



Shakespeare's Contribution to Comedy

I. Romantic Love: Jessica & Lorenzo, Portia & Bassanio, Nerissa & Gratiano

II. Movement in space to reach the happy ending:

Venice	Belmont
Real Space A city-state, a centre of commerce in the Mediterranean Seas with its own rules; Christians, Jews and foreigners are subject to different regulations e.g. Jews were not allowed to do free-trade.	Dream Space
Dominated by men	Dominated by Women Although Portia speaks of being dominated by masculine power, she is the master of her house, estate, property and wealth.
Money, Trade, ships, cargoes, silks, spices, debt & credit, risk & fortune, usury, interest, the course of law & the state of justice	Dominated by love, puzzles, poetry, caskets
The Bond Plot The Ring Plot	The problems are resolved: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The bond plot is resolved by women from Belmont. 2. The ring problem resolved in Belmont.

III. Use of Supernatural Elements

Part of the play takes place in magical Belmont, a magical world of caskets, suitors, music.

IV. Blending of comedy and tragedy

Comedy	Tragedy
Happy Ending: Antonio saved from death & debt Elopments/Regeneration: Jessica & Lorenzo, Portia & Bassanio, Nerissa & Gratiano	Shylock's Tragedy Antonio is alone at the end

IV. Use of more than one plot

2 main plots: the casket plot, the bond plot

2 sub-plots: the elopment plot, the ring plot

V. Marriage after the happy ending (regeneration-giving-birth)