

# THE BOND (W. Shakespeare)

## *The Merchant of Venice, Act I, Scene III*

BASSANIO This is Signor Antonio.

SHYLOCK *[Aside]* How like a fawning publican he looks!

I hate him for he is a Christian;

But more for that in low simplicity

5 He lends out money gratis, and brings down  
The rate of usance here with us in Venice.

If I can catch him once upon the hip,

I will feed fat the ancient grudge I bear him.

He hates our sacred nation and he rails

10 Even there where merchants most do congregate

On me, my bargains, and my well-won thrift,

Which he calls interest. Cursèd be my tribe

If I forgive him!



Image: [Wikimedia Commons](#)

(Text: Spiazzi, Tavella, Layton (2012). *Performer. Culture and Literature 1*. Zanichelli)

### ACTIVITIES

1. Find the following words. What do you think they mean? Use a dictionary when necessary.
  - a. Fawning
  - b. Grudge
  - c. Sacred
  - d. Bargains
  - e. Cursed
2. When a character makes an aside, who is he/she talking to? What is it used for?
3. How is an aside different from a monologue? And a soliloquy?
4. What is the function of Shylock's aside?
5. Think of films or TV shows where they use asides. What do they use them for?  
(You can find an example here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5G-lkbKvJYE>)



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## KEY

### ACTIVITIES

- 1. Find the following words. What do you think they mean? Use a dictionary when necessary.**
  - a. Fawning
  - b. Grudge
  - c. Sacred
  - d. Bargains
  - e. Cursed
- 2. When a character makes an aside, who is he/she talking to? What is it used for?**

The character talks to the audience. They are mainly used to give information about how the character really is, to make sure the audience understands something or notices something, or to make humoristic remarks
- 3. How is an aside different from a monologue? And a soliloquy?**

In the aside the character speaks to the audience, and it normally happens during a scene. In a monologue, the character speaks to the audience or to another character, but only he/she speaks. In the soliloquy, the speaker is alone in the scene and speaks to himself/herself.
- 4. What is the function of Shylock's aside?**

To explain the real thoughts and intentions of the character.
- 5. Think of films or TV shows where they use asides. What do they use them for? (You can find an example here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5G-lkbKvJYE>)**

E.g.: To give information about how the character really is / to make sure the audience understands something or notices something / to make humoristic remarks / ...