

THE EXAMINATION OF REBECCA NURSE, MARCH 24, 1692

(Examination of Rebecca Nurse)

Mr. Harthorn. What do you say (speaking to one afflicted) have you seen this Woman hurt you?

Yes, she beat me this morning

Abigail. Have you been hurt by this Woman?

Yes

Ann Putman in a grievous fit cryed out that she hurt her.

Goody Nurse, here are two An: Putman the child & Abigail Williams complains of your hurting them. What do you say to it

Nurse: I can say before my Eternal father I am innocent, & God will clear my innocency

Here is never a one in the Assembly but desires it, but if you be guilty pray God discover you.

Then Hen: Kenny rose up to speak

Goodm: Kenny what do you say

Then he entered his complaint & farther said that since this Nurse came into the house he was seizd twice with an amaz'd condition.

Here are not only these but, here is the wife of Mr. Tho: Putman who accuseth you by credible information & that both of tempting her to iniquity, & of greatly hurting her.

N:I am innocent & clear & have not been able to get out of doors these 8. Or 9. Dayes.

Mr Putman: give in what you have to say

Then Mr Edward Putman gave in his relate

Is this true Goody Nurse

N: I never afflicted no child never in my life

You see these accuse you, is it true

N: No.

Are you an innocent person relating to this Witchcraft.

Here Tho: Putmans wife cryed out, Did you not bring the Black man with you, did you not bid me tempt God & dye How oft have you eat and drunk y'r own damaon What do you say to them Oh Lord help me, & spread out her hands, & the afflicted were grievously vexed

Do you not see what a solemn condition these are in? when your hands are loose the persons are afflicted.

Then Mary Walcot (who often heretofore said she had seen her, but never could say or did say that she either bit or pinched her, or hurt her) & also Eliz: Hubbard under the like circumstances both openly accused her of hurting them

Here are these 2 grown persons now accuse you, w't say you? Do not you see these afflicted persons, & hear them accuse you.

N: The Lord knows I have not hurt them: I am an innocent person

It is very awfull to all to see these agonies & you an old Professor thus charged with contracting with the Devil by the [a] effects of it & yet to see you stand with dry eyes when there are so many whet—

N: You do not know my heart

You would do well if you are guilty to confess & give Glory to God

N: I am as clear as the child unborn

What uncertainty there may be in apparitions I know not, yet this with me strikes hard upon you that you are at this very present charged with familiar spirits: this is your bodily person they speak to: they say now they see these familiar spirits come to your bodily #[spirits come to your bodily] person, now what do you say to that

N: I have none Sir:

If you have confess & give glory to God I pray God clear you if you be innocent, & if you are guilty discover you And therefore give me an upright answer: have you any familiarity with these spirits?

N: No, I have none but with God alone.

How came you sick for there is an odd discourse of that in the mouths of many—

N: I am sick at my stomach—

Have you no wounds

N: I have none but old age

You do know whither you are guilty, & have familiarity with the Devil, & now when you are here present to see such a thing as these testify a black man whispering in your ear, & birds about you what do you say to it

N: It is all false I am clear

Possibly you may apprehend you are no witch, but have you not been led aside by temptations that way

N: I have not

What a sad thing it is that a church member here & now an other of Salem, should be thus accused and charged

Mrs Pope fell into a greivous fit, & cryed out a sad thing sure enough: And then many more fell into lamentable fits.

Tell us have not you had visible appearances more than what is common in nature?

N: I have noe nor never had in my life

Do you think these suffer voluntary or involtary

N: I cannot tell

That is strange every one can judge

N: I must be silent

They accuse you of hurting them, & if you think it is not unwillingly but by designe, you must look upon them as murderers

N: I cannot tell what to think of it

Afterwards when this was som what insisted on she said I do not think so: she did not understand aright what was said

Well then give an answer now, od you think these suffer against thewir wills or not

N: I do not think these suffer against their wills

Why did you never visit these afflictewd persons

N: Because I was afrid I should have fits too

Note Upon the motion of her b ots fitts followed upon the complainants abundantly & very frequently

Is it not an unaccountable case that when you are examined these persons are afflicted?

N: I have got no body to look to but God

Again upon stirring her hands the afflicted persons were seized with violent fits of torture

Do you believe these afflicted persons are bewicht

N: I do think they are

When this Witchcraft came upon the stage there was no suspicion of Tituba (Mr. Paris's Indian Woman) she profest much love to that child Betty Paris, but it was her apparition did the mischief, & why should not you also be guilty, for your apparition doth hurt also.

N: Would you have me bely myself—

She held her Neck on one side, & accordingly so were the afflicted taken

Then Authority requiring it Sam: Paris read what he had in characters taken from Mr. Tho: Putmans wife in her fitts

What do y ou think of this

N: I cannot help it, the Devil may appear in my shape.

This a true account of the sume of her examination but by reason of geat noyses by the afflicted & many speakers, many things are pretermitted

Memorandum

Nurse held her neck on one sid & Eliz: Hubbard (one of the sufferers) had her neck set in that posture whereupon another Patient Abigail Williams cryed out set up Goody Nurses head the maid's neck will be broke & when some set up Nurses head Aaron Wey observed that Betty Hubbards was immediately righted

Salem Village March. 24'th 1691/2

The Rever't Mr. Samuell parris being desired to take in wrighting the Examination of Rebekah Nurse hath Returned itt as aforesaid

Upon heareing the afores'd and seeing what wee then did see together with the Charge of the persons then present—wee Committed Rebekah Nurse the wife of fran's Nurce of Salem village unto their Majest's Goale in Salem as p a Mittimus then given out, in order to farther Examination

John Hathorne }

} Assists

Jonathan. Corwin}

EXAMINATION OF TITUBA

Tituba the Ind'n Woem'ns Examn March. 1. 1691/2 [March 1,1692]

Why doe you hurt these poor Children? whatt harme have thay done ont you?

Tituba: thay doe noe harme to me I noe hurt them att all.

Why have you done itt?

T:I have done nothing; I Can't tell when the Devill works

what doe the Devill tell you that he hurts them?

T:noe he tells me nothing

doe you never see Something appeare in Some shape?

T:noe never See any thing

what familiarity have you w'th the devill, or w't is itt if you Converse q'th all? Tell the truth whoe itt is that hurts them

T: the Devill for ought I know

w't appearanc or how dothe he appeare when the hurts them, w'th w't shape or what is he like that hurts them

T: like a man I think yesterday I being in the Lentoe Chamber I saw a thing like a man, that tould me Searve him & I tould him noe I would nott doe Such thing. [Recorder's note: she charges Goody Osborne & Sarah Good as those that hurt the Children, and would have had hir done itt, she sayth she Seen foure two of w'ch she knew nott she saw them last night as she was washing the Roome] thay tould me hurt the Children & would have had me if I woud nott goe & hurt them they would doe soe to mee att first I did agree w'th them butt afterward I tould them I doe soe noe more.

would they have had you hurt the Children the Last Night

T: yes, butt I was Sorry & I sayd, I would doe Soe noe more, but tould I would feare God.

butt wy did nott you doe Soe before

T: why they tell mee I had done Soe before & therefore I must goe on, these were the.4.woemen & the man [Recorder's note: but she knew none but Osburne & Good only, the others were of Boston]

att first begining w'th them, w't then appeared to you w't was itt like that ot you to doe itt

T: one like a man Jusat as I was going to sleep Came to me this was when the Children was first hurt he sayd he would kill the Children & she would never be well, and he Sayd if I would nott Serve him he would do soe to mee

is that the Same man that appeared before to you that appeared the last night & tould you this?

T: Yes

w't Other likenesses besides a man hath appeared to you?

T: Sometimes like a hogge Sometimes like a great black dogge, foure tymes

but w't did they Say unto you?

T: they tould me Serve him & that was a good way; that was the black dogge I tould him I was afrayd, he tould me he would be worse then to me

w't did you say to him after that?

T: I answered I will Serve you noe Longer he tould me he would doe me hurt then

w't other Creatures have you seene

T: a bird

w't bird?

T: a little yellow bird

where doe itt keep

T: w'th the man whoe hath pretty things there besides

what other pretty things?

T: he hath nott showed them [yet] unto me, butt he s'd he would show them me tomorow, and he tould me if I would Serve him I should have the Bird

w't other Creatures did you see?

T: I saw 2 Catts, one Red, another black as bigge as a little dogge.

w't did these Catts doe?

T: I dont know; I have seen them two tymes

w't did they say

T: thay say serve him

when did you see them?

T: I saw them last night

did they do any hurt to you or threaten you

T: they did scratch me

When?

T: after prayer; and scratched mee; because I would not serve them and when they went away I could not see but they stood before the fire

what Service do they Expect from you?

T: they Say more hurt to the Children.

how did you pinch them when you hurt them?

T: the other pull mee & hall me to the pinch the Childr, & I am very sorry for itt

what made you hold yo'r arme when you were Searched? w't had you there?

T: I had nothing

doe nott those Catts suck you?

T: noe never yett I would nott lett them but they had almost thrust me into the fire

how doe you hurt those that you pinch? doe you gett those Catts? or other things to doe it for your? tell us, how is it done?

T: the man sends the Catts to me & bids me pinch them, & I think I went over to mr Grigg's & have pinched hir this day in the morning. the man brought mr Grigg's mad to me & made me pinch hir

did you ever goe w'th these woemen?

T: they are very strong & pull me & make me goe w'th them

where did you goe?

T: up to mr putnams & make me goe w'th them.

where did you goe?

T: up to mr putmans & make me hurt the Child.

whoe did make you goe?

T: man that is very strong & these two woeman, good & Osborne but I am Sorry.

how did you goe? What doe you Ride upon?

T: I Rid upon a stick or poale & Good & Osburne behind me we Ride taking hold of one another don't know how we goe for I Saw noe trees nor path, but was presently there. when wee were up

how long Since you began to pinch mr parriss Children?

T: I did nott pinch them att the first, but he make me afterward

have you Seen Good and osborne Ride upon a poule?

T: yes & have held fast by mee: I was nott att mr Grigg's but once, but it may be Send Something like mee, with or would I have gone, butt that they tell me, they will hurt me; last night they Tell me I must kill Some body w'th the knife

who were they that tould you Soe

T: Sarah Good & Osburne & they would have had me killed Thomas putnam's Child last night. the Child alsoe affirmed that att the Same tyme thay would have had hir Cutt of hir own head for if she would nott then tould hir Tittubee would Cutt itt off & then she Complayned att the Same time of a knife Cutting of hir when hir master hath asked hir about these things she sayth thay will nott lett hir tell, butt Tell hir if she Tells hir head shall be Cutt off

whoe Tells you Soe?

T: the man, good & Osburnes Wife. Goody Goody Came to hir last night w'n hir master was att parayer & would not lett hir hear & she Could not hear a good whyle. Good hath one of these birds the yellow bird & would have given mee itt, but I would not have itt & prayer tyme she stoped my eares & would nott lett me hear.

w't should you have done with itt

T: give itt to the Children w'ch yellow bird hath bin severall tymes Seen by the Children I saw Sarah Good have itt on hir hand when she Came to the fore finger & long finger upon the Right hand.

did you nver practise witch-craft in your owne Country

T: Noe Never before now

did you See them doe itt now?

T: yes. to day, butt that was in the morneing

butt did you see them doe itt now while you are Examining

T: noe I did nott See them butt I sw them hurt att other tymes. I saw Good have a Catt beside the yellow bird w'ch was with hir

what hath Osburne gott to goe w'th hir?

T: Some thing I don't know what itt is. I can't name itt, I don't know how itt looks she hath tow of them one of them hath wings & two Leggs & a had like a woeman the Children Saw the Same butt yesterday w'ch afterward turned into a woeman.

What is the other thing that Good Osburne hath?

T: athing all over hairy, all the face hayry & a long nose & I dont know what itt is. I can't name itt, I don't know how itt looks she hath two of them one of them hat wings & two Leggs, itt goeth upright & is about two or three foot high & goeth upright like a man & last night itt stood before the fire In mr parris's hall

Whoe was that appeared like a Wolfe to Hubberd as she was goeing from proctures?

T: what Cloathes doth the man appeare unto you in?

T: black Cloaths Some times, Some times Searge Coat of other Couler, a Tall man w'th white hayr, I think.

What apparel doe the woeman ware?

T: I don't know w't couller

What kind of Cloathes hath she?

T: I don't know w't couller

What kind of Cloathes hath she?

T: A black Silk hood w'th a White Silk hood under itt, w'th top knotts, w'ch woeman I know not but have Seen hir in boston when I lived there.

what Cloathes the little woeman?

T: A searge Coat w'th a White Cap as I think. the Children having fits att this Very time she was asked whoe hurt them, she ans'r Good Good & the Children the same butt Hubbard being taken in an extreame fit after she was asked whoe hurt hir & she Sayd she Could nott tell, but sayd they blinded hir, & would nott lett hir see and after that was once or twice taken dumb himself.

THE EXAMINATION OF SARAH GOOD, MARCH 1, 1692

(Examination of Sarah Good)

The examination of Sarah Good before the worshipfull Assts John Harthorn Jonathan Curren

(H.) Sarah Good what evil spirit have you familiarity with

(S G) none

(H) have you made no contract with the devil,

(g) good answered no

(H) why doe you hurt these children

(g) I doe not hurt them. I scorn it.

(H) who doe you imploy then to doe it

(g) no creature but I am falsely accused

(H) why did you go away muttering from mr Parris his house

(g) I did not mutter but I thanked him for what he gave my child

(H) have you made no contract with the devil

(g) no

(H) desired the children all of them to look upon her, and see, if this were the person that had hurt them and so they all did looke upon her and said this was one of the persons that did torment them-- presently they were all tormented.

(H) Sarah good doe you not see now what you have done why doe you not tell us the truth, why doe you thus torment these poor children

(g) I doe not torment them,

(H) who do you imploy then

(G) I imploy nobody I scorn it

(H) how came they thus tormented,

(g) what doe I know you bring others here and now you charge me with it

(H) why who was it.

(g) I doe not know but it was some you brought into the meeting house with you

(H) wee brought you into the meeting house

(g) But you brought in two more

(H) Who was it then that tormented the children

(g) it was osburn

(H) what is it that you say when you goe muttering away from persons houses

(g) if I must tell I will tell

(H) doe tell us then

(g) if I must tell I will tell, it is the commandments I may say my commandments I hope

(H) what commandment is it

(g) if I must tell you I will tell, it is a psalm

(H) what psalm

(g) after a long time shee muttered over some part of a psalm

(H) who doe you serve

(g) I serve god

(H) what god doe you serve

(g) the god that made heaven and earth

though shee was not willing to mention the word God her answers were in a very wicked, spitfull manner reflecting and retorting aganst the authority with base and abusive words and many lies shee was taken in.it was here said that her housband had said that he was afraid that shee either was a witch or would be one very quickly the worsh mr Harthon asked him his reason why he said so of her whether he had ever seen any thing by her he answered no not in this nature but it was her bad carriage to him and indeed said he I may say with tears that shee is an enemy to all good.

(Salem Village March the 1t 1691/2

Written by Ezekiell Chevers

Salem Village March the 1t 1691/2)