**Measure for Measure (1604)**

**CLAUDIO**

Death is a fearful thing.

**ISABELLA**

And shamed life a hateful.

**CLAUDIO**

Ay, but to die, and go we know not where;  
To lie in cold obstruction and to rot;  
This sensible warm motion to become  
A kneaded clod; and the delighted spirit  
To bathe in fiery floods, or to reside  
In thrilling region of thick-ribbed ice;  
To be imprison'd in the viewless winds,  
And blown with restless violence round about  
The pendent world; or to be worse than worst  
Of those that lawless and incertain thought  
Imagine howling: 'tis too horrible!  
The weariest and most loathed worldly life  
That age, ache, penury and imprisonment  
Can lay on nature is a paradise  
To what we fear of death.

**ISABELLA**

Alas, alas!

**CLAUDIO**

Sweet sister, let me live:  
What sin you do to save a brother's life,  
Nature dispenses with the deed so far  
That it becomes a virtue.

**ISABELLA**

O you beast!  
O faithless coward! O dishonest wretch!  
Wilt thou be made a man out of my vice?  
Is't not a kind of incest, to take life  
From thine own sister's shame? What should I think?  
Heaven shield my mother play'd my father fair!  
For such a warped slip of wilderness  
Ne'er issued from his blood. Take my defiance!  
Die, perish! Might but my bending down  
Reprieve thee from thy fate, it should proceed:  
I'll pray a thousand prayers for thy death,  
No word to save thee.

**CLAUDIO**

Nay, hear me, Isabel.

**ISABELLA**

O, fie, fie, fie!  
Thy sin's not accidental, but a trade.  
Mercy to thee would prove itself a bawd:  
'Tis best thou diest quickly.

**CLAUDIO**

O hear me, Isabella!

(3.1.116-148)

***The Merchant of Venice* (1605)**

**SALANIO**

Let me say 'amen' betimes, lest the devil cross my  
prayer, for here he comes in the likeness of a Jew.

*Enter SHYLOCK*

How now, Shylock! what news among the merchants?

**SHYLOCK**

You know, none so well, none so well as you, of my  
daughter's flight.

**SALARINO**

That's certain: I, for my part, knew the tailor  
that made the wings she flew withal.

**SALANIO**

And Shylock, for his own part, knew the bird was  
fledged; and then it is the complexion of them all  
to leave the dam.

**SHYLOCK**

She is damned for it.

**SALANIO**

That's certain, if the devil may be her judge.

**SHYLOCK**

My own flesh and blood to rebel!

**SALANIO**

Out upon it, old carrion! rebels it at these years?

**SHYLOCK**

I say, my daughter is my flesh and blood.

**SALARINO**

There is more difference between thy flesh and hers  
than between jet and ivory; more between your bloods  
than there is between red wine and rhenish. But  
tell us, do you hear whether Antonio have had any  
loss at sea or no?

**SHYLOCK**

There I have another bad match: a bankrupt, a  
prodigal, who dare scarce show his head on the  
Rialto; a beggar, that was used to come so smug upon  
the mart; let him look to his bond: he was wont to  
call me usurer; let him look to his bond: he was  
wont to lend money for a Christian courtesy; let him  
look to his bond.

**SALARINO**

Why, I am sure, if he forfeit, thou wilt not take  
his flesh: what's that good for?

**SHYLOCK**

To bait fish withal: if it will feed nothing else,  
it will feed my revenge. He hath disgraced me, and  
hindered me half a million; laughed at my losses,  
mocked at my gains, scorned my nation, thwarted my  
bargains, cooled my friends, heated mine  
enemies; and what's his reason? I am a Jew. Hath  
not a Jew eyes? hath not a Jew hands, organs,  
dimensions, senses, affections, passions? fed with  
the same food, hurt with the same weapons, subject  
to the same diseases, healed by the same means,  
warmed and cooled by the same winter and summer, as  
a Christian is? If you prick us, do we not bleed?  
if you tickle us, do we not laugh? if you poison  
us, do we not die? and if you wrong us, shall we not  
revenge? If we are like you in the rest, we will  
resemble you in that. If a Jew wrong a Christian,  
what is his humility? Revenge. If a Christian  
wrong a Jew, what should his sufferance be by  
Christian example? Why, revenge. The villany you  
teach me, I will execute, and it shall go hard but I  
will better the instruction.

(3.1.19-67)