

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910452610603321
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Titolo	"What may words say ...?" [[electronic resource]] : a reading of The merchant of Venice // Inge Leimberg
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Madison, N.J., : Fairleigh Dickinson University Press Lanham, Md., : Co-published with Rowman & Littlefield Pub. Group, c2011
ISBN	1-61147-001-3
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (294 p.)
Disciplina	822.3/3
Soggetti	Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	<p>""WHAT MAY WORDS SAY...?""; Contents; Preface; Beginning to read; 1. ""What do you call the play?""; 2. ""Good sentences . . .""; Act 1: The Merchant and the Maxims; Scene 1. ""otherwise friendship would bee a meere merchandise . . .""; 1-7 Know thyself; 8-68 ""I know Antonio / Is sad . . .""; 69-112 ""A stage, where every man must play a part . . .""; 113-160 ""Then do but say to me what I should do . . .""; 161-185 ""To have it of my trust . . .""; Scene 2. ""choose you this day whom you will serve""; 1-9 Nothing too much; 10-97 A conversational chain of themes; ""to be seated in the mean""</p> <p>""what were good to do""""O me the word 'choose'!"""; 32-98 Interlude: ""these princely suitors""; 99-128 ""the will of a living daughter curb'd by the will of a dead father""; ""How to choose right . . .""; ""my father's will"""; Scene 3. ""Be not thou one . . . of those who are sureties for debts""; ""Enter Bassanio with Shylock the Jew"" Harme is at hande; 1 ""three thousand ducats""; a. The number three; b. The number 3000; c. Ducat, the coin and the word; 1-9 ""Antonio shall become bound, well""; 11-34 ""he is sufficient""; 35-47 ""possessed with murd'rous hate""</p> <p>47-65 ""I do never use it""66-97 ""I make it breed as fast""; 59 ""the breach of custom is breach of all""; 98-138 The Golden Rule; 138-175 ""How feel you yourself my friend? . . .""; 176-177 ""And forgive us our debts . . .""; Act 2: Departure; Scene 1. ""what braggardism is this?"";</p>

Scene 2. ""Give him a livery""; 1-30 ""An enemy may chance to give good counsel""; 31-35 ""this is my true-begotten father""; 36-95 ""it is a wise father that knows his own child""; 95-148 ""I have brought him a present""; 149-160 ""Such beginning, such end""; 161-197 Epilogue: ""Something too liberal""

Scene 3. ""Farewell good Launcelot""Scene 3. (continued). ""We paint the devil foul . . .""; Scene 4. ""Will you prepare you for this masque to-night?""; Scene 5. ""Lock up my doors . . .""; Scene 6. ""No masque tonight . . .""; 1-21 ""Haste makes waste""; 22-25 ""Here dwells my father Jew""; 26-32 ""Who are you?""; 33-50 ""catch this casket""; 51-59 ""wise, fair, and true""; 60-68 ""the wind is come about""; Scene 7. ""I stand for sacrifice""; Scene 8. ""by some nuntius to recount the things""; Scene 9. ""Hanging and wiving goes by destiny""

1-84 ""I will use them according to their desert""85-101 ""he bringeth sensible regrets""; Act 3: The Choice; Scene 1. ""if you wrong us shall we not revenge?""; 1-66 ""The villainy you teach me I will execute""; 67-120 ""thou torturtest me Tubal""; Scene 2. ""If you do love me, you will find me out""; 1-24 ""I pray you tarry""; 24-38 ""Promise me life . . .""; 39-41 ""Suit the action to the word""; 42-53 ""Let music sound . . .""; 53-62 ""while he doth make his choice""; 63-72 ""Tell me where is fancy bred?""; 73 ""So may the outward shows be least themselves""

Sommario/riassunto

'What may words say_?' contains a comprehensive and in many respects unconventional interpretation of The Merchant of Venice. The play's development of ideas is unfolded in a literary analysis that focuses on the poet's words in their philological, historical, and philosophical contexts.
