know the amount Bassanio requires but instead offers a blanket authorization: I pray you, good Bassanio, let me know [how much you need], And if it stand, as you yourself still do, Within the eye of honor, be assur'd My purse, my person, my extremest means, Lie all unlock'd to your occasions. In the third plot Bassanio wins Portia by choosing the lead casket in a lottery designed by Portia's dead father. Antonio needs three-thousand ducats to send his good friend Bassanio on a romantic journey. Because he is a Jew, and subject to ethnic slurs as well, we cannot abide the notion that he might deserve his fate. He is not. Some hostile critics think this passage shows Antonio's ill temper, but it may be argued that he is only trying to relieve his friend of the embarrassment of begging. While Macbeth is in battle the Thane of Cawdor is found to be a traitor and executed Throughout the quote, the duke takes pity on Antonio. Portia: Take then thy bond, take thou thy pound of flesh, But in the cutting it, if thou dost shed One drop of Christian blood, thy lands and goods. Hath not a Jew eyes? Shakespeare effectively explores the themes of love and hate through character in the play which is a play of two parts.