

The Venetian Chronicle

Tuesday Oct 17, 1597
A1

A Keven Cumbridge Publication

Sunny with chance of Showers
76° - Full Moon

SHYLOCK PLANS APPEAL

A Dramatic up turn happened yesterday in the Venetian legal system. The trial of Antonio's and Shylocks bond.

This story starts three months ago, a merchant going by the name of Antonio had contacted a Jewish money lender we know as Shylock. Antonio needing money to further finance his ships agreed to a bond set by Shylock, The exact words of the bond read as followed "By signing this bond, Antonio agrees to repay Shylock the sum of Three Thousand Ducats by Friday Oct 2, 1597. If he fails to do so, Shylock is entitled to one pound of flesh drawn closest to Antonio's heart."

Now since most of you are probably thinking that 1 pound of flesh is a very strange thing to forfeit. It is, since most bonds consist of forfeiting livestock and land, things that will actually be useful to the lender. This bond is strange, at the time Shylock proposed this bond as no more then a joke, and Antonio being desperate for money believed him and signed.

By all rights Antonio should have been able to pay his luck if a string of bad luck hadn't hit him. Not long after the bond was signed did two of Antonio's trade ships hit disaster and sink in the sea. Due to this loss Antonio could barely pay for his food, much less pay back this bond.

No normal person would pardon such a cruelty as killing Antonio but Shylock declared that he wanted revenge against Antonio. As it seems Antonio was known to pay back his friends before there bonds would expire so traders like Shylock would not be able to collect there bond. "But that alone isn't what the fiend Antonio had done. He is a Christian. And I a Jew, I am still human yet I can not have the same rights as Antonio. So this is revenge for my people as well."

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If he fails to do so, Shylock is entitled to one pound of flesh drawn closest to Antonio's heart.

Many of Antonio's friends had tried to persuade Shylock to stop this silly bond, offering money of there own on Antonio behalf. But none of it would Shylock accept, despite his recent money troubles.

All seemed lost for poor Antonio. Up until the day of the trial. The trial house proved to be a bleak place. The Duke of Venice arrived there to over see this trial, but not before trying to do what many people had tried to do before, persuade Shylock to stop this madness.

"Shylock, the world thinks, and I think so too. That thou but lead'st this fashion of thy malice to the last hour of act and then 'tis thought thou'lt show thy mercy and remorse more strange than is thy strange apparent cruelty."

-Shortened quote from the duke of Venice

But Shylock declared that the bond was his and he could do what he pleases with it. He related this to buying a slave, once you buy this slave it is your own it. You can do as you wish with it even if it's cruel.

At that moment a young lawyer's clerk entered the room and announced the entrance of the Doctor of laws, Balthazar. Although young the man came along with a letter of recommendation from the great Dr. Bellario.

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WOMANS HEAD FOUND IN LEAD CHEST

That was the story in Belmont, at the house of Porita's. Young Portia's father had tragically died recently and with Portia unmarried he felt it his duty to help her choose her husband. His will clearly stated that Portia would not receive any money unless she would agree to marry a man, a man who would succeed at his lottery of the chests.

The test would involve 3 chests being set up, each made of a different material and inscribed with a different phrase. A golden chest was inscribed with "Who chooseth me will gain what many men desire", A silver chest had "Who chooseth me shall get what many men deserve", The lead chest (and final one) had inscribed on it "Who chooseth me must give and hazard all he hath".

With the chest set up and Portia (although dissatisfied with the whole idea) agreeing in this setup, the house declared this contest open for all to compete. Now why doesn't every man on the street take his chance at this and earn a wife and all he fathers riches. It's quite simple, before competing the suitor must take an oath consisting of three things, one that they could never tell any one what chest they choose if they choose wrong, two they must depart immediately and never bother Portia again, and third they could never marry again. Now as we all know if you could never marry again then that would mean all your wealth would go to the state when you die, leaving none for any still living family.

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Local News

Trial From Page 1

From then on it seemed to get worse and worse for poor Antonio. The doctor was reviewing the preceding bond, obviously in Shylocks favor. Shylock became so confident of his victory that he drew his knife and begin sharpening it on his own boot, and setting up scales to measure the flesh. When the doctor asked if Shylock had prepared for a Surgeon to be present so that Antonio would live threw this Ordeal, Shylock let out a resounding no, saying that since the bond said nothing of a Surgeon. At that point Shylock got up and held his knife above Antonio to take the flesh right then and now, when the clerk brought up a new point of the bond.

“Tarry a little; there is something else. This bond doth give thee here no jot of blood, The words expressly are 'a pound of flesh, 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 are, by the laws of Venice, confiscate unto the state of Venice.”

-Direct quote from Balthazar. Doctor of laws.

Not feeling like he could do the feat of taking the flesh with out spilling blood Shylock decided not to take his pound of flesh, but had offered to take the money now. When the young doctor pointed out that he could not since that was not in the bond they agreed to. He also went as far as to say that since Shylock left no intention of Antonio living that Shylock was going to commit murder and therefore half of Shylocks good would go to Antonio, the other to the state. Unless Antonio would rather appoint some other punishment, which he did. Antonio decreed that Shylock shall convert to be a Christian and half of his goods would immediately go to his daughter Jessica and her Husband Lorenzo.

And that was the story today in the legal story of Venice, by this author would just like to say that Shylock got his just desserts.

Woman's Head From Page 1

A total of nine men had tried to win Portia hand in marriage which up until now all information was with held. But as a Venetian chronicle exclusive we have gathered tidbits about them. A Neapolitan prince, a Country Palatine, and a Scottish lord all competed in this lottery. The French lord Monsieur Le Bon had been seen in the area and was confirmed to attempt. A young Barron of England, Lord Falconbridge had admitted to choosing wrong, a young German man had tried, and being the nephew of the Duke of Saxony had also been seen. The prince of Morocco had left the area late last week seeming mad, we assume him to have lost, and later the prince of Aragon left in a similar state. Not until recently was it announced that some one had chosen correct.

Bassaino, a merchant from Venice had correctly chosen, and with this Portia was wed. But soon a messenger arrived, Bassaino quickly departed to Venice soon there after. Although I'm unsure about the exact contents of that letter we assume that it has something to do with his good friend Antonio and his trial.

We at the Venetian chronicle were able to speak with a servant of Portia's who had asked for his name to not be printed. “Technically none of the servants were allowed to watch the servants but I had snuck into the room earlier and waited for them to choose. I saw that some man from Venice, I couldn't catch his name from where I was sitting but I saw that he sang some song. I hadn't heard it before but it wasn't that bad, it seemed that Portia really liked it. Anyways when he finally got to choosing he did it very quick, much quicker then the last two fellows. At first I thought he did it random, and apparently he choose right because everyone kept screaming and such and acting happy. He had opened the gold chest and pulled out a small picture of Portia. The last two fellows had got some picture of one of my friends and this skull.”

Disturbance in Town

There was a large disturbance last week when a man came running down the street's yelling. The Jewish money lender, Shylock was held for a short period of time for running up and down the streets shouting over and over again.

“My daughter, O my ducats, O my Daughter! Fled with a Christian! O my Christian Ducats. Justice, the Law, my ducats and my daughter, and jewels-two stones, two rich and precious stones.”

Shylock was talking about his Daughter Jessica who had left town with both of Shylocks precious stones and two bags full of ducats. It is local rumor that she had left town while in the company of Lorenzo.

The night before Shylock left his house and keys in the care of his daughter Jessica, he left to have dinner with some of his friends. Not soon after he left did Jessica unlock his vault steal his jewels and with the aid of Lorenzo escaped the city. Not long after was Jessica and Lorenzo seen in Genoa, people at the scene said “They seemed to have quite a bit of money, They spent so much, I saw them spend 20 ducats on a single meal.”

Although they had been seen no one has apprehended the two fro thieving. The Venetian police are working on this case but do to lack of clues they can not proceed very far. The only hard evidence they have obtained was the day Jessica and Lorenzo left they went to Genoa were married in a chapel.

When questioned the preacher that married them had this to say. “I thought that the man looked Jewish but I didn't think it would matter, even if he was, they were in love I'm not going to stand in the way of that. As they were leaving I heard something about her saying she hated her father and she was glad she did this.”

Shylock was fined 300 ducats for the disturbance.

Opinion

Treated Unfair

Dear Editor

My name is Shylock, I'm a kind and generous Jewish money lender and I want to know why the world is so completely unjust. Everything that happens to me is so completely wrong, I want to know why. I'm a good person I help people when I can yet everyone around me is out to destroy what little I have.

Not long ago my house was robbed. Over 3000 ducats were stolen from me and two very beautiful and precious jewels were unjustly taken from my home. There was no reason why I should of deserved that kind of treatment? My own daughter had stolen my money no less. And to prove that she is a hideous beast she goes of and marry a demon named Lorenzo. A CHRISTIAN!

That event alone would make any one hard pressed to put food on the table but when I try and get my bond which is rightfully mine from a devil named Antonio I lose more money. An idiot lawyer came to scene and decelerated even though it was mine I couldn't claim my bond since I would kill some one in the process. And for trying to take what's mine I must convert to christen and give up half of my money to my wicked child. I will be baptized in 3 days please tell me if there is any reason why I should deserve this unjust treatment.

A needy money lender,
- Shylock

Reckless on High Seas

Dear People of Venice

Sailors need to take much more caution at sea! I am a merchant that lives here in Venice; my main income is from my trade ships which are sent far and wide. Not long ago two of my ships where lost at sea.

I lost a great deal of money on those two ships and when I finally contacted some one that survived the ships I found out they sank from sheer ignorance. Some how the crew decided that they could tie a rope around the steering wheel, run the rope under the deck, then pull it and some how steer from below the deck. Needless to say with an hour both of my ships had crashed in to the rocks.

Simple mishaps like this will make many merchants lose so much money and lives will be lost at that. Please sailors pay more attention at sea.

- Antonio

Props for the Duke

Dear Chronicle Readers

I was at the scene when our wise a noble duke declared that Shylock could not take a pound of flesh from dear gentle Antonio. He had done nothing at all to deserve to die. I think our duke deserves four more years in office for his wise decision. And I would also like to mention the Genius lawyer Balthazar for point out that Shylock should receive punishment in place of flesh. Kudos Duke.

FOUR MORE YEARS!!!

- Salarino

The Duke was wrong

Dear readers of the Chronicle

The duke is a flaming idiot. Shylock was totally correct. He had every right to take Antonio's flesh, he had rights to it, it doesn't matter that Antonio's blood was in the way. It's still Shylock's property and he can do whatever he pleases with it.

The trial should be done over and this time some one with a respectable knowledge of the law should over see it, not some young idiot lawyer or a duke with out any common sense in the law. Shylock is the greatest and smartest man in this town so much more Antonio.

- Thylock

Sticks and Stones

People of Venice

I am a very powerful man in the city of Venice and recently I was involved in a controversial trial that I thought that I did the right thing in. Yet apparently some one disagrees with me. I wish to with hold my name but I have received a large amount of hate mail recently due to my decision. I wish to state this here and now, I know who is sending me this mail, and if this continues then your punishment won't end in just being a Christian....

- Anonymous

Personals

Rich merchant seeks a responsible crew for 2 ships. Must love to travel too far of locations and Sail. Experience is a Must, pays well, can keep whatever loot you find from pirates if you encounter them. Call 555-1424 for more information.

Needy former money lender in a need of a job. Was a Jew but due to sneaky devil had to convert. Is good with people but feels that he needs to extract vengeance against Christians and has hard time making deals that involve cutting off peoples flesh. Need money badly since all goes to devil daughter. Email at Megatrader@moneytradingnow.com

Group of chests for sale, all in good condition, each made of different material. One of gold, one of silver, and one of lead. 500 ducats for the set of them. Will deliver to you! If not inquired about they will be thrown away so call soon. 555-6789

Group of eight men seeking legal expert. All in need for a way to marry some one with out actually marrying them. Has taken legal oath that prohibits marriage. Call 555-1523 Ask for Prince of Arragon or Prince of Morocco

Former jester looking for a master carpenter. Hoping for partnership. Although not interested in it the dear tabby lady told me to. Will work cheap but jokes are free. Contract at Gobbonater@clowns.com

Balthazar. A messenger. Very unreliable was involved in Romeo and Juliet Fiasco but is still hard worker and determined to deliver messages. sorryitsalittlelate@oops.com

Young couple look for house. Must be at least moderate in size. Will pay any price for it!!! But referrer to pay directly with ducats and 2 pairs of jewels. Low key area if possible. JnL@aol.com

Smart doctor of laws seeks a legal lawyer for an apprenticeship. The last one I had turned out to be a girl. Must have little to no experience. 555-7983

Lonely un-employed newfound Christian seeks a companion. Must be a former Jew willing to settle for less. Funny, generous but has slight tendency to try and kill Christians. Email at Megatrader@moneytradingnow.com

Pair of professional Gossipers looking for work. Salarino and Solanio, has went to professional gossiping school and willing to move to location to work. Works best in large groups of people. 555-7891

Your Ad Here!!! Call 555-6782 to place an ad. Call Now!!!

Dear Tabby

Dear Tabby,
My name is Nerissa and I just got married to who I thought was the love of my life, Greatino. Who is smart strong man who I love but I'm not sure if he loves me back.

Just recently I married him and after we were wed he had to depart with his master Bassaino to save there friends Antonio. While I respect him saving his friend I didn't know if I could trust him so I took to cautions to make sure he stayed loyal. First I gave my husband a ring. A simple gold ring, and made him promise that he would never ever take this ring off. That he should die with it on his hand and be buried with it. Which I think is perfectly fine.

But Since I missed my husband me and my master decided to follow him to watch what they where doing and mainly to help them out with a trail against shylock. So we had disguised our self as a Doctor of laws and a Lawyers clerk.

Well when we got to the trial we had found that our husbands where losing, badly so we helped them out and my master Portia turned the whole thing around. Now here is where the problem lies. After the trial I had a talk with my husband (while still disguised as a lawyer's clerk) and pointed out the ring. And demanded since my lawyer has won the trial that he give me the ring as payment. AND HE GAVE IT TO ME!!!

The ring he swore never to take off he did with a single question. I have since told him about this and confessed that I had the ring but does this mean that he really doesn't love me? If he did he wouldn't have took the ring off. Please help me tabby.

Yours truly Nerissa

Dear Nerissa

I think that you're over reacting a bit. Although I see your point that he shouldn't have given you the ring I hardly think that he doesn't love you for that. I'm sure that he feels sincerely sorry for what he did and that you'll work threw this.

But I think that you should also be a little more trustful in your husband, if you don't trust him far enough to the point that you would follow him disguised as a man then there could be some serious problems that you may needs to work through. Talk to him about this. Hope this helps.

- Tabby

Dear Tabby,
My name is Lancelot Gobo. I live in the town of Vince and for the most part everything with my life is good, and I'm pretty sure that my life is so good because I live in Venice. Yet I don't think that I could live in Vince much longer.

You see I am a masterful entertainer and lately I have been very upset with my former boss, a Jewish money lender that goes by the name of Shylock. Well with his dull in the arts and the only comedy that pleases he is cruel stories of pain and agony. I simply could not stand it any more. So with some luck I was able to transfer my ownership to one Bassaino who indeed is a wise and generous man. But alas he has taken a women's hand in marriage in the town of Belmont. Meaning that I should move if I wish to go with him. Yet I love this town of Venice. Oh what should I do?

Dear Lancelot Gobo

I have a very simple answer to your problem. You do not need to move at all, and since it seems that all you like about Bassaino is to perform for him then this will most likely suit you fine. You need to get a real job!

Simply being a jester won't do anything for you in the long term scope of life. What will you children do? If they can't make distasteful humor like you, they are stuck with out a father to teach them a trade. They could make no money and when you grow ripe in age and unable to perform they could not take care of you any more since they wouldn't make any without a job.

This letter couldn't come at a better time for me since I am in need of a carpenter, could you please come to my house and I would be more then happy to give you a job.

- Tabby

Arts and Theatre

Romeo and Juliet Play Review

Just last month the Genius playwright William Shakespeare had released his greatest play yet. Romeo and Juliet, A play of two star crossed lovers in fair Verona, where civil blood would make civil hands unclean.

The Capulet's and the Montague's are two houses of families who had been feuding over and over for so long that no one can remember why they were even fighting. But among those fighting families there were lovers. A young girl from the Capulet family named Juliet met and fell in love with Romeo from the Montague family at a party. Knowing each other as there true loves, yet knowing that there families would never accept their love the wed in secret to a sympathetic priest who hoped that the marriage would solve the quarrel of the families and end the violence. But it only made more.

Romeo's friend Mercutio who was a playful joker was casually jesting at Tybault, Juliet's cousin. Tybault being a hotheaded launched the jest into a fight and killed Mercutio. Romeo crying over his friend's death found and killed Tybault. For the deaths Romeo had been bane from the town of Verona never to return. Will Juliet be reunited with her Romeo or will the families kill each other first?

To find out see it your self or go to www.sadplaysnow.com. Course I say you see it for yourself. This play is the best new attraction of this year. "If you only see one play this year, make it this one" raves rolling rocks paper. "A frazzle dazzle fighting movies with love for the whole family. Five swords!" says Taropert and Nelbery.



GOLD



SILVER



LEAD

Christopher Marlowe

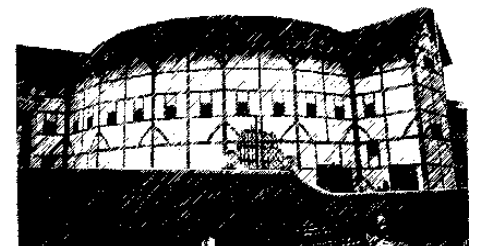
Christopher Marlowe. We all know him, or at least heard of him. The playwright who was for a wilder age. One of the greatest playwrights there ever was. His epic tales of battles and courageous fights are inspiring. But alas they will be no more, after his death just 2 weeks ago.

Although Chris has been making and producing plays a whole three years before Shakespeare it seems that Christopher has always been hidden in his shadow, a great playwright in his own right but it seems that his plays are just to violent, they can not compare to the epic love stories of Shakespeare and other playwrights.

Perhaps a reason he isn't as popular as the other playwrights is because his goal isn't to make plays, he considers himself a poet by nature. His goal is to place poetry at the peak where it once resided. His goal will be reached when he has magnificent quotes like "Infinite riches in a little room" from *The Jew of Malta*. One of his greatest works is the *The Massacre at Paris*.

The Globe

The Chamberlain's Men acting group is out of a play house. The group's only play house is "The Theatre", but when the man owning and controlling the play house died last week the house was to be spent between his two sons. With one wanting to dismantle the building and the other wanting the plays to go there was much room for dispute. With out an agreement they finally agreed to tear the place down. But due to a clause the brother was able to float the lumber over the river and start construction on the Globe Theater. Shakespeare's works will go on! But not until late 1599.



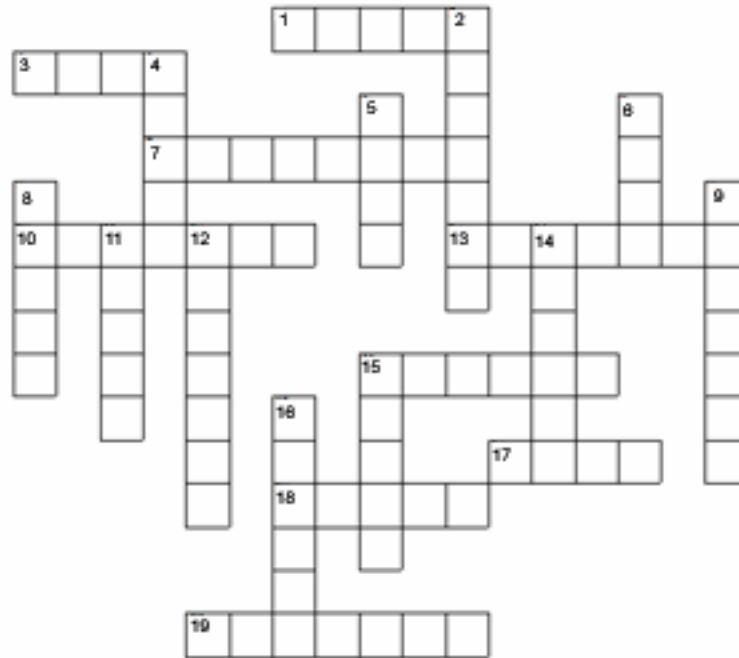
Lifestyle

Across

- 1. antonio has lost his
- 3. don't give this away
- 7. town outside of venice
- 10. someone in trouble
- 13. shylock plans
- 15. looking for husband
- 17. shylock is a
- 18. bassanio is need of
- 19. moneylender

Down

- 2. portia doesn't like any of her
- 4. servant in venice
- 5. presides over trial
- 6. bassanio asks antonio for a
- 8. not a minor conflict
- 9. shylocks daughter
- 11. friend of shylock
- 12. gratiano is in love with
- 14. city in italy
- 15. how much flesh
- 16. genre



Psychic Hotline

Hello precious readers. I am Ms. Dleo, here today with the psychic reading for our fair town of Venice. As always we have three predictions for the future.

First our own Glartino has invented a set of papers stringed tighter to hang upon the window. He calls these his *Venetian Blinds* for this Ms. Dleo says that these will be the biggest thing to hit the world. These contraptions will be worth a large amount of ducats eventually.

Secondly due to our large amount of rainfall, Ms. Delo has to say that the rain won't stop. There will be so much that at one point this entire city will be flooded with water. Boats will become the chosen mode of transportation and everyone will be confined to their roofs.

The last part of this I am sure of. That at one point creatures from a far off place will come to Venice and not only completely take over the city, but declare that everyone in the area taller then 5 feet, be throne in to a fiery pit of doom. Crazy as it sounds, I guarantee that this will happen.

Shylock's Lagoon

