WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE



SHAKESPEARE'S BIRTHPLACE



WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (1564-1616)

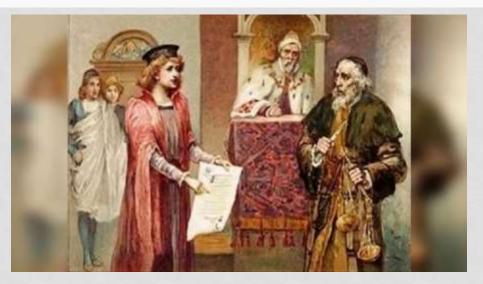
- William Shakespeare was a dramatist and poet.
- He was born in Stratford-upon-Avon, England.
- He is often called England's national poet and the "Bard of Avon".
- Shakespeare has written 37 plays and 154 sonnets.

EXTRACTED



"The Quality of Mercy" is an extract from *William Shakespeare's play The Merchant of Venice;* it occurs during Act IV, Scene I, set in a Venetian Court of Justice.

SPEECH BY PORTIA



 It is the speech in which Portia begs Shylock for mercy. The speech is regarded as one of the great speeches in Shakespeare, and it is an example of the esteem Shakespeare held for those who showed mercy.

THE MERCHANT OF VENICE

Main Characters

Shylock

Portia

Antonio

Bassanio

The quality of mercy is not strained; It droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven Upon the place beneath. It is twice blest; It blesseth him that gives and him that takes:

Strained - forced Droppeth -drops Beneath -under

'T is mightiest in the mightiest; it becomes The throned monarch better than his crown: His sceptre shows the force of temporal power, The attribute to awe and majesty,

mightiest-strongest majesty-power

Wherein doth sit the dread and fear of kings;But mercy is above this sceptred sway;It is enthronèd in the hearts of kings,It is an attribute to God himself;

Doth- do

And earthly power doth then show likest God's When mercy seasons justice. Therefore, Jew, Though justice be thy plea, consider this, That, in the course of justice, none of us Should see salvation: we do pray for mercy;

Thy - your Plea –request

And that same prayer doth teach us all to render The deeds of mercy. I have spoke thus much To mitigate the justice of thy plea, Which, if thou follow, this strict court of Venice Must needs give sentence 'gainst the merchant there.

doth -do Thus -this 'gainst -aganist Render -help, gives Thou -you

And that same prayer doth teach us all to render The deeds of mercy. I have spoke thus much To mitigate the justice of thy plea; Which if thou follow, this strict court of Venice Must needs give sentence 'gainst the merchant there.