

# 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

# AN ATTRIBUTE OF GOD

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

# AN ATTRIBUTE OF GOD

‘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



# AN ATTRIBUTE OF GOD

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

# AN ATTRIBUTE OF GOD

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

# AN ATTRIBUTE OF GOD

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

Render -help, gives

Thus -this

Thou -you

'gainst -aganist

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