

many of Shakespeare's renowned works like 'Romeo and Juliet' and 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. This idea plays a significant role in intensifying the infamous personality of Shylock's- the antagonist who creates the 'bond' that virtually imprisons Antonio, and the overprotective father of Jessica. Being born into a Jewish household, Jessica has indeed been taught to possess hatred for Christians but, her falling for a Christian man-Lorenzo- is rather unexpected. This sudden twist in tale creates an ironic and comic relief to the drama as a whole; the irony is due to the central theme itself being based on the conflict between a 'Jewish' moneylender and a 'Christian' merchant.

Growing up as Shylock's only family, one might assume Jessica as a girl who is spoilt and constantly showered with love and affection by her father but, her introduction as a character of the play itself states otherwise for she clearly exclaims 'Our house is hell'- this leaves an impression of how she might possibly be treated at home by her father.

Act 2 Scene 3 introduces Jessica and Lorenzo's love story. 'And, Lancelot, soon at supper shalt thou see Lorenzo...Give him this letter, do it secretly', she orders Shylock's servant- her confidant. The word 'secretly' acts as a gateway to the ironic yet climatic finish to this subplot; it portrays Jessica as a person who is rebellious and is constantly doing things against their father's will- adding more mystery to why she might be against her own blood. Through this, spectators can also picturize Shylock as a controlling yet frightening fatherly figure.

'Alack, what a heinous sin it is in me/ To be ashamed to be my father's child! Jessica guiltily complains, expressing her feelings of hatred towards her father. Act 1 Scene 3 already enabled the audience to view this Jewish moneylender as persistent, revengeful and someone who is capable of villainy. Jessica's statement only proves this right. 'I am not