Merchant of Venice
REVISION

I. **Read the following lines and answer the questions.**

1.**BASSANIO : Why dost thou whet thy knife so
earnestly?
SHYLOCK : To cut the forfeiture from that
bankrupt there!
GRATIANO : Not on the sole: but on thy soul
(harsh Jew)
Thou mak'st thy knife keen : but no metal can,**

    a. **Why was Shylock getting ready to sharpen his knife?**
    b. **What is Gratiano's response to Shylock's action?**
    c. **Bring out the difference between sole and soul.**
    d. **what way is Shylock making his knife keen on his soul?**
    e. **Ans:-Gratiano means to say that Shylock's knife has been made sharp by the cruelty of his spirit, and not as a result of his rubbing the knife against the leather sole of a shoe.**

2.**PORTIA: The quality of mercy is not   strain'd,
It droppeth, as the gentle rain from heaven
Upon the place beneath: it is twice bless'd;
It blesseth him that gives, and him that takes:
"Tis mightiest in the mightiest; it becomes
The throned monarch better than his crown:
His sceptre shows the force of temporal power,**

a.**What does she mean by saying that the quality of mercy is not strain'd?
Answer:
It means that mercy cannot be shown under compulsion.**

b.**How can the flow of mercy be described?
Answer:**

The flow of mercy is as natural and spontaneous as the drops of rain falling from the sky on the earth.

c.How does mercy confer a double blessing?
Answer:
Mercy is a blessing for him who receives. It is also a blessing for him who shows mercy. Thus it is a double blessing.

3.PORTIA: Shylock, there's thrice thy money
offered thee.
SHYLOCK: An oath, an oath, I have an oath
in heaven.
Shall I lay perjury upon my soul?
No not for Venice.
PORTIO: Why this bond is forfeit,
And lawfully by this the Jew may claim
A pound of flesh, to be cut off
Nearest the merchant's heart: be merciful.
Take thrice thy money, bid me tear the bond.

a.Where are the speakers at this time?
b.Why does Shylock refuse an offer of money?
c.What makes Portio say: be merciful, Take thrice thy money, bid me tear the bond.