

Pages 1-10:

- Salem massachusetts 1692
- Reverend Parris was a widower with no interest in children, or talent with them\
- No one can really know what their lives were like
- a holiday from work meant only that they must concentrate even more upon prayer.
- very few Indians were converted,
- . To the best of their knowledge the American forest was the last place on earth that was not paying homage to God.
- They believed, in short, that they held in their steady hands the candle that would light the world.
- For good purposes, even high pur-poses, the people of Salem developed a theocracy, a combine of state and religious power whose function was to keep the com-munity together, and to prevent any kind of disunity that might open it to destruction by material or ideological enemies.
- ; suspicions and the envy of the miserable toward the happy could and did burst out in the general revenge.
- Betty is not in good condition and parris is upset
- Doctor wonders if it is witchcraft but abigail insists it is not. Parris is afraid his enemies will find out and use it against him

Pages 11-20:

- Parris is frustrated that abigail does not know anything and fears his long developed reputation might be ruined
- Abigail is 7 months out of house and no family has called for her service, she insists Goody Proctor is a gossiping liar
- Mrs. Ann Putnam. She is a twisted soul of forty-five, a death-ridden woman, haunted by dreams
- The Putnams come in and start making accusations about betty
- Thomas Putnam felt that his own name and the honor of his family had been smirched by the village, and he meant to right matters however he could. Brother in law had been rejected
- Thomas:-As with every other public cause in which he tried to force his way, he failed in this.
- Mrs. Putnam: Tituba knows how to speak to the dead, Mr. Parris
- There is a murdering witch among us, bound to keep herself in the dark.
- Turns out it was Mercy who was naked in forest.
- Mary Warren, She is seventeen, a subservient, naive, lonely girl
- Betty wakes up and calls for her dead mama. SHE says Abby drank blood and drank a charm to kill John Proctor's wife! She drank a charm to kill Goody Proctor!
- John Proctor- He was the kind of man - powerful of body, even-tempered, and not easily led. However He is a sinner, a sinner not only against the moral fashion of the time, but against his own vision of decent conduct

Pages 21-40

- Mary Warren is Proctors servant
- There us mumbles of witchcraft in Salem
- Abigail and Proctor have a fling but proctor is trying to stop
- Abigail sings psalm and betty claps her ears. Everybody comes back in and claim witchcraft
- Rebecca Nurse, seventy-two, enters. She is white-haired, leaning upon her walking-stick.
- Giles Corey, eighty-three, enters. He is knotted with muscle, canny, inquisitive, and still powerful
- The putnams:soon accused Rebecca's spirit of "tempting her to iniquity," a charge that had more truth in it than Mrs. Putnam could know,
- Rebecca stood over betty and it calmed her down., Then Putnam wanted here to do it to Ruth.
- Warden is coming for meeting
- Parris wanted ownership of house
- **Francis Nurse's Rise and the Land Disputes:** Francis Nurse was a prominent figure in Salem, having gradually bought land and gained social status. His rise was resented by some, particularly because he had conflicts with neighbors, including the Putnam family. The passage hints that the accusations against his wife, Rebecca Nurse, were not just about witchcraft but also related to these disputes. The land war with the Putnams, which escalated to a physical altercation, shows how deeply rooted these grudges were.
- **The Role of the Putnams in Accusations:** Thomas Putnam and his family are directly involved in accusing Rebecca of witchcraft. The Putnams had personal grievances against the Nurse family, particularly because the Nurse family and their allies had prevented Bayley (Putnam's choice) from becoming the Salem minister. There's also a power struggle between Salem Town and Topsfield, where the Nurse family and their supporters were trying to create a new, independent entity separate from Salem's authority.
- **Rebecca Nurse's Character and the Irony of Her Accusation:** Rebecca Nurse is portrayed as a deeply respected and religious figure, with a reputation so strong that it's hard to believe she'd be accused of witchcraft. The text highlights how absurd it seems that someone like Rebecca, who raised many children and grandchildren, would be accused of such evil acts. Her calm and rational demeanor contrasts with the hysteria around her.
- **The Community's Divisions:** Proctor, Parris, and Putnam represent different factions within the community. Proctor criticizes Parris for preaching too much about Hell and for focusing on material things, like his salary and house deed, rather than spiritual matters. This conversation shows the deep divisions in Salem, where personal grievances, religious differences, and power struggles are all at play.

Page 31-40:

- **Proctor's Disdain for Authority:** John Proctor's statement, "I like not the smell of this 'authority,'" reveals his mistrust of Reverend Parris and his overall distaste for how power is exercised in Salem. Proctor views Parris as more concerned with his personal gain and position than with the true spiritual well-being of the community. This scene highlights Proctor's independence and his reluctance to submit to what he views as unjust or corrupt authority. *"I like not the smell of this 'authority.'" – John Proctor*
- **Rebecca's Plea for Unity:** In contrast, Rebecca Nurse urges Proctor to make peace with Parris. She sees Proctor's defiance as dangerous and believes that maintaining unity within the community, especially with religious figures, is essential. Rebecca's advice reflects her belief in forgiveness and reconciliation, suggesting that personal grievances should not divide the community. *"No, you cannot break charity with your minister. You are another kind, John. Clasp his hand, make your peace." – Rebecca Nurse*
- **Giles's Commentary on Litigiousness:** Giles Corey's remarks about the rampant lawsuits in Salem point to a deeper, underlying conflict in the community. His observation, "Wherefore is everybody suing everybody else?" reveals how personal rivalries, property disputes, and long-standing grievances have contributed to the tensions in Salem. Giles's insight suggests that these divisions are not just religious or political but are deeply personal, with neighbors constantly at odds. *"Wherefore is everybody suing everybody else? Think on it now, it's a deep thing, and dark as a pit." – Giles Corey*
- **Proctor and Putnam's Land Dispute:** The conflict over land between Proctor and Putnam adds another layer to the tensions in Salem. Putnam, a wealthy and powerful landowner, believes that the land Proctor is claiming belongs to him, while Proctor asserts that he bought it from Goody Nurse's husband. This dispute reflects the greed and ambition driving many of the accusations and rivalries in Salem. Putnam, in particular, is portrayed as using the witch trials to his advantage, seeking to expand his wealth and influence. *"Your grandfather had a habit of willing land that never belonged to him, if I may say it plain." – John Proctor*
- **Historical context:** The passage begins by discussing societal attitudes toward women and family in revolutionary Russia, connecting it to a broader theme of demonization. It suggests that opposing cultures often view each other through the lens of sexual sin, emphasizing the sexualization and fear that feed into demonology. "Our opposites are always robed in sexual sin, and it is from this unconscious conviction that demonology gains both its attractive sensuality and its capacity to infuriate and frighten."
- **Introduction of Reverend Hale:** Reverend Hale, a scholarly and confident man, arrives in Salem like a doctor on his first case. His self-assurance stems from his extensive study of witchcraft, believing he is equipped to fight the Devil. He feels allied with Europe's intellectual elite and sees his mission as preserving goodness. "Coming into

Salem now, Reverend Hale conceives of himself much as a young doctor on his first call. His painfully acquired armory of symptoms, catchwords, and diagnostic procedures are now to be put to use at last."

→ **Dialogue with the town members:**

→ Upon arrival, Hale interacts with various characters:

→ **Parris** greets Hale with delight and brings up the heavy books, to which Hale responds that they are "weighted with authority." "Hale, setting down his books: They must be; they are weighted with authority."

→ Hale then meets **Rebecca Nurse**, acknowledging her reputation for charity and goodness. "Hale: It's strange how I knew you, but I suppose you look as such a good soul should. We have all heard of your great charities in Beverly."

→ **Putnam** asks Hale for help with his ailing child, describing how she cannot eat and acts strangely. "Putnam: She cannot eat."

→ **Mrs. Putnam** reveals her belief that her child's soul has flown away, and she alludes to having sent her daughter to learn from **Tituba**, whom she suspects knows how to communicate with spirits. "Mrs. Putnam, frightened, very softly: I know it, sir. I sent my child - she should learn from Tituba who murdered her sisters."

→ **Giles Corey** expresses skepticism about witchcraft but also mentions that his wife reads "strange books," which concerns him. He shares an incident where he was unable to pray while his wife read but could pray again once she stopped. "*Giles: I have waked at night many a time and found her in a corner, readin' of a book. Now what do you make of that?*"

→ **Tension between science and superstition:** Hale warns the townspeople against jumping to superstitious conclusions, insisting that if the Devil's influence is present, it will leave clear, identifiable marks. He wants them to be prepared to accept his judgment if he finds no signs of witchcraft. "Hale, holding up his hands: No, no. Now let me instruct you. We cannot look to superstition in this. The Devil is precise; the marks of his presence are definite as stone."

→ **Rebecca Nurse's wisdom:** Rebecca shows discomfort with the proceedings, especially after hearing about Mrs. Putnam's actions. She questions whether it's right to subject the child to such harsh measures, hinting at her disapproval of the escalating hysteria. She eventually leaves, unable to bear witnessing the events unfold. "*Rebecca: Let us hope for that. I go to God for you, sir.*" "*Rebecca: I think I'll go, then. I am too old for this.*"

- Pages 41-48:
- Abigail and Tibuta don't begin to offer names until prompted by reverend hale
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