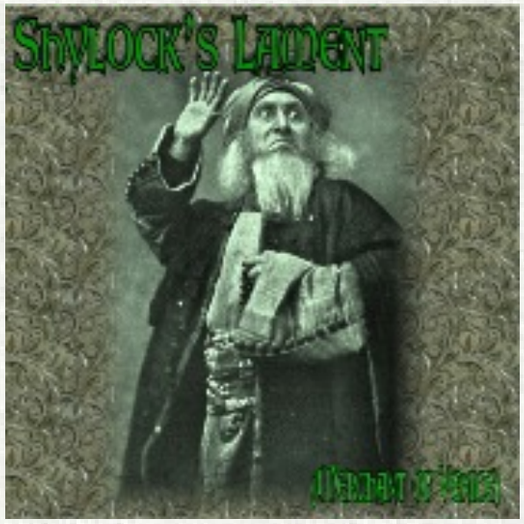


Shylock's Lament (Merchant of Venice)

Elizabeth: lyrics.
James: nylon guitar, low whistle.
Nigel with Kris : vocals.

In the eyes of Venetian law
I always draw the shortest straw
I'm considered an alien
I'm a second-class citizen

Am I not warmed and cooled
By summer and winter like you?
Have I not hands like yours?
Have I not eyes, likewise?
If you poison me, Do I not die?

You judge me by my face and nose
You mock my religion and my clothes
You call my people scavengers
Avaricious and envious

Am I not warmed and cooled
By summer and winter like you?
Have I not hands like yours?
Have I not eyes, likewise?
If you poison me, Do I not die?

Too hot, too cold
Too young, too old
Too black, too white
Too dumb, too bright
Too fat, too thin
Too kind, too mean
A rose by any other name
Would smell lovely all the same
From a genetic point of view
There's no difference 'tween me and you

Am I not warmed and cooled
By summer and winter like you?
Have I not hands like yours?
Have I not eyes, likewise?
If you poison me, Do I not die?