

Devoted or Passionate which word best describes Antonio

Throughout the play Shakespeare reveals the character of Antonio to us, at some points he seems devoted however at other times possessive seems the best way to describe him, we learn at the beginning of act 1 that Antonio is willing to give his life up in order for Bassanio. However as the play progresses the audience question Antonio's true motives and as we see his selfless devotion as more as possessive as he tries to capture Bassinos heart.

Devoted is the best way to describe Antonio as he is willing to do anything for Bassanio 'My purse, my person, my extremest means' 'Lie al unlocked to your occasion' here Antonio claims his willingness and complete and utter devotion for Bassanio. Antonio is devoted as he is willing to give Bassanio money that he does not have 'That shall be racked even to the uttermost' Antonio shows the audience his willingness to help Bassino, even though he has never met Portia this therefore shows that he is devoted as he is willing to suffer in order to help his friend. As the plot unravels Antonio makes a deal with Shylock however we learn that with this bond there is a consequence. Antonio once again shows his devoation by being willing to compromise his supposed beliefs by borrowing money from Shylock. In Act 1 Scene 3 the audience learns the true consequences of the bond as Shylock reveals the terms if the bond is not paid back on time 'an equal pound/Of your fair flesh, to be cut of and taken' Antonio once again proclaims his devoutness by not questioning the bond and quickly agreeing to it 'Content, in faith! I'll seal to such a bond.' Here we see Antonio devotedness, as he is willing to give up his life to help Bassino. In act two we see Antonio from the perspective of Salarino as he says 'And with affection wondrous sensible? He wrung Bassino's hand, and so they parted.' Here we see Antonio devoutness, as he is willing to sacrifice himself for Bassanio even though he doesn't return his love in the way that he wants.

Possessive is the best word to describe Antonio as the play progresses we see Antonios supposed devoutness turn into being possessive as we question his wills of being so selfless. The audience questions his motives as after all he is risking his life but what is he gaining. The pessimistic approach comes to mind as the audience question if there is really such a thing as a selfless deed. Furthermore Antonio does not seem determined to fight for his life and seems also most happy to be dying 'The Duke cannot deny the course of law', as Antonio speech progresses Antonio is somewhat cruel to bassino 'Pray God Bassino come/ To see me pay his debt, and then I care not' here we realise that Antonio think its is better to die and to always be in Bassino heart, here we see Antonio as possessive as he is willing to risk his own life just in order for bassino to always be thinking of him. As if he dies for bassinos, Portia will never fully be in his heart.

Antonio lack of determination to fight for his survival becomes more persistent as Basisno arrives as he gives a long speech saying that they might as well give up.' You may as well go stand upon the beach/And bid the main flood bate his usual height. By Antonio saying this its shows his possessive attitude as we see he doesn't care about being alive and only cares about being in Bassinos heart. The audience continues to question Antonio's nature as he readily gets prepared to die 'But little; I am armed and well prepared./Give me your hand, Bassino. Fare you well.' Here the audience see Antonio as possessive as on the stage we see an image of Antonio bearing his chest, clutching onto the hand of Bassanio. Antonio wants to create a scarring image in Bassinos mind, so that he will never be able to