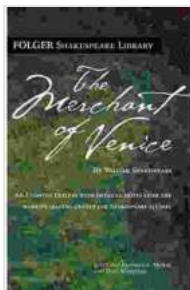


The Merchant of Venice: A Masterpiece of Love, Money, and Prejudice | Folger Shakespeare Library



The Merchant of Venice (Folger Shakespeare Library)

by Paul Werstine

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 9134 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Print length : 306 pages

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The Merchant of Venice is one of Shakespeare's most beloved and enduring plays. A complex and multifaceted work, it explores the intertwined themes of love, money, and prejudice with wit, passion, and insight. The play has been adapted countless times for stage, screen, and opera, and its characters and story continue to resonate with audiences around the world.

The Folger Shakespeare Library's Collection

The Folger Shakespeare Library houses one of the world's largest and most comprehensive collections of Shakespeare-related materials, including a rare first edition of The Merchant of Venice from 1600. The Library also holds a wealth of other resources related to the play, including manuscripts, prompt books, and costumes.

In addition to its physical collection, the Folger Library also offers a variety of online resources related to The Merchant of Venice. These resources include a digital edition of the play, a performance history database, and a collection of essays and articles by leading scholars.

The Play's Themes

The Merchant of Venice is a complex play that explores a wide range of themes, including:

- **Love:** The play explores the different types of love, from the romantic love of Bassanio and Portia to the paternal love of Antonio for Bassanio.
- **Money:** The play also examines the power of money and its ability to corrupt and destroy.

- **Prejudice:** The play explores the prejudice that exists against Jews in Venetian society, and the consequences of this prejudice for Shylock.

The Play's Characters

The Merchant of Venice features a cast of memorable and complex characters, including:

- **Antonio:** A wealthy merchant who is Bassanio's friend and protector.
- **Bassanio:** A young nobleman who is in love with Portia.
- **Portia:** A beautiful and intelligent woman who is disguised as a man in order to defend Antonio in court.
- **Shylock:** A Jewish moneylender who is seeking revenge against Antonio.

The Play's Impact and Legacy

The Merchant of Venice has had a profound impact on literature and culture. The play's themes of love, money, and prejudice continue to resonate with audiences today, and its characters have become iconic figures in Western literature.

The Folger Shakespeare Library is committed to preserving and sharing the legacy of The Merchant of Venice. The Library's collection of resources provides scholars and students with the tools they need to study and understand the play, and the Library's educational programs bring the play to life for new audiences.

The Merchant of Venice is a masterpiece of the English language. Its complex characters, timeless themes, and enduring legacy make it one of

the most important and influential plays ever written. The Folger Shakespeare Library is proud to house a world-renowned collection of resources related to the play, and we encourage you to explore these resources and discover the many facets of this timeless work of art.

The Folger Shakespeare Library is a world-renowned center for Shakespeare studies. The Library's mission is to advance the understanding and enjoyment of Shakespeare and his works.

The Folger Library is located in Washington, D.C., on Capitol Hill. The Library is open to the public seven days a week.



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