Lecture on: The Merchant of Venice (2 lectures)

I. Antisemitism and Christian Ignorance

A. Atonement, Incarnation, Redemption
B. The Old Law and the New Law

Justice --------------- Mercy
Flesh/Lettermer -------- Spirit

II. The Return to Belmont: Embrace of Lorenzo & Jessica (Act. 5)

III. The Two Plots:

A. The money plot (1.1)
B. The will plot (1.2)

(2.1)- Morocco
(2.7)- Morocco chooses gold casket
(2.9)- Aragon chooses silver casket
(3.2)- Bassanio chooses leaden casket

IV. Launcelot Gobbo and Jessica (2.2 - 2.6)

A. Gobbo and his old blind father (2.2)
B. Jessica as torch-bearer (2.3-2.6)
C. Shylock and the Gadarene Swine

V. The Trial Scene (Act 4.1)

VI. Shylock as Scriptural Exegete

VII. Nerissa’s Ring
VIII. Antonio’s Ships and Boethian consolation

Biblical Allusions:

1.3.54 Tubal ---- Genesis 4.23

Gadarene swine ---- Matthew 8; Mark 6; Luke 8

1.3.65 Laban ---- Genesis 30.31-43

2.2 Gobbo and blind father ---- Genesis 27, Matthew 6.23-24; Ephesians 4

Jessica as torch-bearer ---- Ephesians 5.8; 2 Corinthians 4

2.5.36 Jacob’s Staff ---- Genesis 32.10-13

2.5.43 Hagar ---- Genesis 16.21; Galatians 4.22

3.1.117 Jacob, Leah, and Rachel ---- Genesis 29(2.1)