Unit-11, Lesson- 9,10,11

Lesson-9

Once upon a time in Venice, Italy, there was a very rich merchant named Antonio. He had many ships that sailed in the sea. His ships carried different types of merchandise to other countries. He sold those goods there. He bought spices and other valuables from foreign countries and sold them in Venice.

Antonio was a good and kind man. He always helped the poor. The people of Venice loved him very much for his honesty and kindness.

Antonio had a close friend named Bassanio. He was a handsome young man and was born in a noble family. Bassanio liked to live a very luxurious life. He loved grandeur and style. He spent more money than he earned. As a result, he was very often short of money. In such situations, Bassanio would go to his best friend Antonio for help. Antonio would help him with cash.

It so happened that Bassanio fell in love with a wealthy lady named Portia. Portia was known not only for her beauty but also for her wisdom. She was soft towards Bassanio too. He wanted to visit Portia in a grand manner but he did not have any money. So he went to Antonio.

Bassanio said, 'Dear friend Antonio, I am in great need of some money. I would like to visit Portia at Belmont, grandly dressed and with many servants. But I don't have any money right now. Please help me to fulfill my intention.'

Antonio said, 'This is not a problem, my friend. How much do you need?'

'Three thousand ducats [Venetian currency] will do.

'I don't have that much money with me now as all my ships have gone out in the sea with merchandise. But don't worry, my friend, I'll arrange three thousand ducats for you.'

So he decided to borrow the sum from a moneylender named Shylock. Shylock was a very crooked man. Antonio and Shylock hated each other. Shylock used to lend money with high interest. He would even send the debtor to prison if the latter failed to pay his debt. On the contrary, Antonio used to lend money to help those who needed it and would not charge any interest.

Shylock agreed to lend him money but on one condition. If he failed to repay the money in three month's time, he would pay a penalty. Shylock would cut a pound of flesh from any part of Antonio's body

Word	Meaning (Bangla)	Synonym	Antonym
Merchant	ব্যবসায়ী	Trader, dealer	Buyer, customer

Word	Meaning (Bangla)	Synonym	Antonym
Merchandise	পণ্য	Goods, products	—
Honest	সৎ	Truthful, sincere	Dishonest, deceitful
Kind	সদয়	Caring, compassionate	Cruel, unkind
Noble	উচ্চ বংশীয়	Aristocratic, royal	Common, lowborn
Luxurious	বিলাসবহুল	Lavish, extravagant	Simple, modest
Grandeur	জাঁকজমক	Splendor, magnificence	Simplicity, dullness
Wisdom	প্রজ্ঞা	Intelligence, insight	Foolishness, ignorance
Soft (towards)	সহানুভূতিশীল	Kind, affectionate	Harsh, cold
Intention	উদ্দেশ্য	Aim, plan	Accident, chance
Currency	মুদ্রা	Money, cash	—
Borrow	ধার নেওয়া	Take a loan, obtain	Lend, give
Moneylender	ঋণদাতা	Financier, creditor	Debtor, borrower
Crooked	কুটিল	Dishonest, wicked	Honest, fair
Hate	ঘৃণা	Dislike, detest	Love, like
Debt	ঋণ	Loan, dues	Credit, asset
Interest (money)	সুদ	Charge, fee	Donation, free loan
Penalty	শাস্তি	Punishment, fine	Reward, forgiveness
Flesh	মাংস	Meat, tissue	Bone, skeleton (contextually)
Repay	ফেরত দেওয়া	Return, reimburse	Borrow, take

Translation:

একসময় ভেনিস, ইতালিতে একজন ধনী ব্যবসায়ী ছিলেন যার নাম ছিল অ্যান্টোনিও।
তার অনেক জাহাজ ছিল যা সমুদ্রে যাতায়াত করত। তার জাহাজগুলো বিভিন্ন ধরনের পণ্য বহন

করে অন্যান্য দেশে যেত। তিনি সেইসব দেশে সেই পণ্য বিক্রি করতেন। তিনি বিদেশ থেকে মসলা ও অন্যান্য মূল্যবান জিনিস কিনতেন এবং ভেনিসে সেগুলো বিক্রি করতেন।

অ্যান্টোনিও একজন ভালো এবং দয়ালু মানুষ ছিলেন। তিনি সবসময় দরিদ্রদের সাহায্য করতেন। তার সততা ও দয়ার জন্য ভেনিসবাসীরা তাকে খুব ভালোবাসত।

অ্যান্টোনিওর একজন ঘনিষ্ঠ বন্ধু ছিল যার নাম বাসানিও। সে একজন সুদর্শন যুবক ছিল এবং একটি অভিজাত পরিবারে জন্ম নিয়েছিল। বাসানিও বিলাসবহুল জীবন যাপন পছন্দ করত। সে জাঁকজমক এবং আড়ম্বর ভালোবাসত। সে তার উপার্জনের চেয়ে বেশি অর্থ ব্যয় করত। ফলে, প্রায়ই তার কাছে অর্থের অভাব দেখা দিত। এমন পরিস্থিতিতে বাসানিও তার প্রিয় বন্ধু অ্যান্টোনিওর কাছে সাহায্যের জন্য যেত। অ্যান্টোনিও তাকে নগদ টাকা দিয়ে সাহায্য করত।

একদিন এমন হলো যে বাসানিও এক ধনী নারী পোরশিয়ার প্রেমে পড়ল। পোরশিয়া শুধু সৌন্দর্যের জন্যই নয়, তার প্রজ্ঞার জন্যও বিখ্যাত ছিল। সে বাসানিওর প্রতি সহানুভূতিশীলও ছিল। বাসানিও চেয়েছিল পোরশিয়ার কাছে খুব আড়ম্বরভাবে যাওয়া, কিন্তু তার কাছে কোনো টাকা ছিল না। তাই সে অ্যান্টোনিওর কাছে গেল।

বাসানিও বলল, "প্রিয় বন্ধু অ্যান্টোনিও, আমার খুব প্রয়োজন কিছু অর্থের। আমি পোরশিয়ার কাছে বেলমন্টে যেতে চাই, চমৎকার পোশাকে ও অনেক চাকর নিয়ে। কিন্তু আমার এখন কোনো টাকা নেই। অনুগ্রহ করে আমার এই ইচ্ছেটা পূরণে সাহায্য করো।"

অ্যান্টোনিও বলল, "এটা কোনো সমস্যা নয়, আমার বন্ধু। তোমার কত টাকা প্রয়োজন?"

"তিন হাজার ডাকাত হলে চলবে।"

"আমার কাছে এখন এত টাকা নেই, কারণ আমার সব জাহাজ সাগরে গেছে পণ্য নিয়ে। তবে চিন্তা করো না, আমি তিন হাজার ডাকাতের ব্যবস্থা করব।"

তাই সে টাকা ধার নেওয়ার সিদ্ধান্ত নিল একজন মহাজন শাইলক-এর কাছ থেকে। শাইলক একজন অত্যন্ত কুটিল মানুষ ছিল। অ্যান্টোনিও আর শাইলক একে অপরকে অপছন্দ করত। শাইলক উচ্চ সুদে টাকা ধার দিত। কেউ ঋণ শোধ না করতে পারলে, সে তাকে জেলে পাঠাত। বিপরীতে, অ্যান্টোনিও দরিদ্রদের সাহায্য করার জন্য টাকা ধার দিত এবং সে কোনো সুদ নিত না।

শাইলক টাকা দিতে রাজি হলো, তবে একটি শর্তে। যদি অ্যান্টোনিও তিন মাসের মধ্যে টাকা ফেরত না দিতে পারে, তাহলে সে শাস্তিস্বরূপ অ্যান্টোনিওর শরীরের যেকোনো অংশ থেকে এক পাউন্ড মাংস কাটবে।

1. Where did Antonio live?
   a) Rome
   b) Florence

c) Venice

d) Milan

2. What was Antonio's profession?
   a) Farmer
   b) Merchant
   c) Teacher
   d) Fisherman

3. What did Antonio's ships carry?
   a) Passengers
   b) Fish
   c) Merchandise
   d) Soldiers

4. What did Antonio bring back from foreign countries?
   a) Gold
   b) Slaves
   c) Spices and valuables
   d) Weapons

5. How was Antonio known to the people of Venice?
   a) Rich and greedy
   b) Honest and kind
   c) Poor and generous
   d) Strict and rude

6. What kind of family did Bassanio belong to?
   a) Merchant
   b) poor
   c) Noble
   d) Royal

7. What kind of life did Bassanio like to live?
   a) Simple
   b) Religious
   c) Luxurious
   d) Lonely

8. Why did Bassanio often lack money?
   a) He had no job
   b) He was robbed
   c) He spent more than he earned
   d) He gave it to charity

9. Whom did Bassanio ask for money in times of need?
   a) Shylock
   b) Portia
   c) His father
   d) Antonio

10. What was Portia known for?
    a) Singing
    b) Beauty and wisdom
    c) Wealth only
    d) Dancing skills

11. Where did Portia live?
    a) Venice
    b) Milan
    c) Belmont
    d) Rome

12. How much money did Bassanio request from Antonio?
    a) 1,000 ducats
    b) 3,000 ducats
    c) 5,000 ducats
    d) 10,000 ducats

13. What was the condition of Antonio's ships at the time?
    a) They were damaged
    b) They had returned
    c) They were out at sea
    d) They were sold

14. What did Antonio decide to do to arrange money?
    a) Sell a ship
    b) Steal it
    c) Borrow from Shylock
    d) Sell his house

15. Who was Shylock?
    a) A merchant
    b) A moneylender
    c) A soldier
    d) A nobleman

16. How was Shylock's character described?
    a) Kind

b) Crooked

c) Cheerful

d) Innocent

17. What kind of interest did Shylock charge?
    a) No interest
    b) Low interest
    c) High interest
    d) Hidden charges

18. How did Antonio differ from Shylock in lending money?
    a) Antonio charged more
    b) Antonio charged interest
    c) Antonio didn't charge interest
    d) Antonio never lent money

19. What penalty did Shylock demand if the debt was not repaid?
    a) Double interest
    b) Prison sentence
    c) One pound of flesh
    d) Confiscation of goods

20. From where would Shylock take the pound of flesh?
    a) Any part of Antonio's body
    b) From his leg
    c) From his heart
    d) From his arm

21. What was the name of the lady Bassanio loved?
    a) Nerissa
    b) Juliet
    c) Portia
    d) Jessica

22. Why did Bassanio want money from Antonio?
    a) To buy a ship
    b) To travel for business
    c) To visit Portia in grandeur
    d) To buy land

23. What did Portia admire about Bassanio?
    a) His wealth
    b) His wisdom

c) His looks and manners

d) His strength

24. What did Antonio assure Bassanio?

a) He could not help

b) He would ask someone else

c) He would arrange the money

d) He would lend half

25. What did Shylock do to those who failed to repay him?

a) Forgave them

b) Imprisoned them

c) Gave more time

d) Ignored it

26. How did Antonio treat poor people?

a) Gave them advice only

b) Ignored them

c) Helped them with money

d) Gave them food only

27. How did Shylock react to Antonio's request?

a) Kindly

b) With hatred

c) With silence

d) With fear

28. What was Antonio's situation financially when Bassanio asked for money?

a) Very rich

b) Had no ships

c) No liquid cash

d) Had cash in hand

29. What currency was mentioned in the story?

a) Dollar

b) Rupee

c) Ducat

d) Dinar

30. Why did Antonio and Shylock dislike each other?

a) Business rivalry

b) Personality conflict

c) Different lending methods

d) Both b and c

31. What made Antonio popular among the people?
    a) His wealth
    b) His power
    c) His honesty and kindness
    d) His looks

32. What was the relationship between Antonio and Bassanio?
    a) Brothers
    b) Neighbors
    c) Best friends
    d) Cousins

33. How did Shylock treat his debtors?
    a) Politely
    b) Strictly
    c) Generously
    d) Kindly

34. What kind of man was Bassanio described as?
    a) Mean
    b) Handsome and noble
    c) Poor and lazy
    d) Rude and cruel

35. Who did Antonio decide to borrow money from?
    a) Bassanio
    b) Portia
    c) Shylock
    d) Merchant

36. What did Portia possess apart from beauty?
    a) Power
    b) Wealth
    c) Wisdom
    d) Fame

37. What part of Antonio's body was at risk according to the bond?
    a) His leg
    b) Any part
    c) His chest
    d) His arm

38. What kind of agreement was made between Shylock and Antonio?
    a) Friendly loan

b) Verbal promise

c) Strict legal bond

d) Letter

39. What did Shylock use to gain from lending?

a) Property

b) Kindness

c) High interest

d) Trust

40. What quality of Portia made her ideal for Bassanio?

a) Her beauty

b) Her money

c) Her kindness and wisdom

d) Her dress

41. What was Bassanio's main weakness?

a) Laziness

b) Overspending

c) Dishonesty

d) Anger

42. How did Antonio feel about helping his friend?

a) Reluctant

b) Confused

c) Willing

d) Forced

43. What were Antonio's ships carrying?

a) Passengers

b) Spices and goods

c) Arms

d) Books

44. Why couldn't Antonio pay Bassanio immediately?

a) He was robbed

b) His money was stolen

c) All his wealth was at sea

d) He was in debt

45. What did Shylock plan to take if the money wasn't returned?

a) Property

b) A pound of flesh

c) Antonio's ships
d) More interest

46. Why did Shylock hate Antonio?
    a) He was richer
    b) He helped the poor without interest
    c) He married Portia
    d) He stole his goods

47. What was Bassanio's plan when he got the money?
    a) To invest it
    b) To travel abroad
    c) To go to Belmont in style
    d) To give it to Shylock

48. Who was Belmont associated with?
    a) Shylock
    b) Portia
    c) Antonio
    d) Venice

49. What did Antonio do even without having money?
    a) Ignored Bassanio
    b) Sold his house
    c) Took a loan
    d) Went to sea

50. What is the central conflict of the passage?
    a) Bassanio's love for Portia
    b) Antonio vs. Shylock over a loan
    c) Portia's wealth
    d) Trade issues in Venice

1. c

2. b

3. c

4. c

5. b

6. c

7. c

8. c

9. d

10. b

11. c

12. b

13. c

14. c

15. b

16. b

17. c

18. c

19. c

20. a

21. c

22. c

23. c

24. c

25. b

26. c

27. b

28. c

29. c

30. d

31. c

32. c

33. b

34. b

35. c

36. c

37. b

38. c

39. c

40. c

41. b

42. c

43. b

44. c

45. b

46. b

47. c

48. b

49. c

50. b

Questions;

1. Why was Antonio considered a good and kind man?

2. How did Antonio help the people of Venice?

3. What kind of relationship did Antonio and Bassanio share?

4. Describe Bassanio's character and lifestyle.

5. Why was Bassanio frequently short of money?

6. Why did Bassanio want to visit Portia in a grand manner?

7. How was Portia different from other women?

8. What qualities made Portia attractive to Bassanio?

9. Why did Antonio not have money at that moment?

10. How did Antonio plan to help Bassanio without cash in hand?

11. What type of person was Shylock?

12. How did Shylock's attitude toward lending money differ from Antonio's?

13. What condition did Shylock place for the loan?

14. Why was the condition set by Shylock cruel?

15. How did Antonio and Shylock feel about each other?

16. What does Bassanio's dependency on Antonio reveal about their bond?

17. Why do you think Shylock wanted a pound of flesh as penalty?

18. What risk did Antonio take to help his friend?

19. Was it wise of Antonio to agree to Shylock's condition? Why or why not?

20. In what ways did Antonio display selflessness?

21. How does Bassanio's wish to impress Portia reflect his priorities?

22. What does the passage suggest about the dangers of luxury?

23. How do Antonio's actions reflect true friendship?

24. Do you think Bassanio was taking advantage of Antonio's kindness? Justify.

25. Why might the people of Venice have admired Antonio?

26. How is the concept of interest in money lending portrayed in the story?

27. What lesson can be learned from Antonio's willingness to help others?

28. Compare and contrast Antonio and Shylock's approaches to helping others.

29. What message does the story send about loyalty and friendship?

30. How does the condition of the loan affect the tone of the story?

1. **Why was Antonio considered a good and kind man?**
   Antonio was generous and always ready to help the poor. He didn't charge interest when lending money and was known for his honesty and kindness, which earned him the love and respect of the people of Venice.

2. **How did Antonio help the people of Venice?**
   He helped people in financial need by lending money without interest. His support was driven by compassion rather than profit.

3. **What kind of relationship did Antonio and Bassanio share?**
They shared a deep and loyal friendship. Antonio was always willing to support Bassanio, even if it meant taking personal risks.

4. **Describe Bassanio's character and lifestyle.**
Bassanio was handsome and noble but lived beyond his means. He loved luxury and often ran out of money because he spent more than he earned.

5. **Why was Bassanio frequently short of money?**
He lived extravagantly and didn't manage his finances well. His love for grandeur caused him to overspend.

6. **Why did Bassanio want to visit Portia in a grand manner?**
He wanted to impress Portia with his appearance and wealth. He believed a grand visit would improve his chances of winning her heart.

7. **How was Portia different from other women?**
Portia was not only beautiful but also wise and intelligent. Her character combined grace with intellect, making her truly admirable.

8. **What qualities made Portia attractive to Bassanio?**
Apart from her wealth and beauty, her wisdom and kindness attracted Bassanio. He admired her overall grace and character.

9. **Why did Antonio not have money at that moment?**
All his wealth was invested in ships that were currently out at sea. So, he didn't have ready cash to lend Bassanio.

10. **How did Antonio plan to help Bassanio without cash in hand?**
He decided to borrow money from a moneylender on Bassanio's behalf. This showed his willingness to go to great lengths for his friend.

11. **What type of person was Shylock?**
Shylock was a greedy and vengeful moneylender. He lent money with high interest and was harsh toward those who failed to repay him.

12. **How did Shylock's attitude toward lending money differ from Antonio's?**
Shylock lent money to earn profit through high interest, while Antonio lent money out of kindness and without interest. This created a moral contrast between them.

13. **What condition did Shylock place for the loan?**
If Antonio failed to repay the loan within three months, Shylock would cut a pound of flesh from his body. It was a harsh and unusual condition.

14. **Why was the condition set by Shylock cruel?**
The condition involved bodily harm, which was inhuman. It showed Shylock's intent to harm Antonio rather than just recover his money.

15. **How did Antonio and Shylock feel about each other?**
They disliked each other. Antonio disapproved of Shylock's greedy nature, while Shylock hated Antonio for helping people without charging interest.

16. **What does Bassanio's dependency on Antonio reveal about their bond?**
It shows deep trust and reliance. Bassanio knew Antonio would always support him, indicating a strong emotional bond.

17. **Why do you think Shylock wanted a pound of flesh as penalty?**
He likely wanted revenge on Antonio for past insults and business losses. The penalty was meant more to hurt than to settle a debt.

18. **What risk did Antonio take to help his friend?**
Antonio risked his life by agreeing to Shylock's condition. He showed great loyalty and selflessness.

19. **Was it wise of Antonio to agree to Shylock's condition? Why or why not?**
No, it was not wise because the penalty was dangerous. However, it showed the depth of Antonio's commitment to friendship.

20. **In what ways did Antonio display selflessness?**
He borrowed money under risky terms for his friend's happiness. He thought of Bassanio's needs before his own safety.

21. **How does Bassanio's wish to impress Portia reflect his priorities?**
It shows he valued appearances and romantic success. He prioritized style over financial prudence.

22. **What does the passage suggest about the dangers of luxury?**
Living beyond one's means can lead to debt and dependency. Bassanio's lifestyle caused him to rely heavily on Antonio.

23. **How do Antonio's actions reflect true friendship?**
He made personal sacrifices and took risks for Bassanio. His help was unconditional, proving his loyalty and love.

24. **Do you think Bassanio was taking advantage of Antonio's kindness? Justify.**
Possibly, since he repeatedly sought help without solving his financial habits. But he genuinely valued Antonio's friendship.

25. **Why might the people of Venice have admired Antonio?**
They admired his generosity, honesty, and willingness to help others. He stood out in a society driven by profit.

26. **How is the concept of interest in money lending portrayed in the story?**
It contrasts greed and generosity. Shylock's high interest symbolizes cruelty, while Antonio's interest-free lending shows compassion.

27. **What lesson can be learned from Antonio's willingness to help others?**
Helping others is noble, but one should also assess risks. Selflessness is valuable but should be balanced with caution.

28. **Compare and contrast Antonio and Shylock's approaches to helping others.**
Antonio helped freely and kindly. Shylock helped only for profit and often punished those who failed to repay.

29. **What message does the story send about loyalty and friendship?**
True friendship involves sacrifice, loyalty, and trust. Antonio's actions show that real friends stand by each other in all circumstances.

30. **How does the condition of the loan affect the tone of the story?**
It introduces tension and suspense. The friendly favor turns into a life-threatening challenge, shifting the tone from light to serious.

(i) Antonio was a rich merchant of Venice. He had many ships that sailed across the seas carrying goods to other countries. He was a kind and generous man who (a)____ those in need. One day, his close friend Bassanio came to him for help. Bassanio wanted to visit Portia in a (b)____ way but lacked money. Antonio had no money at that moment because all his ships were out at (c). **Still, he decided to help Bassanio by borrowing money from Shylock, a moneylender. Shylock agreed but set a strange condition. If the loan was not repaid in time, he would take a (d)_____ of flesh from Antonio's body. Antonio, out of friendship, (e)____ to this** dangerous deal.

(ii) Bassanio was a young man from a noble family in Venice. He was handsome and loved a life of luxury and style. However, he often (a)____ more than he earned, which left him short of money. When he fell in love with Portia, a wise and wealthy lady, he wanted to impress her with a grand visit. To do that, he went to Antonio for help. Though Antonio had no cash in hand, he promised to arrange the money. He approached Shylock, a greedy moneylender who lent money with high interest. Shylock agreed but only under a cruel condition: if Antonio failed to repay, he would take a (b)____ of flesh. This condition showed Shylock's (c)____ nature. Antonio accepted the deal to help his friend. Bassanio was (d)____ and thankful. He soon left for Belmont, dressed richly and with many (e)____.

(i) (a) **helped**
(b) **grand**
(c) **sea**
(d) **pound**
(e) **agreed**

(ii)(a) **spent**
(b) **pound**
(c) **cruel**
(d) **grateful**
(e) **servants**

Lesson- 10

Bassanio went to Belmont to visit Portia grandly dressed, with many servants. Portia's father had died lately. Before his death he had thought of an unusual plan to find a good husband for his daughter. He wanted a man to marry Portia for herself — and not for her wealth. He had three caskets made, one of gold, one of silver and one of lead. One of the caskets had Portia's portrait in it. The suitor who would first choose the casket with the portrait would marry her.

The first one to try was the prince of Morocco. He thought that silver and lead are poor metals. It is the casket made of precious metal that can hold the precious picture. So he chose the gold casket. But all he found was a picture of a skull with a message that said, "All that glitters is not gold." The prince was very sad and went back home. Then came the prince of Spain. He looked at the silver casket for a long time. On it was written, "He who chooses me will get what he deserves." The prince had a very high opinion about himself. He thought that he deserved the best. He therefore chose the silver casket and opened it. Inside the casket he found the picture of a blinking fool. He was very disappointed and offended. He immediately rode away. Then it was Bassanio's turn. He looked at the caskets for a long time. He thought, "Appearances are often misleading. Bad men appear good and good their inner ugliness under fine clothes." So he chose the plain looking lead casket. On opening the casket, he found the portrait of Portia inside. Bassanio and Portia got married. There was great joy at Belmont and the newly married couple were spending their time happily. But soon their happiness turned into sorrow by a piece of news. A messenger came with a letter from Antonio. The letter said, "Dear friend Bassanio, all my ships have been lost at sea. I cannot pay the money I owe to Shylock. So I have to pay the penalty. Dear friend, come and see me if possible. I would like to see you once before I die." Bassanio quickly left for Venice.

Word	Meaning (in Bangla)	Synonym	Antonym
Casket	ছোট বাক্স / কফিন	box, chest	—
Portrait	প্রতিকৃতি	picture, image	—
Suitor	পাত্র / বিয়ের প্রার্থী	admirer, proposer	enemy, stranger
Precious	বহুমূল্য	valuable	worthless
Skull	খুলি	cranium, headbone	flesh
Glitter	ঝলমল করা	shine, sparkle	fade, dull
Deserve	প্রাপ্য হওয়া	merit, earn	forfeit

Word	Meaning (in Bangla)	Synonym	Antonym
Offended	অপমানিত	insulted	pleased
Blinking	চোখের পাতা ফেলা (প্রকাশ পায় না এমন)	dumbfounded	focused
Disappointed	হতাশ	upset, dismayed	satisfied
Appearances	চেহারা / বহিরাবরণ	looks, outlook	reality, essence
Misleading	বিভ্রান্তিকর	deceptive	honest, clear
Inner	ভিতরের	internal	outer
Joy	আনন্দ	happiness	sorrow
Messenger	দূত	courier, envoy	receiver
Penalty	শাস্তি / জরিমানা	punishment	reward
Lead	সীসা	—	—
Quickly	দ্রুত	fast, rapidly	slowly
Happiness	সুখ	joy, delight	sadness
Sorrow	দুঃখ	grief, misery	joy, pleasure
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Translation:

বাসানিও অনেক চাকচিক্য সহকারে পোর্শিয়ার বাড়ি বেলমন্টে গেল। পোর্শিয়ার বাবা সম্প্রতি মারা গিয়েছিলেন। মৃত্যুর আগে তিনি তার মেয়ের জন্য একজন উপযুক্ত বর খুঁজে পাওয়ার একটি অদ্ভুত উপায় ভেবেছিলেন। তিনি চেয়েছিলেন কেউ যেন শুধুমাত্র পোর্শিয়ার অর্থের জন্য নয়, বরং তাকে ভালোবেসে বিয়ে করে। এজন্য তিনি তিনটি কাস্কেট (ধাতব বাক্স) তৈরি করিয়েছিলেন — একটি সোনার, একটি রুপার এবং একটি সিসার (lead)। এই তিনটির একটিতে পোর্শিয়ার ছবি রাখা ছিল। যে প্রার্থী সঠিক কাস্কেটটি বেছে নেবে, সেই হবে পোর্শিয়ার বর।

প্রথমে চেষ্টা করেছিল মরক্কোর রাজপুত্র। সে ভাবল, রুপা ও সীসা মূল্যহীন ধাতু, তাই দামী ছবি নিশ্চয়ই সোনার কাস্কেটেই থাকবে। কিন্তু সে যখন সোনার কাস্কেট খুলল, তখন দেখতে পেল একটি খুলি ও একটি বার্তা: **"সবকিছুই সোনা নয় যা ঝলমল করে।"** রাজপুত্র দুঃখিত হয়ে ফিরে গেল।

তারপর এল স্পেনের রাজপুত্র। সে অনেকক্ষণ রুপার কাস্কেটটি দেখে চিন্তা করল। সেখানে লেখা ছিল, **"যে আমাকে বেছে নেবে, সে তার প্রাপ্য পাবে।"** নিজেকে খুব যোগ্য মনে করেই সে রুপার কাস্কেটটি খুলল। কিন্তু ভেতরে ছিল এক গাধার ছবি। সে খুব হতাশ ও অপমানিত হয়ে ঘোড়ায় চড়ে চলে গেল।

তারপর এল বাসানিওর পালা। সে অনেকক্ষণ ধরে তিনটি কাস্কেট দেখল। ভাবল, **"চেহারা ধোঁকা দিতে পারে। খারাপ লোকরা ভালো সাজার চেষ্টা করে, আর ভালো লোকরা নিজেকে লুকিয়ে রাখে।"** তাই সে সাধারণ সীসার কাস্কেটটি বেছে নিল। খুলে দেখল, তাতে ছিল পোর্শিয়ার ছবি। তারা দুজনে বিয়ে করল এবং বেলমন্টে আনন্দ উদযাপন চলতে লাগল।

কিন্তু এই আনন্দ খুব বেশিদিন স্থায়ী হল না। একদিন একজন দূত এসে একটি চিঠি দিল অ্যান্টোনিওর পক্ষ থেকে। তাতে লেখা ছিল, **"প্রিয় বন্ধু বাসানিও, আমার সব জাহাজ ডুবে গেছে। আমি শ্যাইলককে যে টাকা ধার নিয়েছিলাম, তা ফিরিয়ে দিতে পারব না। তাই আমাকে শাস্তি ভোগ করতে হবে। দয়া করে যদি সম্ভব হয়, আমাকে দেখতে এসো। আমি মৃত্যুর আগে তোমাকে একবার দেখতে চাই।"**

চিঠি পড়েই বাসানিও দ্রুত ভেনিসের উদ্দেশে রওনা দিল।

MCQs

1. Why did Bassanio go to Belmont?
   a) To borrow money
   b) To visit his uncle
   c) To visit Portia grandly dressed
   d) To see Antonio

2. What was Portia's father's plan to find a good husband?
   a) A sword fight
   b) A debate competition
   c) A casket test
   d) A lucky draw

3. How many caskets were there?
   a) 2
   b) 3
   c) 4
   d) 5

4. Which casket had Portia's portrait?
   a) Gold
   b) Silver

c) Lead

d) None

5. What did the Prince of Morocco find inside the gold casket?

a) Portia's portrait

b) A blinking fool

c) A skull and a message

d) A crown

6. What was the message inside the gold casket?

a) "He who chooses me will get what he deserves."

b) "Love is blind."

c) "All that glitters is not gold."

d) "Choose wisely."

7. How did the Prince of Morocco feel after opening the gold casket?

a) Excited

b) Sad

c) Angry

d) Relieved

8. Which casket did the Prince of Spain choose?

a) Gold

b) Silver

c) Lead

d) Wooden

9. What was written on the silver casket?

a) "All that glitters is not gold."

b) "He who chooses me will get what he deserves."

c) "Appearances are deceptive."

d) "Beauty lies within."

10. What did the Prince of Spain find inside the silver casket?

a) A crown

b) Portia's portrait

c) A blinking fool

d) A treasure

11. What did Bassanio believe about appearances?

a) They are always true

b) They can be misleading

c) They don't matter

d) They show the inner soul

12. Which casket did Bassanio choose?
    a) Gold
    b) Silver
    c) Lead
    d) None

13. What did Bassanio find in the lead casket?
    a) A key
    b) A ring
    c) A letter
    d) Portia's portrait

14. What happened after Bassanio chose the right casket?
    a) He was banished
    b) He married Portia
    c) He returned to Venice
    d) He refused to marry

15. Where did Bassanio and Portia celebrate their marriage?
    a) Venice
    b) Italy
    c) Belmont
    d) Rome

16. What news turned the couple's joy into sorrow?
    a) Portia's illness
    b) Antonio's loss
    c) Shylock's invitation
    d) A war in Venice

17. Who brought the message to Bassanio?
    a) A priest
    b) A king
    c) A messenger
    d) A merchant

18. What did Antonio's letter say?
    a) He was getting married
    b) He found treasure
    c) He lost all his ships and was in danger
    d) He was coming to Belmont
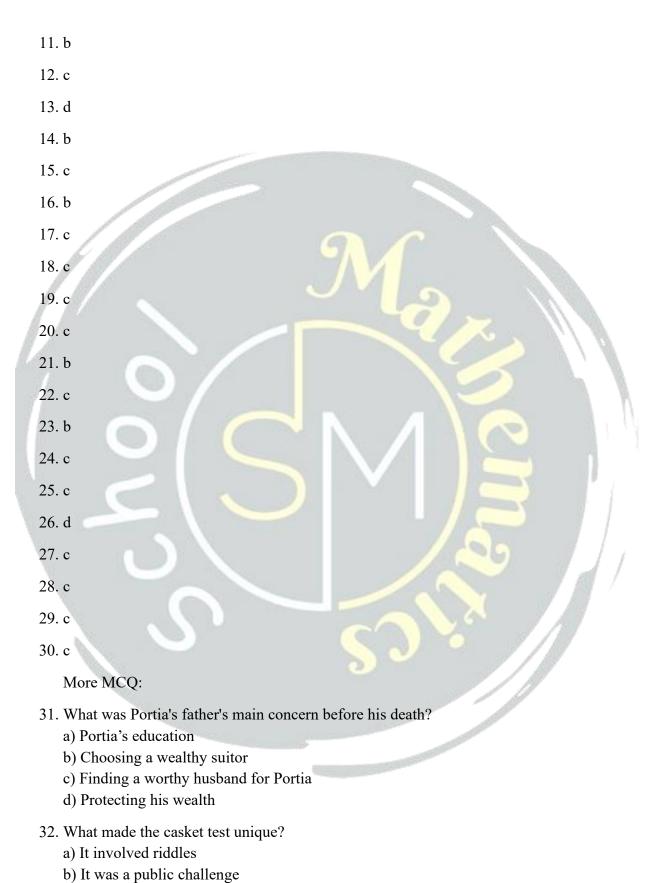
19. How did Antonio lose his money?
    a) Gambling

b) Robbery
c) Lost ships
d) He gave it away

20. What penalty did Antonio have to pay?
    a) 1000 ducats
    b) A fine
    c) A pound of flesh
    d) Jail time

21. Who was Antonio's enemy?
    a) Bassanio
    b) Shylock
    c) Portia
    d) The messenger

22. What kind of man was Shylock?
    a) Kind
    b) Honest
    c) Cruel and greedy
    d) Poor

23. What kind of man was Antonio?
    a) Greedy
    b) Generous and kind
    c) Proud
    d) Dishonest

24. Why did Bassanio need money initially?
    a) To buy a ship
    b) To pay rent
    c) To visit Portia grandly
    d) To go to war

25. What lesson was written inside the gold casket?
    a) Beauty is truth
    b) Love is wealth
    c) All that glitters is not gold
    d) Gold means truth

26. What did Portia's father want for her?
    a) A rich husband
    b) A wise husband

c) A kind and honest husband
d) A husband who loved her, not her wealth

27. How did Portia feel about Bassanio?
    a) She disliked him
    b) She was afraid of him
    c) She was soft toward him
    d) She was confused

28. What did the silver casket contain?
    a) A poem
    b) A jewel
    c) A fool's picture
    d) Portia's ring

29. How did the Prince of Spain react to the silver casket?
    a) He laughed
    b) He accepted his fate
    c) He was offended and left
    d) He argued with Portia

30. Why did Bassanio leave Belmont after marriage?
    a) For a holiday
    b) To start business
    c) To help Antonio
    d) To visit Shylock

✅ **Answer Key**

1. c

2. c

3. b

4. c

5. c

6. c

7. b

8. b

9. b

10. c

11. b

12. c

13. d

14. b

15. c

16. b

17. c

18. c

19. c

20. c

21. b

22. c

23. b

24. c

25. c

26. d

27. c

28. c

29. c

30. c

More MCQ:

31. What was Portia's father's main concern before his death?
    a) Portia's education
    b) Choosing a wealthy suitor
    c) Finding a worthy husband for Portia
    d) Protecting his wealth

32. What made the casket test unique?
    a) It involved riddles
    b) It was a public challenge

c) It tested the suitor's values

d) It was based on fighting

33. What message did the lead casket carry (implied)?
    a) "Risk everything for love"
    b) "Choose without thinking"
    c) "Appearances are everything"
    d) "Choose only gold"

34. Why did the Prince of Morocco choose the gold casket?
    a) It was the largest
    b) It was closest to him
    c) He thought precious things come in gold
    d) Portia hinted at it

35. What did the skull in the gold casket symbolize?
    a) Love
    b) Beauty
    c) Death and false appearances
    d) Greed

36. Why did the Prince of Spain choose the silver casket?
    a) It was shiny
    b) It had a sweet smell
    c) He believed he deserved the best
    d) He wanted to avoid risk

37. How did the silver casket make the Prince of Spain feel?
    a) Encouraged
    b) Flattered
    c) Humiliated
    d) Proud

38. What was Bassanio's opinion about outer appearances?
    a) They are always right
    b) They are often misleading
    c) They show truth
    d) They reflect wealth

39. What does the success of Bassanio in the test show?
    a) Wisdom over wealth
    b) Random chance
    c) Portia's choice
    d) Popularity wins

40. Why did Portia's father not want his daughter to choose her husband freely?
    a) He disliked her suitors
    b) He didn't trust her judgment
    c) He wanted a husband who truly loved her
    d) He liked riddles

41. What was the result of the casket test for Bassanio?
    a) He failed
    b) He got a second chance
    c) He won Portia's hand
    d) He refused to open it

42. Who decided to lend money to Antonio?
    a) The prince of Morocco
    b) Portia
    c) Shylock
    d) A merchant

43. What was the penalty for failing to repay Shylock?
    a) Losing a ship
    b) Losing all gold
    c) A pound of flesh
    d) Three months of jail

44. How long was the loan period given by Shylock?
    a) Two weeks
    b) One year
    c) Three months
    d) Six months

45. What did Bassanio want the money for?
    a) Gambling
    b) Travel
    c) To visit Portia in style
    d) To buy land

46. Why couldn't Antonio give cash to Bassanio directly?
    a) He was angry
    b) He had no money
    c) His ships were away at sea
    d) He didn't trust him

47. Why did Shylock hate Antonio?
    a) He was richer

b) He didn't return money

c) He lent money without interest

d) He insulted Shylock's religion

48. What quality does the story show in Bassanio?
    a) Cowardice
    b) Greed
    c) Thoughtfulness
    d) Dishonesty

49. How does Portia's story portray her?
    a) As selfish and rich
    b) As weak and passive
    c) As beautiful and wise
    d) As foolish and proud

50. What theme does this passage mainly explore?
    a) War and peace
    b) Love and wisdom
    c) Jealousy and anger
    d) Wealth and power

Answer Key (31–50)

31. c

32. c

33. a

34. c

35. c

36. c

37. c

38. b

39. a

40. c

41. c

42. c

43. c

44. c

45. c

46. c

47. c

48. c

49. c

50. b

Textbook question:

1. **Why did Portia's father make such a strange plan?**
   Portia's father made the strange plan to find a suitable husband for his daughter based on her worth and character, not her wealth. He created three caskets—gold, silver, and lead—with only one containing her portrait, to ensure her future husband would be chosen by his wisdom and integrity.

2. **Write what you know of the three caskets.**
   The three caskets are made of different materials: gold, silver, and lead. The gold casket is attractive but contained only a skull with a message "All that glitters is not gold." The silver casket had a picture of a blinking fool inside, and the lead casket was plain-looking but contained Portia's portrait.

3. **How many people attempted to choose the right casket? What was the result?**
   Three suitors attempted to choose the right casket: the prince of Morocco, the prince of Spain, and Bassanio. The prince of Morocco chose the gold casket and found a skull, which made him sad. The prince of Spain chose the silver casket and found a fool's picture, which disappointed him. Bassanio chose the plain lead casket and found Portia's portrait, so he married her.

4. **Who succeeded to marry Portia? Why/How?**
   Bassanio succeeded in marrying Portia because he chose the correct casket—the lead one—containing her portrait.

5. **Why did the joyous mood at Belmont turn sad?**
   The joyful mood turned sad because a messenger brought news that Antonio's ships had been lost at sea, and he could not pay the money he owed to Shylock. This posed a threat to Antonio's life, making the happy situation at Belmont turn into sorrow.

More **Questions**

1. Why did Portia's father create the casket test for her suitors?

2. What was the message written on the gold casket?

3. Why did the Prince of Morocco choose the gold casket?

4. What lesson did the Prince of Morocco learn from his choice?

5. What did the Prince of Spain find in the silver casket?

6. How did the inscription on the silver casket influence the Prince of Spain?

7. What does the silver casket's result say about the Prince of Spain's character?

8. Why did Bassanio choose the lead casket?

9. What reasoning did Bassanio use while selecting the casket?

10. What did Bassanio find inside the lead casket?

11. How does the casket test reveal the true nature of a person?

12. What qualities helped Bassanio succeed where the other suitors failed?

13. What was Antonio's financial condition when Bassanio asked for money?

14. Why did Antonio borrow money from Shylock despite disliking him?

15. What kind of person was Shylock, according to the passage?

16. What condition did Shylock place on the loan to Antonio?

17. How did Antonio respond to Bassanio's request for help?

18. What message did Antonio send to Bassanio through his letter?

19. How did Bassanio react to Antonio's letter?

20. What changed the happy mood at Belmont after Bassanio's marriage?

21. How is the theme of appearance versus reality shown in the casket test?

22. Why was the lead casket considered an unusual choice?

23. What character trait of Bassanio is highlighted through his choice of the lead casket?

24. How does the story show the difference between selfishness and selflessness?

25. How do the choices of the princes reflect their personal values?

26. What lesson do we learn from the suitors who failed the casket test?

27. Why was Portia considered wise even though she didn't choose her husband?

28. What does the phrase "All that glitters is not gold" mean in the story's context?

29. In what way is Antonio a symbol of true friendship?

30. How does this passage prepare the reader for upcoming conflict in the story?

1. **Why did Portia's father create the casket test?**
   Portia's father wanted to ensure that his daughter would marry someone who truly loved her, not just her wealth. The casket test was a way to reveal a suitor's character through his choices.

2. **What message was written on the gold casket, and what did it mean?**
   The message said, "All that glitters is not gold." It meant that appearances can be deceptive, and what seems valuable on the outside might not be so inside.

3. **Why did the Prince of Morocco choose the gold casket?**
   He believed that the most precious item—Portia's portrait—would be in the most precious-looking casket. This showed his superficial thinking.

4. **What was the outcome of the Prince of Morocco's choice?**
   He found a skull inside the gold casket with a message about the deceit of appearances. He failed the test and returned home in disappointment.

5. **What did the Prince of Spain find in the silver casket?**
   He found the picture of a blinking fool, indicating he had an overestimated sense of his own worth. His pride led to his failure.

6. **Why did Bassanio choose the lead casket?**
   Bassanio believed that true worth lies inside, not in outer appearances. His humility and wisdom guided him to the right choice.

7. **What was inside the lead casket?**
   Inside the lead casket was Portia's portrait, which meant Bassanio had passed the test and could marry her.

8. **What qualities helped Bassanio succeed where others failed?**
   His thoughtfulness, modesty, and ability to look beyond appearances helped him make the right decision.

9. **How did Bassanio react to Antonio's letter?**
   He was deeply troubled and left for Venice immediately, showing his loyalty and deep friendship.

10. **What did Antonio write in his letter to Bassanio?**
    Antonio informed Bassanio that he had lost all his ships and could not repay Shylock. He expressed a desire to see Bassanio one last time.

11. **How does the story show the theme of true friendship?**
Antonio was willing to risk his life for Bassanio, and Bassanio didn't hesitate to go help him in return. Their bond shows deep, selfless friendship.

12. **Why is Shylock considered cruel in this passage?**
Shylock demanded a pound of flesh if Antonio couldn't repay him. His demand was harsh and showed no mercy.

13. **How did Antonio's financial situation become so bad?**
All of Antonio's ships, which carried his merchandise, were lost at sea. This left him with no money to repay his debt.

14. **Why is Portia portrayed as intelligent in this part of the story?**
Portia followed her father's wise instructions and allowed the casket test to decide her suitor. She also admired Bassanio's thoughtful choice.

15. **What lesson can be learned from the suitors who failed the casket test?**
The suitors failed because they judged by outward appearances. The lesson is to value inner qualities over surface beauty or wealth.

16. **How did the casket test reflect the suitor's personality?**
The test revealed whether the suitor was greedy, proud, or wise. Each man's choice showed his values and nature.

17. **How did the mood change after Bassanio's marriage to Portia?**
The mood turned from joy to sorrow after the news of Antonio's trouble arrived. Their happiness was quickly replaced by concern and urgency.

18. **What does "All that glitters is not gold" teach the reader?**
It teaches that flashy appearances don't always indicate real value. We should judge people and things by their inner qualities.

19. **Why did Antonio borrow money from Shylock despite disliking him?**
Antonio cared deeply for Bassanio and wanted to help him. Since he had no money at the moment, he was willing to deal with Shylock out of loyalty to his friend.

20. **What does the passage say about love and sacrifice?**
The story highlights love that is sincere and unselfish. Both Antonio and Bassanio show willingness to sacrifice for the sake of others.

21. **How is the theme of appearance versus reality shown in the casket test?**
→ The gold and silver caskets looked attractive but were empty of real value. The unattractive lead casket held the true prize, showing real worth is hidden.
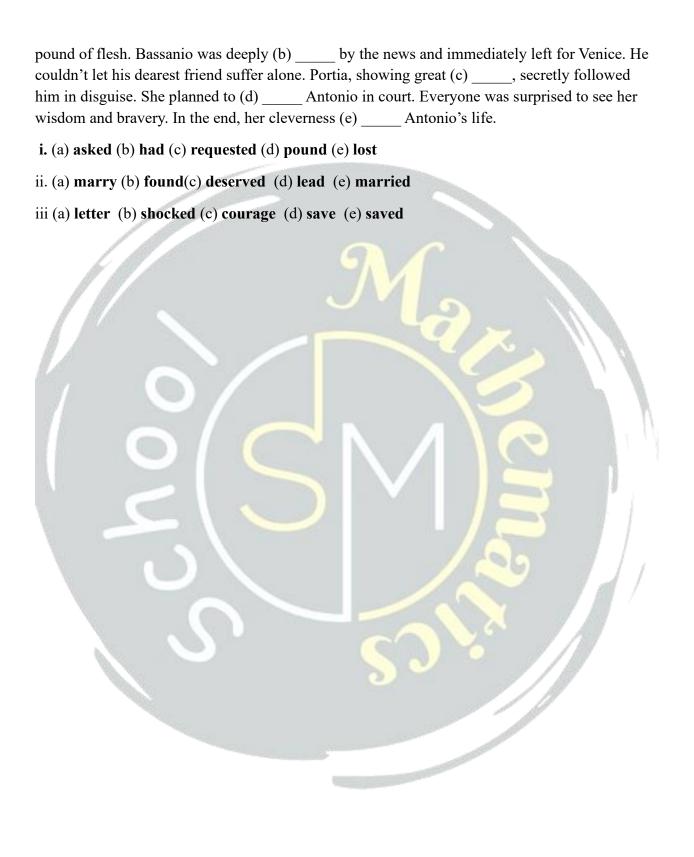
22. **Why was the lead casket considered an unusual choice?**
→ It looked unattractive and unpromising, unlike what one would expect to contain something valuable.

23. **What character trait of Bassanio is highlighted through his choice of the lead casket?**
    → His wisdom, modesty, and ability to see beyond appearances are highlighted.
24. **How does the story show the difference between selfishness and selflessness?**
    → Shylock represents selfishness by demanding harsh terms. Antonio and Bassanio represent selflessness through their loyalty and sacrifice.
25. **How do the choices of the princes reflect their personal values?**
    → The Prince of Morocco valued wealth and status; the Prince of Spain valued pride. Both failed due to poor judgment.
26. **What lesson do we learn from the suitors who failed the casket test?**
    → We learn that pride and superficial judgment lead to failure, while humility leads to success.
27. **Why was Portia considered wise even though she didn't choose her husband?**
    → She respected her father's wise plan and showed patience and faith in the process, later taking wise actions herself.
28. **What does the phrase "All that glitters is not gold" mean in the story's context?**
    → It means not everything that looks attractive on the outside is valuable or good.
29. **In what way is Antonio a symbol of true friendship?**
    → He risked his life and financial security just to help his friend Bassanio fulfill his love.
30. **How does this passage prepare the reader for upcoming conflict in the story?**
    → It ends with tension—Antonio is in danger, and Bassanio must act quickly—hinting at a dramatic and emotional conflict to come.

i. Antonio was a rich merchant of Venice. He owned many ships that sailed to foreign lands with goods. His best friend was Bassanio, who often needed help with money. One day, Bassanio (a) _____ Antonio for money so that he could visit Portia in Belmont. Antonio didn't have ready cash because all his ships (b) _____ already left. Still, he agreed to help Bassanio. He went to a moneylender named Shylock and (c) _____ him for a loan. Shylock agreed but set a strange condition. If Antonio could not repay the money in three months, Shylock would cut a (d) _____ of flesh from his body. Antonio accepted the condition without fear, thinking his ships would return soon. Sadly, all the ships were (e) _____ in a storm.

ii. Portia's father had arranged a special test for anyone who wanted to marry her. He made three caskets — one gold, one silver, and one lead. The portrait of Portia was hidden in one of them. The suitor who chose the right casket would (a) _____ her. The Prince of Morocco chose the gold one, thinking it was the most valuable, but he (b) _____ a skull and a sad message. The Prince of Spain selected the silver casket, believing he (c) _____ the best. Inside was the picture of a foolish clown. Finally, Bassanio picked the (d) _____ casket because he believed true value was often hidden. He was right — he found Portia's portrait and (e) _____ her.

iii. Bassanio married Portia after winning the casket test. Everyone in Belmont was full of joy and celebration. But soon, a messenger brought a (a) _____ from Antonio. In the letter, Antonio wrote that all his ships were lost and he couldn't repay the loan. Shylock was now demanding his

pound of flesh. Bassanio was deeply (b) _____ by the news and immediately left for Venice. He couldn't let his dearest friend suffer alone. Portia, showing great (c) _____, secretly followed him in disguise. She planned to (d) _____ Antonio in court. Everyone was surprised to see her wisdom and bravery. In the end, her cleverness (e) _____ Antonio's life.

 i. (a) **asked** (b) **had** (c) **requested** (d) **pound** (e) **lost**

ii. (a) **marry** (b) **found** (c) **deserved** (d) **lead** (e) **married**

iii (a) **letter** (b) **shocked** (c) **courage** (d) **save** (e) **saved**

Lesson-11

When Bassanio reached Venice, Antonio was already in the court of justice. They were waiting for the trial to begin. The Duke entered the courtroom, took his seat and the trial began. The Duke requested Shylock to be merciful and not to claim his pound of flesh. But Shylock would not listen to him. Bassanio offered him twice the amount of money that Shylock lent Antonio but Shylock did not accept it. He said, "I claim my pound of flesh. The law is on my side. Antonio must pay the penalty written in the bond."

The Duke was extremely sorry that he could do nothing to help Antonio. The law was on Shylock's side and the law must be abided. The Duke feared that although the wisest lawyer in Venice was coming to speak in defense of Antonio, he would not be able to save the merchant. Soon a young clerk entered the courtroom with a letter from that lawyer. The lawyer was ill and would not be able to come to the court.

He requested the Duke to let his young friend, Doctor Balthazar, defend Antonio. The Duke gave his permission, and Doctor Balthazar entered the courtroom. He looked very young, and the Duke doubted if the wisdom of the young lawyer could save Antonio. This young lawyer was no other than Portia in disguise and the young clerk was her friend, who was also in disguise. Portia begged Shylock to be merciful and told him how God bestows mercy to those who are merciful themselves.

"Mercy" Portia said, "brings a blessing to him who shows it and to him who receives it. All of us pray to God for mercy. But God will only have mercy on us if we have mercy on others."

Shylock paid no heed to Portia. All he wanted was his pound of flesh.

Portia asked, "Can't Antonio pay the debt?"

Bassanio cried, "Yes, he can pay it, and even more. ... Even I can pay ten."

times the sum my friend borrowed from Shylock."

"Won't you take the money, Shylock?" Portia asked.

"No, I demand the lawful penalty. Give me my pound of flesh."

"Let me see the bond Shylock," said Portia.

Shylock handed the bond to her. She read it with great attention and then said, "You are right Shylock. The law is on your side. You can claim the flesh. But I would request you one more time to accept the sum Bassanio is offering you, and let me tear up the bond." But Shylock would not give up his claim. Portia then turned towards Antonio and said, "Get ready Antonio for Shylock to cut his pound of flesh. The law gives it to him."

Shylock was filled with joy on hearing what Portia said. He began to praise Portia in disguise, for her wisdom and righteousness. He cried out, "Oh noble judge! Oh excellent young man, you are a second Daniel, who has come to this earth."

Portia urged Shylock to cut the pound of flesh he demanded. Delighted, Shylock walked towards Antonio with a knife in hand. He told Antonio to uncover his chest. But as he was about to cut Antonio's flesh, Portia stopped him. She cried out, "Wait a second, Shylock! Never forget- there is no mention of blood in the bond. Therefore, you cannot shed a single drop of blood while you

cut your pound of flesh; or else you pay the penalty. And the penalty is, the state will take your property from you. You lose everything that you have now, Shylock."

Shylock understood it was not possible for him to cut a pound of flesh without shedding blood. He was defeated by the wise lawyer. He hung his head and without another word left the courtroom. Thus Antonio's life was saved.

1. Who was already in court when Bassanio reached Venice?
   a) Portia
   b) Antonio
   c) Shylock
   d) Duke

2. What did the Duke request Shylock to show?
   a) Strength
   b) Wealth
   c) Mercy
   d) Justice

3. How much money did Bassanio offer Shylock?
   a) Same amount
   b) Three times the amount
   c) Half the amount
   d) Twice the amount

4. What was Shylock demanding?
   a) Antonio's ship
   b) Three thousand ducats
   c) Antonio's pound of flesh
   d) Bassanio's bond

5. Why couldn't the famous lawyer attend the court?
   a) He was on a journey
   b) He was busy
   c) He was ill
   d) He was afraid

6. Who entered the courtroom with a letter from the lawyer?
   a) Shylock
   b) Portia
   c) A clerk
   d) Duke

7. Who was Doctor Balthazar?
   a) The Duke's son

b) A famous lawyer
c) Portia in disguise
d) Bassanio's cousin

8. Who was disguised as a clerk?
a) Nerissa
b) Gratiano
c) Antonio
d) Duke

9. What did Portia talk about in court?
a) Wealth
b) Ships
c) Mercy
d) War

10. According to Portia, what brings blessing to both giver and receiver?
a) Money
b) Fame
c) Mercy
d) Truth

11. Did Shylock agree to accept the money?
a) Yes
b) No
c) Later
d) Not mentioned

12. What did Portia want to see before proceeding?
a) Shylock's knife
b) Antonio's chest
c) The bond
d) Bassanio's ring

13. What was the penalty if Shylock shed blood?
a) Death
b) Exile
c) Loss of property
d) Jail

14. Who did Portia say was like a "second Daniel"?
a) Duke
b) Bassanio

c) Herself

d) Antonio

15. Why was Shylock happy initially?

    a) He got his money

    b) Portia supported the bond

    c) Duke favored him

    d) Antonio fled

16. What did Portia finally ask Shylock?

    a) To cut only half

    b) To forget the bond

    c) To not spill blood

    d) To take money

17. What weapon did Shylock carry?

    a) Sword

    b) Knife

    c) Gun

    d) Rope

18. What was Antonio asked to do by Shylock?

    a) Kneel

    b) Cry

    c) Uncover his chest

    d) Write a letter

19. What happened to Shylock at the end?

    a) He won the case

    b) He took the money

    c) He lost everything

    d) He was promoted

20. Who saved Antonio's life?

    a) Duke

    b) Portia

    c) Bassanio

    d) Daniel

21. Who was the real mastermind behind saving Antonio?

    a) Duke

    b) Portia

    c) Bassanio

    d) The lawyer

22. What is the central theme of the court scene?
    a) War and peace
    b) Revenge and justice
    c) Mercy and law
    d) Wealth and power

23. Why did Shylock trust the bond?
    a) It was handwritten
    b) It had the Duke's seal
    c) It was legal
    d) It was old

24. What was Antonio's expression during the trial?
    a) Angry
    b) Fearful
    c) Calm and brave
    d) Proud

25. How did Portia use logic to defeat Shylock?
    a) Quoting the Duke
    b) Tricking him
    c) Focusing on the lack of mention of blood
    d) Hiding the bond

26. How was the bond twisted in court?
    a) Portia rewrote it
    b) Duke changed it
    c) Portia found a loophole
    d) Bassanio bribed Shylock

27. Why didn't Shylock take the money when offered again?
    a) He was angry
    b) He only wanted revenge
    c) He was stubborn
    d) He didn't need money

28. What did the Duke think of Portia initially?
    a) She was too young
    b) She was wise
    c) She was a spy
    d) She was Shylock's lawyer

29. What is the legal loophole Portia used?
    a) The bond had expired

b) Blood was not allowed

c) Shylock couldn't be present

d) Antonio was innocent

30. What did the court scene ultimately represent?

a) Love and loss

b) Justice and mercy

c) Victory and defeat

d) Wealth and pride

31. Who requested the Duke to let Portia defend Antonio?

a) The young clerk

b) Bassanio

c) Shylock

d) Antonio

32. What was Bassanio's reaction when Antonio was in danger?

a) Indifferent

b) Worried and hurried to Venice

c) Angry at Shylock

d) Calm and quiet

33. What did Portia emphasize about mercy?

a) It is weak

b) It blesses both giver and receiver

c) It is only for the poor

d) It should be avoided in law

34. What was the bond's penalty if Antonio failed to pay?

a) Prison time

b) Death

c) Pound of flesh

d) Heavy fine

35. How did Shylock describe the law?

a) Something to be followed strictly

b) A tool to seek revenge

c) Flexible and kind

d) Not important

36. What did the Duke do when he realized he could not help Antonio?

a) Sent Shylock away

b) Asked for a delay in trial

c) Waited for the lawyer's arrival

d) Fined Shylock

37. How did Portia show her intelligence in court?
    a) By confusing Shylock
    b) By quoting legal texts
    c) By disguising as a lawyer and using the law cleverly
    d) By begging Shylock to forgive

38. What would happen to Shylock's property if he shed blood?
    a) It would be confiscated
    b) He would keep it
    c) It would double
    d) No change

39. What was Antonio's attitude when Shylock was about to cut the flesh?
    a) Fearful
    b) Brave and resigned
    c) Angry
    d) Trying to escape

40. How did the court scene end for Shylock?
    a) He won the case
    b) He lost and left sadly
    c) He was forgiven
    d) He was jailed

41. Why did Bassanio need money from Antonio?
    a) To pay debts
    b) To visit Portia grandly
    c) To start a business
    d) To pay Shylock

42. What was Portia's disguise?
    a) A noblewoman
    b) A clerk
    c) A doctor
    d) A merchant

43. What lesson does the court scene teach?
    a) Always trust friends
    b) Mercy is more powerful than strict justice
    c) Revenge is justified
    d) Money solves all problems

44. How did Shylock respond when offered twice the money?
    a) He accepted immediately
    b) He refused and insisted on the flesh
    c) He delayed his answer
    d) He asked for more money

45. What role did the Duke play in the trial?
    a) Judge
    b) Witness
    c) Lawyer
    d) Defendant

46. What was Portia's main argument against Shylock's claim?
    a) The bond was fake
    b) He cannot shed blood while taking flesh
    c) Antonio had already paid
    d) Shylock had no right to the bond

47. What did Bassanio offer to Shylock?
    a) A loan
    b) Money to settle the debt
    c) Jewelry
    d) A favor

48. How did Portia describe the law?
    a) Strict but merciful
    b) Fair and just
    c) Unfair
    d) Strict and unforgiving

49. What was the reaction of the crowd to Portia's speech?
    a) Silent
    b) Cheerful and supportive
    c) Angry
    d) Confused

50. What was the final outcome of the trial?
    a) Antonio lost and paid the penalty
    b) Shylock lost and was defeated by the law
    c) The trial was postponed
    d) Bassanio was fined

Answer: 1-20 : to be verified yourself

21. b

22. c

23. c

24. c

25. c

26. c

27. b

28. a

29. b

30. b

31. a

32. b

33. b

34. c

35. a

36. c

37. c

38. a

39. b

40. b

41. b

42. c

43. b

44. b

45. a

46. b

47. b

48. d

49. b

50. b

Word	Meaning (Bengali)	Synonym	Antonym
Trial	বিচার	Hearing	Dismissal
Merciful	দয়ালু	Compassionate	Cruel
Claim	দাবি করা	Demand	Give up
Disguise	ছদ্মবেশ	Concealment	Reveal
Blessing	আশীর্বাদ	Grace	Curse
Demand	দাবি	Request	Offer
Noble	মহৎ	Honourable	Dishonourable
Justice	ন্যায়বিচার	Fairness	Injustice
Shed	ফেলা	Spill	Collect
Property	সম্পত্তি	Asset	Liability

Translation:

বাসানিও যখন ভেনিসে পৌঁছাল, তখন অ্যান্টোনিও ইতিমধ্যে আদালতের কোর্টে ছিলেন। তারা বিচার শুরু হওয়ার জন্য অপেক্ষা করছিল। ডিউক কোর্টরুমে প্রবেশ করলেন, নিজের আসনে বসে বিচার শুরু করলেন। ডিউক শাইলককে দয়া প্রদর্শন করতে এবং তার পাউন্ড মাংস দাবি না করতে অনুরোধ করলেন। কিন্তু শাইলক তাকে শোনেননি। বাসানিও শাইলকের থেকে অ্যান্টোনিও যে পরিমাণ টাকা ধার নিয়েছিলেন তার দ্বিগুণ পরিমাণ অফার করলেন, কিন্তু শাইলক তা গ্রহণ করলেন না। তিনি বললেন, "আমি আমার পাউন্ড মাংস চাই। আইন আমার পাশে আছে। অ্যান্টোনিওকে শাস্তি দিতে হবে যা বন্ডে লেখা আছে।"

ডিউক খুবই দুঃখিত ছিলেন কারণ তিনি অ্যান্টোনিওকে সাহায্য করতে পারছিলেন না। আইন শাইলকের পক্ষে ছিল এবং আইন মানতে হয়। ডিউক ভয় পেয়েছিলেন যে ভেনিসের সবচেয়ে

বিজ্ঞ আইনজীবী অ্যান্টোনিওর পক্ষে কথা বলবেন, তবুও তিনি তাকে বাঁচাতে পারবেন না। হঠাৎ একটি চিঠি নিয়ে একজন যুবক ক্লার্ক কোর্টরুমে প্রবেশ করলেন। চিঠিটি সেই আইনজীবীর কাছ থেকে ছিল, যিনি অসুস্থ হওয়ায় আসতে পারছিলেন না।

তিনি ডিউককে অনুরোধ করলেন যে তার তরুণ বন্ধু, ডাক্তার বালথাজার, অ্যান্টোনিওর পক্ষে মামলা পরিচালনা করুক। ডিউক অনুমতি দিলেন এবং ডাক্তার বালথাজার কোর্টরুমে প্রবেশ করলেন। তিনি খুবই তরুণ দেখালেন, এবং ডিউক সন্দেহ করলেন যে তরুণ এই আইনজীবী অ্যান্টোনিওকে বাঁচাতে পারবেন কি না। এই তরুণ আইনজীবী আসলে ছদ্মবেশে থাকা পোর্টিয়া ছিলেন এবং তরুণ ক্লার্ক তার বন্ধু, যিনি ছদ্মবেশে ছিলেন।

পোর্টিয়া শাইলককে দয়া প্রদর্শনের জন্য অনুরোধ করলেন এবং বললেন কীভাবে ঈশ্বর তাদের প্রতি দয়া করেন যারা নিজেদের মধ্যেও দয়া প্রদর্শন করেন।

"দয়া," পোর্টিয়া বললেন, "যার কাছে দয়া আছে, তার জন্য এবং যার কাছে দয়া দেখানো হয় তার জন্য আশীর্বাদ বয়ে আনে। আমরা সবাই ঈশ্বরের কাছে দয়ার জন্য প্রার্থনা করি। কিন্তু ঈশ্বর আমাদের প্রতি দয়া করবেন যদি আমরা অন্যদের প্রতি দয়া প্রদর্শন করি।"

শাইলক পোর্টিয়ার কথায় কোন গুরুত্ব দিলেন না। তিনি শুধুমাত্র তার পাউন্ড মাংসই চেয়েছিলেন।

পোর্টিয়া জিজ্ঞেস করলেন, "অ্যান্টোনিও কি ঋণ পরিশোধ করতে পারবে?"

বাসানিও কান্না করতে করতে বললেন, "হ্যাঁ, সে পরিশোধ করতে পারে, তার চেয়ে বেশি পরিমাণও দিতে পারে... আমি আমার বন্ধু শাইলকের কাছ থেকে ধার নেওয়া টাকার দশগুণ পরিশোধ করতে পারি।"

"তুমি কি টাকা নেবে, শাইলক?" পোর্টিয়া জিজ্ঞেস করলেন।

"না, আমি আইনের শাস্তি চাই। আমাকে আমার পাউন্ড মাংস দাও।"

"বন্ডটা দেখাও, শাইলক," পোর্টিয়া বললেন।

শাইলক তাকে বন্ড দিলেন। তিনি মনোযোগ দিয়ে তা পড়লেন এবং বললেন, "তুমি সঠিক, শাইলক। আইন তোমার পক্ষে। তুমি মাংস দাবি করতে পারো। কিন্তু আমি তোমাকে আরেকবার অনুরোধ করব, বাসানিও তোমাকে যে পরিমাণ টাকা অফার করছে তা গ্রহণ কর এবং আমাকে বন্ড টা ফাটিয়ে ফেলতে দাও।"

তবুও শাইলক তার দাবি ছাড়লেন না। পোর্টিয়া তখন অ্যান্টোনিওর দিকে ফিরে বললেন, "তুমি প্রস্তুত হও, অ্যান্টোনিও, শাইলক তোমার থেকে মাংস কেটে নেবে। আইন তাকে সেই অধিকার দিয়েছে।"

শাইলক পোর্টিয়ার কথা শুনে আনন্দে ভরে উঠলেন। তিনি পোর্টিয়ার বিচারবুদ্ধি এবং ন্যায়পরায়ণতার প্রশংসা করতে লাগলেন। তিনি বললেন, "ওহ মহৎ বিচারক! ওহ চমৎকার তরুণ, তুমি সেই দ্বিতীয় ড্যানিয়েল, যিনি পৃথিবীতে এসেছ।"

পোর্টিয়া শাইলককে তার দাবি করা মাংস কেটে নিতে অনুরোধ করলেন। খুশিতে শাইলক একটি ছুরি নিয়ে অ্যান্টোনিওর দিকে এগিয়ে এলেন। তিনি অ্যান্টোনিওকে তার বুক খোলার নির্দেশ দিলেন। কিন্তু যখন মাংস কাটতে যাচ্ছিলেন, পোর্টিয়া তাকে থামালেন।

তিনি চিৎকার করে বললেন, "একটু থামো, শাইলক! ভুলে যেও না—বন্ডে রক্তপাতের কথা কোথাও লেখা নেই। তাই তোমাকে মাংস কাটা হলে একটিও রক্তের ফোঁটা ঝরাতে পারবে না; না হলে তোমাকে শাস্তি ভোগ করতে হবে। শাস্তি হলো তোমার সমস্ত সম্পত্তি সরকার থেকে বাজেয়াপ্ত হয়ে যাবে। তুমি তোমার সবকিছু হারাবে, শাইলক।"

শাইলক বুঝতে পারলেন যে রক্ত ঝরানো ছাড়া মাংস কাটা সম্ভব নয়। তিনি পরাজিত হলেন। মাথা নিচু করে চুপ করে কোর্টরুম ছেড়ে গেলেন। এভাবেই অ্যান্টোনিওর জীবন রক্ষা পেল।

Textbook questions:

1. **Who was Portia? What do you know about her?**
   Portia was a wealthy and beautiful heiress from Belmont. She was intelligent, kind, and wise. Disguised as a lawyer, she showed great wisdom and courage when she helped save Antonio.

2. **What did Portia say regarding mercy?**
   Portia said that "mercy" brings a blessing to those who show it, and it is a divine quality. She emphasized that God grants mercy to those who are merciful to others, encouraging Shylock to show mercy instead of demanding his pound of flesh.

3. **How did Portia save Antonio's life?**
   Portia, disguised as a lawyer, cleverly pointed out that Shylock could not take a pound of flesh without shedding blood, which was not mentioned in the bond. She then reminded Shylock that the law also forbade shedding blood and that he would lose his property if he shed even a drop of blood, thus saving Antonio's life.

4. **Sketch the character of Antonio.**
   Antonio was a noble, generous, and loyal merchant. He was willing to sacrifice his wealth to help his friend Bassanio. Despite his bravery and kindness, he was also calm and confident, trusting in justice and mercy to protect him.

5. **How do you evaluate the character of Shylock?**
   Shylock was a stubborn and vengeful moneylender. He was rigid in his pursuit of justice and demanded his pound of flesh without mercy. Although he was wronged and bitter, his

obsession with revenge made him seem selfish and unkind. His character shows the dangers of greed and a lack of mercy.

More questions:

1. Why was Antonio in court when Bassanio arrived in Venice?

2. What was the Duke's initial reaction to Shylock's demand?

3. How did Bassanio try to resolve the conflict outside the courtroom?

4. Why did Shylock refuse Bassanio's offer of money?

5. What was the significance of the bond in the trial?

6. How did the Duke feel about the situation?

7. Why was the lawyer unable to attend the court in person?

8. Who represented Antonio in the court instead, and why was this unusual?

9. How did Portia's disguise play a role in the trial?

10. What argument did Portia make about mercy?

11. Why was Shylock unwilling to show mercy?

12. How did Portia try to convince Shylock to accept the money?

13. What legal technicality did Portia use to save Antonio?

14. Why couldn't Shylock cut the pound of flesh without shedding blood?

15. What penalty did Shylock face if he shed blood while cutting Antonio's flesh?

16. How did Shylock react when he realized he could not claim his pound of flesh?

17. What does the trial reveal about the conflict between law and mercy?

18. How does Portia's role challenge traditional gender roles?

19. In what ways is Shylock portrayed sympathetically or unsympathetically?

20. How does the trial reflect the themes of justice and revenge?

21. Why is the bond important to the plot?

22. What does Bassanio's willingness to pay more than the debt say about his character?

23. How does Antonio's situation affect Bassanio emotionally?

24. What might the courtroom scene symbolize in a larger social or moral context?

25. Why is the concept of mercy central to Portia's defense?

26. How does Portia's interpretation of the law differ from Shylock's?

27. What does the outcome of the trial suggest about the power of wit and intelligence?

28. How might the story's setting in Venice influence the events?

29. What role does friendship play in the actions of Antonio and Bassanio?

30. How does the resolution of the trial affect the relationships between the main characters?

Answers:

1. Antonio was in court because Shylock demanded his pound of flesh as a penalty for not repaying the loan on time. The bond allowed Shylock to claim this harsh penalty.

2. The Duke felt sorry for Antonio and asked Shylock to show mercy, but he was also obligated to uphold the law. He was torn between justice and compassion.

3. Bassanio offered Shylock twice the amount of money to settle the debt, hoping to avoid the cruel penalty. He wanted to save Antonio's life.

4. Shylock refused Bassanio's offer because he was determined to claim the pound of flesh. His anger and desire for revenge blinded him.

5. The bond was a legal agreement allowing Shylock to take a pound of Antonio's flesh if the loan was not repaid. It was the foundation of the conflict.

6. The Duke felt powerless because the law favored Shylock, and without mercy, Antonio was in grave danger. He feared the worst outcome.

7. The original lawyer was ill and sent his young friend, Doctor Balthazar (Portia in disguise), to defend Antonio in court.

8. Portia disguised herself as a man to appear in court because women were not allowed to practice law then. This disguise gave her the chance to argue Antonio's case.

9. Portia's disguise allowed her to cleverly present the case and save Antonio's life using her wisdom and knowledge of the law.

10. Portia spoke about mercy, explaining that it blesses both the giver and the receiver and is a divine virtue that everyone should practice.

11. Shylock ignored Portia's plea for mercy because he was fixated on revenge and strictly following the law.

12. Portia asked Shylock to accept the money instead of the flesh, but Shylock refused to give up his legal right.

13. Portia cleverly pointed out that the bond allowed the flesh but made no mention of blood, which made the demand impossible to fulfill without penalty.

14. Since it was impossible to cut flesh without shedding blood, Shylock could not lawfully take the pound of flesh without risking his own property.

15. If Shylock shed blood while cutting the flesh, he would lose all his possessions to the state, which stopped him from proceeding.

16. Shylock realized he was defeated, so he gave up his claim and left the court quietly.

17. The trial highlights the conflict between strict justice and mercy, showing how law alone may not always bring true fairness.

18. Portia's disguise challenges social norms, showing a woman using intelligence and wit to succeed in a male-dominated environment.

19. Shylock's character shows both cruelty and determination; he insists on justice but lacks compassion.

20. Themes of justice, mercy, revenge, and friendship are deeply explored in the courtroom drama.

21. The bond is crucial as it legally binds Antonio and Shylock, creating the dramatic tension in the story.

22. Bassanio's willingness to pay more than the debt shows his loyalty and deep friendship with Antonio.

23. Antonio's situation worries Bassanio, motivating him to try everything to save his friend.

24. The courtroom represents the clash between rigid law and human kindness.

25. Mercy is the heart of Portia's argument, emphasizing moral values beyond strict legal codes.

26. Portia's view focuses on compassion, while Shylock's focuses on harsh justice.

27. The story shows how intelligence and careful interpretation of the law can protect innocent lives.

28. Venice's mercantile and legal setting reflects the story's themes of commerce, justice, and loyalty.

29. Friendship drives Bassanio and Antonio to support and sacrifice for each other in difficult times.

30. The trial's outcome strengthens the bonds of friendship and shows that mercy can triumph over revenge.

Fill in the blanks:

(i)Bassanio wanted to marry Portia, but her father had left a test for any suitor. There were three caskets: one made of (a) _____ , one of (b) _____ , and one of (c) _____ . The suitor had to choose the correct casket to win Portia's hand in marriage. The first suitor chose the gold casket but found a (d) _____ inside. The second suitor chose the silver casket and found a (e) _____ .

(ii)In the courtroom, Antonio faced a serious challenge because Shylock demanded his (a) _____ as penalty for unpaid debt. The Duke asked Shylock to show (b) _____ , but Shylock refused. Portia disguised herself as a (c) _____ to defend Antonio. She argued that the bond allowed the pound of flesh but did not mention (d) _____ . If Shylock shed blood while taking the flesh, he would lose all his (e) _____ .

Answers

i. (a) gold
    (b) silver
    (c) lead
    (d) skull
    (e) fool

ii.

(a) flesh
(b) mercy
(c) lawyer
(d) blood
(e) property