Amanda Zapata

Professor Casmier-Paz

American Literature I AML 3031

January 22, 2020

Providence in Historical American Literature

Mary Rowlandson was an extremely strong believer of the Christian faith. Her whole life and faith became tested when she was captured by the Indians for several weeks and faced twenty removals. Throughout her writing, she embraces her trust in God to guide her during the difficult and intensely isolating situation. Rowlandson depended on her providence as she was separated from her husband, her children, and was fighting to keep her weakened child alive.

At times, Rowlandson felt that she could not continue, she turned to the hands of God, “I have thought since of the wonderful goodness of God to me in preserving me in the use of my reason and senses in that distressed time, that I did not use wicked and violent means to end my own miserable life” (Rowlandson 273). Although life seemed virtually impossible for Rowlandson through her sufferings of the consecutive and life-draining removals following her daughter’s death, she still continued head-strong without giving up. Cotton Mather had a different providence in God, as he believed in damnation of those who were against God. Rowlandson and Mather were both believers, but Mather supported punishment.

The providence in Taylor’s poetry appears more transparent and positive, as he shares in his poem, “Upon Wedlock and Death of Children”, “At that unlooked for, Dolesome, darksome hour. In Prayer to Christ perfumed it did ascend” (Taylor 306). When Taylor speaks about his belief in God, it becomes evident that his faith shines and uplifted the sadness of death he felt.

**Word Count: 248**

PDF version.

Works Cited

“The Iroquois Creation Story.” *The Norton Anthology of American Literature*. 8th ed. Vol 1. Ed: Nina Baym. New York: Norton, 2012.17 -21.PDF. “

“Pima Stories of the Beginning of the World.” *The Norton Anthology of American Literature*. 8th ed. Vol 1. Ed: Nina Baym. New York: Norton, 2012.21-24.PDF. “