

1. M. O. Nobili examines two important letters, in Latin, sent by M. Florio to Cecil: i) in 1551, he denounced 14 of his parishioners for violation of religion (and recalled the *strict Old Testament law*); ii) in 1552, for his “*act of fornication*”, he asked for mercy (and recalled *Jesus’ New Law of forgiveness* in the *New Testament*).

2. The play *Measure for Measure* by the Dramatist (as already perceived by R. Romani and I. Bellini-2012), seems a sort of autobiographical work, on the basis of the story that is documented by the said letters.

3. Some passages from Michelangelo’s letter of 1552 (on the themes of *justice and mercy*, already expressed by Aretino in his *Seven Psalms* of 1534 and in his letter to Henry VIII of 1542) are -in an impressive way- found, translated into English, in Portia’s speech in praise of mercy (in *The Merchant of Venice*)!

4. Shakespeare is “*the real dramatist of forgiveness*”, according to Hans Urs von Balthasar, in his “*Excursus: Shakespeare and*

Forgiveness”; the “transition from equalizing justice [i.e., from the Old Testament law of retaliation, “An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth”] to mercy is one of the innermost motive forces of his art”.

[Michelangelo Florio and forgiveness \(960.93 kB \)](#)