

✚ Aaron the Moor

- A man of soaring, limitless ambition; reveled in the misery of others, particularly if his villainy had been the cause; he placed high value upon wit (intelligence); a genius at quick thinking and improvisation. Yet, his evil is conveyed more through speech than through deed—can anything which Aaron did, personally, compare to the feast which Titus prepared?
- “Vengeance is in my heart, death in my head, Blood and revenge are hammering in my head.” He “believest (in) no god” and was without conscience or scruple. He considered a day in which he had not done at least one vile thing—lie, cheat, steal, rape, murder, commit arson, dig up the dead for purposes of practical jokes—to have been misspent. Any and all “good deeds” which knowingly or unknowingly he did he lamented.
- For some time, he and Tamora had been lovers—he saw no reason why her marriage to Saturninus should alter their relationship (in fact, he saw in it protection and security).
- He was quite capable of thinking up evil things to do to other people on his own; he wasn’t always just Tamora’s willing servant in the execution of *her* diabolical plans—he got her and her sons to do his bidding, too
- When Chiron and Demetrius quarreled as to which one of them was destined to abduct Lavinia from Bassianus, Aaron suggested that they both lure her into the forest and jointly rape her.
- Sacrificed a bag of gold in order to set up Martius and Quintus
- For the pleasure of personally maiming Titus, Aaron tricked him into believing that his sons would not suffer death if he sacrificed one of his hands.
- Regarded himself, Tamora (“the devil’s dam”), Chiron, and Demetrius to be forsaken by the gods and damned.
 - ❖ Of all the dads in the play, is Aaron most worthy of the Father of the Year trophy?
 - He became incensed with rage, repugnance, defiance when the nurse conveyed Tamora’s order that he murder his and Tamora’s newborn child (“loathsome as a toad”). He was shocked to discover that Tamora was not under his thumb as much as he had thought.

- Made aware that Aaron had slept with their mother, Demetrius and Chiron rued the day he entered their lives: they finally recognized him for the “hellish dog,” “foul fiend,” that he truly was. They declared their bastard stepbrother to be “accursed.” Should the populace discover the existence of the child, Roman justice would warrant Tamora’s execution.
- Aaron gave the boys money with which to buy a fair skinned child that had just been born to a countryman of his that he would substitute for his son—Saturninus would have an heir.
- He could have made good his escape but lessened his chances of getting away by taking his infant son with him.
- Caught by the Goths and brought before Lucius, Aaron’s concern was not for himself but for his son (whom Lucius was about to hang in front of him).
- Before he would reveal anything, Aaron insisted that Lucius give his oath, as a god-fearing man, to ensure that after his death his son would be nourished and brought up. Aaron was the only parent in the play to act unselfishly on behalf of his or her child—not even Tamora offered anything, be it her life, body, or enslavement—on behalf of her children.