

The Merchant of Venice  
Audition Piece – Prince of Morocco

**MOROCCO**

Some god direct my judgment! Let me see;  
I will survey the inscriptions back again.  
What says this leaden casket?  
'Who chooseth me must give and hazard all he hath.'  
Must give: for what? for lead? hazard for lead?  
This casket threatens. What says the silver with her virgin hue?  
'Who chooseth me shall get as much as he deserves.'

As much as he deserves! Pause there, Morocco,  
And weigh thy value with an even hand:  
If thou be'st rated by thy estimation,  
Thou dost deserve enough; and yet enough  
May not extend so far as to the lady:  
What if I stray'd no further, but chose here?  
Let's see once more this saying graved in gold  
'Who chooseth me shall gain what many men desire.'  
Why, that's the lady; Deliver me the key:  
Here do I choose, and thrive I as I may!

*He unlocks the golden casket*