

ACT III Scene 1

CONTEXT QUESTIONS

1. (i) In the first line 'she' refers to the rumour or report which is personified as a tattling old woman. When Salarino talks about Antonio's ship, Salanio only wishes that Rumour may prove to be a big liar in the case as any old woman, who ever gossiped with her neighbours over her ginger bread cakes and made her neighbours believe that she mourned sincerely for the death of her third husband.
 - (ii) Earlier, it was told that Antonio's ship was wrecked in the water of the English channel at a spot known as Goodwin Sands, a most perilous sand bank. The news about the ship-wreckage spread at the Rialto or the Exchange where merchants met for business transactions.
 - (iii) The given words mean: 'without speaking much or beating about the bush'. That is without being guilty of any lengthy, irrelevant or tedious speech or going outside plain direct speech.
 - (iv) In the given extract, Salarino and Salanio express their feelings of concern and sympathy for Antonio. Salanio calls him 'good Antonio', 'honest Antonio' and wants a better adjective to describe 'him'. Finally, Salanio conveys the news that Antonio has lost a ship. Salarino hopes that this may be the end of his losses.
 - (v) Shylock was pleased to hear about the loss of Antonio's ship. He calls him a spendthrift and a beggar, who used to come smiling, self-satisfied to the market. He must take care to redeem his bond in time.
2. (i) The flight of Jessica is being talked about. She has flown to Belmont. Jessica has flown with Lorenzo.
 - (ii) Just before the arrival of Shylock, the news about the Antonio ship-wreck in the English Channel at a spot called Goodwin Sands is given.
 - (iii) The given words mean that it is the nature of a fully feathered young bird to leave the nest when it is old enough. He means to say that Jessica was old enough to run away with her lover, Lorenzo.
 - (iv) Shylock took all possible steps to get back his eloped daughter. He asked the Duke for justice and even persuaded him to check the ship in which Bassanio left for Belmont. Later it was said that some people saw Lorenzo and Jessica in a gondola. Shylock engaged his friend

- (v) After the extract, Salarino compares the character of Jessica and Shylock. He says that Jessica is a complete contrast to Shylock as black is to white or as ordinary red wine is to expensive white Rhenish wine.
3. (i) A 'bankrupt' means a person who has not enough money to pay off his just debts. 'Prodigal' means a spendthrift who spends money recklessly. The man has gone bankrupt because his ship has been wrecked in the English Channel with its rich cargo. He is a spendthrift who has mismanaged his affairs and has gone bankrupt. That is why he is called a prodigal by Shylock.
- (ii) The Venetian Stock Exchange where the merchants used to meet to transact business deals, was known as the *Rialto*. The man used to go to Rialto smiling and so self-satisfied because he was sure of his financial position as he owned a number of ships carrying merchandise to the four corners of the world. Shylock says these words to compare Antonio's financial position in the past with his present bankrupt condition.
- (iii) The man referred to in the extract used to insult Shylock. He used to disgrace him, laugh at his losses, mock at his gains, despise his race and interfere in his business deals simply because he was a Jew.
- (iv) The bankrupt caused loss to Shylock in Venice by lending money without interest and thus, affecting Shylock's business of lending money at exorbitant rate of interest.
- (v) The bankrupt is likely to go into a loss as his ship has been wrecked with its rich cargo. Besides, he is to pay three thousand ducats he had borrowed from Shylock for Bassanio. Such a loss will favour Shylock to pursue his plan of revenge.
4. (i) The thief referred to in the extract is Shylock's daughter, Jessica. The thief had stolen his money, gold and gems, including a diamond costing two thousand ducats. After the theft, Shylock has to spend money to locate Jessica. So he has suffered loss upon loss due to the theft.
- (ii) Tubal is another Jew, a friend of Shylock. He went to Genoa to search for Jessica, who has eloped with Lorenzo.
- (iii) Tubal brought the news that he went to the places in Genoa where he heard some news about Jessica but could not find her.
- (iv) One of Antonio's large ships has been wrecked on the way back from Tripolis. This was the ill-luck that befell Antonio. Shylock was happy over the news as his chances of taking revenge on Antonio became brighter.
- (v) Shylock uses the expression satisfaction and revenge in the context of his efforts to retrieve his lost money and eloped daughter. His