Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**Test: Abou Ben Adhem, Merchant of Venice**

**(Act 1 Scene 3, Act 2 Scene 1)**

**Std: IX-BB Duration: 40 min Marks: 30**

**Answer Key**

1. Shylock hates Antonio because he is a Christian. Though he lives a life of low simplicity, Antonio lends out money gratis and brings down the rate of interest with the money lenders in Venice. Shylock says that he bears an ancient grudge towards Antonio as he hates their sacred nation and rails where merchants mostly congregate. He criticises Shylock, his bargains and his well-won thrift which he calls interest.
2. Shylock tells Antonio to meet him at the notary’s office and give him direction about their merry bond. He says he would go home and purse the ducats straight and join him at the office of the notary. He would also check on his house which was left in the fearful guard of an unthrifty knave.
3. Shylock cools down and says that he would be friends with Antonio. He says he was willing to forgive the shames that Antonio had stained him with and supply his present wants. He did not want a doit of usance for his money and was offering it only as a friend.
4. Morocco says to Portia that the fair creatures of the north are fair because the Phoebus’ fire is scarcely enough to melt the icicles there. But if such a creature is brought and an incision is made in him and the creature, it would be easily proved whose blood is redder. He implies that he is more full of valour and bravery than any fair man.
5. Morocco says that he would overstare the sternest eyes that looked at him. And outbrave the most daring heart on earth. He would pluck the young sucking cubs from the she-bear to prove his bravery. He would even mock the lion when he roars for prey to win her.
6. Morocco says that he is proud of his colour and would not want to change it. The only situation in which he would be willing to change his colour would be to steal the thoughts of Portia.
7. Portia tells Morocco that he has to take his chance and either not attempt to choose at all or swear before he chooses that if he chose the wrong casket never to speak to a lady afterward in way of marriage.
8. Abou Ben Adhem was very calm and peaceful to see the angel. Abou was a pious and holy man, who believed in not only loving God but also loving his fellow beings. He selflessly served people. Such human beings are always at peace and not afraid of anything. Even on seeing the angel, Abou was at peace and thus not afraid of the angel.
9. The poem clearly brings out the second great commandment ‘Love thy neighbor as thyself’. Through the simple story, the poet tells us what it means to love God. People generally believe that performing various religious rituals is the way to express their love for the Lord. In reality, the service of mankind is worth living and the best way to express our love to God is by loving others, who are also His creation.
10. Tautology ‘Nay’ and ‘No’ are words having similar ideas.