

4. Stanzas for Comprehension

Read the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow :

1. Morocco

Mislike me not for my complexion,
The shadow'd livery of the burnished sun,
To whom I am a neighbour and near bred.
Bring me the fairest creature northward born,
Where Phoebus' fire scarce thaws the icicles,
And let us make incision for your love,
To prove whose blood is reddest, his or mine.
I tell thee, lady, this aspect of mine
Hath feared the valiant : by my love, I swear,
The best regarded virgins of our clime
Hath loved it too : I would not change this hue,
Except to steal your thoughts, my gentle queen.

(i) To what does Morocco attribute his dark complexion ?

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(ii) How does Morocco assert that his blood is redder than that of any other fairest man ?

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(iii) How does Morocco boast of his bravery and physical strength ?

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(iv) Explain the lines :

I would not change this hue

Except to steal your thoughts; my gentle queen.

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(v) How does Portia react to Morocco's speech immediately after he finished it ?

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Portia

1 term

4. Stanzas for Comprehension

Read the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow :

1. Antonio

Mark you this, Bassanio.

The devil can cite Scripture for his purpose.

An evil soul, producing holy witness,

Is like a villain with a smiling cheek,

A goodly apple rotten at the heart :

O, what a goodly outside falsehood hath !

- (i) Comment on the occasion of Antonio's speech made above ?

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- (ii) Explain the line :

'Is like a villain with a smiling cheek'.

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- (iii) What do you come to know about Antonio from his above - mentioned speech ?

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(iv) Comment on the line :

'A goodly apple rotten at the heart'.

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(v) What opinion do you form of Shylock from the above-mentioned lines ?

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2. Shylock

Signior Antonio, many a time and oft
 In the Rialto you have rated me
 About my moneys and my usances;
 Still have I borne it with a patient shrug,
 For sufferance is the badge of all our tribe.
 You call me misbeliever, cut-throat dog,
 And spit upon my Jewish gaberdine,
 And all for use of that which is mine own.
 Well then, it now appears you need my help :

(i) What light do the above-mentioned lines throw on the relations between Shylock and Antonio ?

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3. Portia

If I live to be as old as Sibylla, I will die as chaste as Diana, unless obtained by the manner of my father's will. I am glad this parcel of wood so reasonable, for there is not one among them but I dote on his very air and I pray God grant them a fair departure.

- (i) To whom does Portia make these remarks ? Explain the context of her remarks.

(ii) Explain :

"If I live to be as old as Sibylla, I will die as chaste as Diana."

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(iii) What does Portia call the suitors reasonable ?

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(iv) Comment on the will of Portia's father with regard to her marriage.

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(v) What does Nerissa remind Portia of immediately after she finishes her speech ?

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