

### **Visuals for *The Jew of Malta***

While reading *The Jew of Malta*, I felt like a lot of the story could be interesting to view in pictures or images. I thought that the dialogue would be enhanced if there were visual aids available for the readers of this text. A lot of the issues in this play revolve around disagreements, jealousy, deception, secrecy, and death. I wanted to find images that portrayed some of these issues within the drawings. The following visuals would be viewed with the accompanied text.

## Visuals for *The Jew of Malta*

The religious strain between Christian and Jew are strongly present throughout the play because Barabas is forced to give away all of his riches due to Christian law. Because of this, it forces him to make some nasty decisions about dealing with the Christians around him. He meddles with Abigail's relationship with Mathias and makes Mathias and Lodowick duel each other. Then when Abigail joins the nunnery, he poisons the whole house of them. This leads up to the murders of Father Jacomo, who converted Abigail to Christianity, and Father Barnardine, whom Abigail confessed her father's sins to. When his servant, Ithamore, lets it all slip, they are arrested, but he escapes and helps the Turks take over the city. However, in the end, his plan backfires and the Christians save the Turks from a terrible fate that Barabas had planned for them. Barabas dies in the end, which is what he deserves after the wreck he has caused.

### Act I Scene II

This illustration depicts the confrontation between the Christians and the Jews. The Christian authorities have been keeping track of money and they believe that the Jews should give up some of their wealth. While some give in to the demands, Barabas stands strong in his beliefs to keep all of his wealth.



BARABAS. Alas, my lord, we are no soldiers;  
And what's our aid against so great a prince?  
FIRST KNIGHT. Tut, Jew, we know thou art no soldier.  
Thou art a merchant and a moneyed man,  
And 'tis thy money, Barabas, we seek.  
BARABAS. How, my lord? My money?  
FERNEZE. Thine and the rest;  
For, to be short, amongst you 't must be had.  
FIRST JEW. Alas, my lord, the most of us are poor.  
FERNEZE. Then let the rich increase your portions.  
BARABAS. Are strangers with your tribute to be taxed?  
SECOND KNIGHT. Have strangers leave with us to get their wealth?  
Then let them with us contribute.  
BARABAS. How? equally?  
FERNEZE. No, Jew, like infidels;  
For through our sufferance of your hateful lives,  
Who stand accursed in the sight of heaven,  
These taxes and afflictions are befall'n,  
And therefore thus we are determined;  
Read there the articles of our decrees.  
OFFICER. 'First, the tribute money of the Turks shall  
all be levied amongst the Jews, and each of them to  
pay one half of his estate.'  
BARABAS. How, half his estate? I hope you mean not mine.  
FERNEZE. Read on.  
OFFICER. 'Secondly, he that denies to pay shall  
straight become a Christian.'  
BARABAS. How, a Christian? Hum, what's here to do?  
OFFICER. 'Lastly, he that denies this, shall absolutely  
lose all he has.'  
ALL THREE JEWS. Oh, my lord, we will give half.

## Act II Scene III

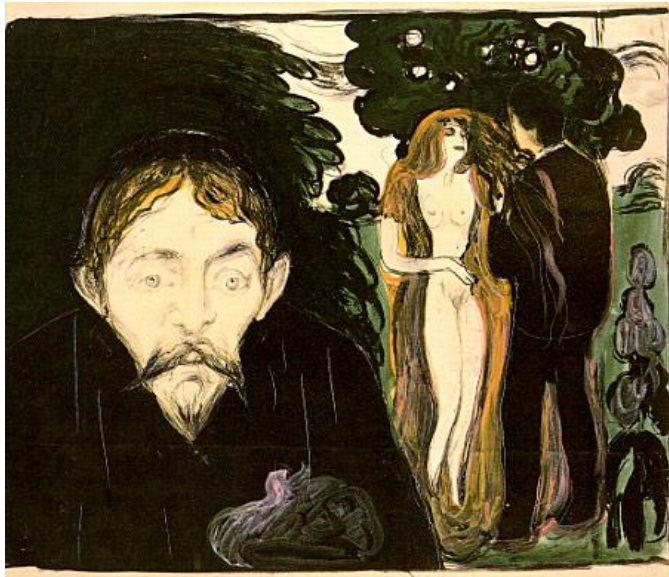
Barabas decides to get back at the Christians when they take his wealth. He convinces his daughter to lead on Mathias and Lodowick, her suitors. This secret plan only leads to their deaths.



ABIGAIL. In good time, father. Here are letters come  
From Ormus, and the post stays here within.  
BARABAS. Give me the letters. Daughter, do you hear?  
Entertain Lodowick, the Governor's son,  
With all the courtesy you can afford,  
Provided that you keep your maidenhead.  
Use him as if he were *(Aside)* a Philistine.  
Dissemble, swear, protest, vow love to him;  
He is not of the seed of Abraham. -  
I am a little busy, sir; pray, pardon me.  
Abigail, bid him welcome for my sake.  
ABIGAIL. For your sake and his own he's welcome hither.  
BARABAS. Daughter, a word more. Kiss him, speak him fair,  
And like a cunning Jew so cast about  
That ye be both made sure ere you come out.  
ABIGAIL. Oh, father, Don Mathias is my love.  
BARABAS. I know it. Yet I say make love to him.  
Do, it is requisite it should be so. -  
Nay, on my life, it is my factor's hand.  
But go you in, I'll think upon the account.

## Act II Scene III

While Abigail is speaking with Lodowick, Barabas tells Mathias that Lodowick is trying to steal her away from him. Mathias becomes angry and leaves. Barabas then tells Lodowick of Mathias's jealousy.



MATHIAS. Ill rouse him thence.  
BARABAS. Not for all Malta; therefore sheathe your sword.  
If you love me, no quarrels in my house,  
But steal you in, and seem to see him not.  
I'll give him such a warning ere he goes  
As he shall have small hopes of Abigail.  
Away, for here they come.

*Enter Lodowick, Abigail.*

MATHIAS. What, hand in hand! I cannot suffer this.  
BARABAS. Mathias, as thou lov'st me, not a word.  
MATHIAS. Well, let it pass; another time shall serve.

*Exit Mathias.*

LODOWICK. Barabas, is not that the widow's son?  
BARABAS. Ay, and take heed, for he hath sworn your death.  
LODOWICK. My death? what, is the base-born peasant mad?  
BARABAS. No, no; but happily he stands in fear  
Of that which you, I think, ne'er dream upon, -  
My daughter here, a paltry silly girl.  
LODOWICK. Why, loves she Don Mathias?  
BARABAS. Doth she not with her smiling answer you?  
ABIGAIL. *(Aside)* He has my heart; I smile against my will.

## Act III Scene VI

Abigail joins the convent because she feels guilty about the duel and when Barabas finds out about his daughter joining the Christian faith, he sends poisoned rice to the convent to kill all the nuns. Before Abigail dies, she informs the priest, Barnardine, of her father's sins.

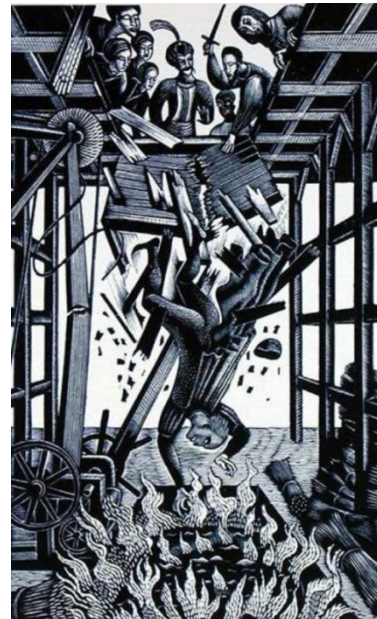
BARNARDINE. What, all dead save only Abigail?  
ABIGAIL. And I shall die too, for I feel death coming.  
Where is the friar that conversed with me?  
BARNARDINE. Oh, he is gone to see the other nuns.  
ABIGAIL. I sent for him, but seeing you are come,  
Be you my ghostly father. And first know  
That in this house I lived religiously,  
Chaste, and devout, much sorrowing for my sins.  
But, ere I came...  
BARNARDINE. What then?  
ABIGAIL. I did offend high heaven so grievously  
As I am almost desperate for my sins,  
And one offence torments me more than all.  
You knew Mathias and Don Lodowick?  
BARNARDINE. Yes, what of them?  
ABIGAIL. My father did contract me to 'em both:  
First to Don Lodowick; him I never loved.  
Mathias was the man that I held dear,  
And for his sake did I become a nun.



## Act V Scene IV

Ferneze and the Turkish forces learn from each other that Barabas is playing both of them for status and wealth. Because of this, Barabas's trap backfires and he falls into the cauldron that he had prepared for Calymath, the Turkish leader.

FERNEZE. Should I in pity of thy plaints or thee,  
Accursed Barabas, base Jew, relent?  
No, thus I'll see thy treachery repaid,  
But wish thou hadst behaved thee otherwise.  
BARABAS. You will not help me, then?  
FERNEZE. No, villain, no.  
BARABAS. And, villains, know you cannot help me now.  
Then, Barabas, breathe forth thy latest fate,  
And in the fury of thy torments strive  
To end thy life with resolution.  
Know, Governor, 'twas I that slew thy son.  
I framed the challenge that did make them meet.  
Know, Calymath, I aimed thy overthrow,  
And had I but escaped this stratagem,  
I would have brought confusion on you all,  
Damned Christian dogs, and Turkish infidels!  
But now begins the extremity of heat  
To pinch me with intolerable pangs.  
Die, life! Fly, soul! Tongue, curse thy fill, and die!  
(Dies)



### **Works Cited**

Knoll, Robert E. Christopher Marlowe. New York: Twayne Publishers, Inc., 1969.

Marlowe, Christopher. Plays and Poems. New York: E. P. Dutton and Company, Inc., 1950.