

While Antonio's hatred of Shylock is based solely on religious intolerance, Shylock's hatred of Antonio goes beyond just their differing religious beliefs. One of Antonio's main problems with Shylock is that, as a Jew, Shylock charges interest on his loans, something that Antonio, as a Christian, believes is wrong. As soon as Antonio enters in Act 1, Scene 3, Shylock begins to complain about how Antonio publicly heckles him for earning money through interest (1.3.40-3), something that Antonio says he never does himself (1.3.53-4). By juxtaposing Shylock and Antonio's views on the exact same issue—i.e., whether charging interest on loans is religiously acceptable—Shakespeare emphasizes how different religious beliefs can form the basis of discrimination, mockery, and violence. On the other hand, Shylock's hatred of Antonio is more nuanced than Antonio's hatred of Shylock. While Shylock is quick to admit that he hates Antonio because he is a Christian (1.3.34), he immediately goes on to add that Antonio "lends out money gratis, and brings down / The rate of usance here with us in Venice" (1.3.36-7) and that "he rails / Even there where merchants most do congregate / On me, my bargains, and my well-won thrift / Which he calls interest" (1.3.40-3). Here it is made clear that while Shylock holds religious prejudice of his own, it is Antonio's undermining of Shylock's ability to make maximum financial profit that bothers Shylock most. It is thus apparent that Shakespeare's development of Shylock's character not only includes the type of religious prejudice that Antonio is guilty of but also the stereotype of the greedy, money-obsessed Jew.

Red = Topic Sentence (a succinct summary of the argument that the paragraph will make)

Orange = Point (an assertion that elaborates on and supports an aspect of the topic sentence)

Green = Evidence (a quotation or paraphrase that supports the point that's just been introduced)

Blue = Analysis (an analytical explanation of how the evidence provided supports its point)

Purple = Concluding Sentence (a summary of the argument made in the paragraph and an explanation of how it supports the essay's thesis)

Work Cited

Shakespeare, William. *The Merchant of Venice*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2010. Print.