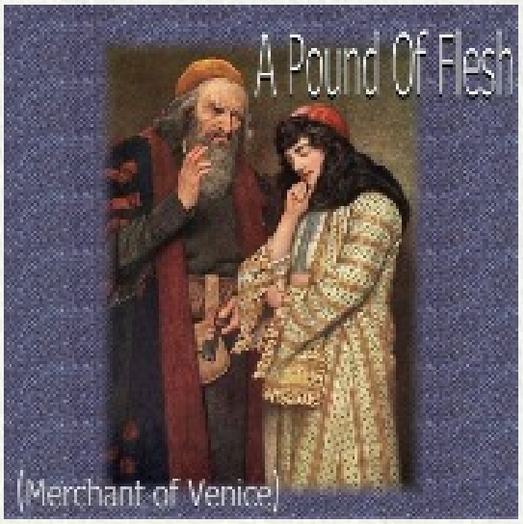


A Pound of Flesh (Merchant of Venice)

Elizabeth: lyrics.
James: guitars.
Nigel: percussion, accordion, cello.
Kris : vocals.

In olden times in Venice
Usury was quite a menace
Shylock had a finger in every pie
His interest rates were just sky-high

Antonio's loans were fairer
Shylock simply couldn't bear it
He dreamed of how he'd settle this score
Shylock was out for total war

Portia, Queen of Litigation
Saved Antonio from condemnation
Craftily found the fatal flaw
Applied the letter of the law
Such a smooth, smooth talker!
Mother of all lawyers

Portia needs all her talent
A pound of flesh is in the balance
By Antonio so foolishly pledged
To Shylock who now has the edge

Portia, Queen of Litigation
Saved Antonio from condemnation
Craftily found the fatal flaw
Applied the letter of the law
Such a smooth, smooth talker!
Mother of all lawyers

One pound of flesh is forfeit.
This court must thus enforce it
Says Portia. But it must be understood
You may not take one drop of blood

Up rises Shylock's heart-rate
There's no way out. It's checkmate
Shylock is a puppet on her string
Queen Portia has taken his King

Silver tongues, dramatic gestures
One or two facts and much conjecture
If you seek fair compensation
Beware of the lawyers of litigation
They'll go for the jugular in your neck
Immediate effect. Dura lex sed lex

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