*The Crucible* – Act 3 Notes



**SETTING:** Vestry Room of Salem Meeting House – serving as anteroom of General Court

Judge Hathorne questioning **Martha Corey** – Giles causes outburst - claims that he has evidence that the **Putnams are merely after land (MOTIVATION)**

**Hathorne:**

-60s, bitter, remorseless Salem judge

-wants to arrest Giles Corey and Francis Nurse for contempt of court

**Deputy Governor Danforth:**

-grave man in his 60s

-commands respect “on his appearance, silence falls”

**-**tells Francis that 400 are in jails and 72 condemned to hang in other towns upon his signature

🡪 1. he is powerful and 2. hysteria is sweeping through other towns.

**Hale:** Encourages the judges to hear the evidence; judges tell Francis Nurse and Giles Corey to submit evidence for review

Pg. 92 – **Proctor brings in Mary Warren** to tell Judge Danforth about their lies;**Parris is skeptical of Proctor *“Beware this man (Proctor)…this man is mischief”*** (92).

**Danforth** tells Proctor that ***“the entire contention of the state in these trials is that the voice of Heaven is speaking through the children”*** (93).

-Mary admits lying and pretending along with the other girls – Danforth is baffled, Parris is upset and sweating – says it’s a ***“vile lie”***

-**Danforth warns Proctor**: ***“We burn a hot fire here; it melts down all concealment”*** (93). 🡪 like a **Crucible**

-**Danforth questions Proctor’s motivation:**

***“I would free my wife, sir”*** (94). 🡪 Proctor is NOT looking to undermine the court

-Cheever tattles that *“When we come to take his wife, he damned the court and ripped your warrant*” (94).

-It is revealed that **Proctor doesn’t go to Mass** and even **plows on Sundays**, a day of rest

-Danforth says he’s seen all kinds of things and does not see any sign that the girls are deceiving him.

-When Proctor points out that the women have lived good lives, Parris references **Cain and Abel** (ALLUSION) – Cain was upright and yet he did kill Abel (96).

-Danforth tells Proctor that he got word that **Elizabeth, his wife, is pregnant – it’s news to John.**

-they’ll hold her until she shows natural signs of pregnancy – if she is, she’ll live until she delivers – ask Proctor if that suits him

-**Proctor is torn b/c Francis’ and Gile’s wives are still being held** – he asks charge to be dropped

**Danforth:**  *“Then your purpose is somewhat larger”* (97) 🡪 if his only **motivation** was to save his wife, that has been done (for now)…but **Proctor wants to help the others as well,** but Parris accuses him of trying to overthrow the court:

Proctor***: “These are my friends. Their wives are also accused”*** 🡪 **he’s not selfish (characterization)**

Danforth: *“****The pure in heart need no lawyers****”* – **IRONIC** b/c the “good” ones are the ones being accused

-The men got 91 signatures attesting to the women’s good character – Parris wants them called in for questioning

-**Francis Nurse** is furious ***“I gave them all my word no harm would come to them for signing this”*** (98) 🡪 these are men on **honor and integrity**

-**Parris continues to instigate** “This is a clear attack upon the court” (98).

-Danforth tries to be fair and reasonable, yet Parris continues to question and interrupt

Proctor brings forth Mary Warren to confess that they were lying and quotes scripture when he says, ***“Do that which is good, and no harm shall come to thee” 🡪* IRONY – we know that those that try to do the right thing are often hanged as a result!**

-Giles: has been in court 33 times as plaintiff, so he’s versed in legal writing, etc.

**GILES VS. PUTNAM** –**Putnam Motivated by Land Envy?**

-**Giles accuses Putnam** that he *“coldly prompted your daughter to cry witchery upon George Jacobs that is now in jail”* -- if Jacobs hangs for a witch, he forfeits his property ***– “That’s law! And there is none but Putnam with the coin to buy so great a piece. This man is killing his neighbors for their land”*** 🡪 **Putnam’s motivation** according to Giles.

-Giles has a witness that heard Putnam says his daughter had “given him a fair gift of land” by crying witch…Giles won’t give up name of witness b/c he’s afraid witness will land in jail – **Hathorne wants to hold him in contempt of court b.c Giles won’t reveal his source**

-**Hale tries to be reasonable** and back up Giles’ concern that the courts are full of fear

-Giles arrested for contempt of court as decreed by Danforth – Giles lunges for Putnam and threatens to cut his throat.

-Hale fears for Proctor who produces a deposition signed by Mary Warren who admits to lying…Hale fears that Proctor is in over his head and should get a lawyer

**Danforth vs. Hale – Power Struggle**

-Hale: ***“I have signed 72 death warrants…and I dare not take a life without there be a proof so immaculate no slightest qualm of conscience may doubt it.”*** – he’s not as hasty to put people to death

-Hale tells how he **signed death warrant for Rebecca Nurse** and it weighed heavily on him.

-Danforth says there’s no need for a lawyer

**EYES ON MARY, ABIGAIL, and PARRIS:**

Danforth doesn’t like Parris either and cuts him off when Parris interrupts again.

-**Danforth questions Mary Warren** – tries to find out if she was lying then or is lying now – either way, she will go to jail for committing perjury (lying).

-**Mary**, ***“I am with God now”*** (106-107). – she breaks down and cries and **then the other girls enter**: **Susanna Walcott, Mercy Lewis, Betty Parris and Abigail**

-Danforth questions Abigail – she sticks to her lie

-Questions turn to Parris after Proctor reports that **Parris saw them dancing**

-Parris tells Mary Warren to “fake it” on cue – if she were faking it then, she can fake it now: the fainting, the icy skin

-**Mary Warren** says that, at the time, **she BELIEVED she saw spirits which led her to faint** – got **caught up in frenzy/hysteria,** ***“I heard the other girls screaming, and you, Your Honor, you seemed to believe them, and I – it were only sport in the beginning, sir, but then the whole world cried spirits, spirits, and I – I promise you, Mr. Danforth, I only thought I saw them but I did not” (***113).

-Danforth questions Abigail again and she’s defensive ***“I have been near to murdered every day because I done my duty pointing out the Devil’s people – and this is my reward? To be mistrusted, denied, questioned like a –“*** 🡪: She’s defensive and BOLD – **sticking to her lie.**

**Abigail Diverts Attention:**

When **Danforth** turns up the heat on Abigail, **Abigail** goes at him threatening that spirits can come upon him, too ***“Think you to be so mighty that the power of Hell may not turn your wits? Beware of it!”***…she looks into the air above and it truly frightened? 🡪 She diverts attention away from herself (113).

-Abigail pretends to be cold – directs attention to Mary – other girls follow Abigail’s lead.

-Proctor lunges at Abigail and roars, ***“How do you call Heaven! Whore! Whore!”*** (114).

**PROCTOR’s CONFESSION:**

\*\*Proctor confesses “(his life collapsing about him***)”…”I have known her, sir. I have known her”*** (115).

* He feels his shame as the men stand dumbfounded.
* Where? : ***“In the proper place – where my beasts are bedded…I beg you – see her what she is. My wife, my dear good wife, took this girl soon after, sir, and put her out on the highroad…Excellency, forgive me, forgive me…She thinks to dance with me on my wife’s grave…God help me, I lusted, and there is a promise in such sweat. But it is a whore’s vengeance, and you must see it; I set myself entirely in your hands. I know you must see it now”*** (115-116) 🡪 **he exposes his sin to save his wife by revealing Abigail’s true motivation**

***“I have rung the doom of my good name – you will believe me, Mr. Danforth! My wife is innocent, except she knew a whore when she saw one!”*** (116) 🡪 He sacrifices his name which is everything in order to save Elizabeth

Danforth asks to question Elizabeth who, according to Proctor, “cannot lie” (116).

Danforth asks Eliz. why she dismissed Abigail – Eliz implies that during her sickness, ***“I saw my husband somewhat turning from me. And this girl…I came to think he fancied her”*** (118).

Danforth presses on asking if Proctor committed the crime of lechery – **Elizabeth answers NO (she lies to protect Proctor, but it contradicts the truth he told).**

*Proctor* ***“I have confessed it!....She only thought to save my name!”***

**Hale Backs Proctor**: tries to intervene saying ***“It is natural to tell a lie…From the beginning this man has struck me true. By my oath to Heaven, I believe him now, and I pray you call back his wife before we-“***

**Hale condemns Abigail** as a liar and she pretends to cower in horror as she watches a bird who she says is Mary Warren in another form 🡪 ***Abigail: “this is a black art to change your shape. No, I cannot, I cannot stop my mouth; it’s God’s work I do”*** (120)

**MARY’S CONFLICT: To Stay True of Give Into the Lies To Save Herself**

-Mary protests and Abigail and the girls mimic

-Proctor senses Mary weakening – he’s resolute, but he knows she’s not

-Danforth to Mary ***“You will confess yourself or you will hang!”***

-Proctor ***“Mary, remember the angel Raphael – do that which is good and – “***

**MARY CHANGES SIDES and** says to Proctor, ***“You’re the Devil’s man!” …”I’ll not hang with you! I love God, I love God”*** (124)

-Mary claims that Proctor came to her to sign the Devil’s book

-Hale still backs Proctor

-Danforth disgusted with Proctor – says he’s combined with anti-Christ – asks if he’ll confess his black allegiance with Hell.

**Proctor has lost all faith, and in his disgust he says, “GOD IS DEAD”**  – John’s frustration brings about **blasphemy:**

Laughs insanely and says ***“A fire, a fire is burning! I hear the boot of Lucifer, I see his filthy face! And it is my face, and yours, Danforth! For them that quail (falter/recoil) to bring men out of ignorance, as I have quailed, and as you quail now when you know in all your black hearts that this be fraud – God damns our kind especially, and we will burn, we will burn together!”***

Proctor continues***, “You are pulling Heaven down and raising up a whore!”*** (126)

**Hale quits and leaves*: “I denounce these proceedings, I quit this court!”***