

Name _____

Questions for Act IV, Scene 1

1. How does the Duke feel about Antonio's sentence? What is his dilemma? (lines 3-13)
2. In lines 89-103, Shylock makes an **analogy** between slavery and his demand for his bond. Explain the comparison.
3. In line 120, Nerissa enters the courtroom... how is she dressed?
4. In line 123, a homonym is used. Explain the play on words.
5. In line 163, Portia enters the courtroom... how is she dressed?
6. In Portia's famous soliloquy (lines 181-202), she talks about mercy. Paraphrase this eloquent speech in a couple of sentences.
7. In lines 242-301, whose side of the law does Portia take?

8. In lines 302-309, Portia creates a twist in the law. What specifically does she say must not happen in the taking of a pound of flesh?

9. In lines 320-328, Portia creates yet another twist in the bond. What does she insist must be done by Shylock in taking his bond?

10. In line 332, Shylock changes his mind and insists upon taking the money. However, Portia denies it to him. How can she do this? (lines 334-335)

11. In lines 343-359, Portia adds yet another twist to Shylock's circumstances. What is it?

12. In lines 376-386, Antonio shows great mercy to Shylock. What deal does he make with the court?

13. Toward the end of the scene, Portia proves to be a bit **conniving** in her interactions with Bassanio (who doesn't know she is his wife). What does she want from him? What do you think this says about her character?