

REBECCA NURSE - DENIAL

- R I have none but old age
- M You do Know whether 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
- R It is all false I am clear
- M Possibly you may apprehend you are no witch, but have you not been led aside by temptations that way,
- R I have not
- M What a sad thing it is that a church member here & now an other of Salem, should be thus accused and charged
- N Mrs Pope fell into a greivous fit, & cryed out a sad thing sure enough: And then many more fell into lamentable fits.
- M Tell us have not you had visible appearances more than what is common in nature?
- R I have noe nor never had in my life
- M Do you think these suffer voluntary or involuntary
- R I cannot tell
- M That is strange every one can judge
- R I must be silent
- M They accuse you of hurting them, & if you think it is not unwillingly but by designe, you must look upon them as murderers
- R I cannot tell what to think of it
- N Afterwards when this was som what insisted on she said I do not think so: she did not understand aright what was said
- M Well then give an answer now, do you think these suffer against their wills or not
- R I do not think these suffer against their wills
- M Why did you never visit these afflicted persons
- R Because I was afraid I should have fits too
- N Note Upon the motion of her body fits followed upon the complainants abundantly & very frequently
- M Is it not an unaccountable case that when you are examined these persons are afflicted?
- R I have got no body to look to but God
- N Again upon stirring her hands the afflicted persons were seized with violent fits of torture
- M Do you believe these afflicted persons are bewitched
- R I do think they are

R = Rebecca Nurse
 M = Magistrate
 N = Narrator

FROM A PETITION ON NURSE'S BEHALF

with her and shee said shee blest god for it shee had more of his presents in this sickness then sometime shee have had but not see much as shee desired: but shee would with the Apostle pres forward to the mark: and many other places of scriptur to the Like purpos: and then of her owne Accord shee began to speak of the Affliction that was Amongst them and in perticular of Mr Parris his family and howe shee was greved for them though shee had not been to see them: by Reason of fits that shee formerly use to have for people said it was Awfull to: behold: but shee pittied them with: all her harte: and went to god for them: but shee said shee heard that there was persons spoke of that wear as Innocent as shee was shee belived and After much to this purpos: we told her we heard that shee was spoken of allsoe: well she said if it be soe the will of the Lord be done: she sate still awhile being as it wear Amazed: and then shee said well as to this thing I am Innocent as the child unborne but seurely shee said what sine hath god found out in me unrepented of that he should Lay such an Affliction upon me In my old Age: and According to our best observation we could not discern that shee knewe what we came for before we tould her

*Israel porter

*Elizabeth porter

To the substance

of what is Above we if cald

there too: are Ready to testifie

on: oath

*Daniell Andrew

*Peter Cloys

(Essex Institute MSS. Collection)

(John Putnam, Sr. and Rebecca Putnam for Rebecca Nurse)

the testimony of John putnam: sen and rebecke his wife saith that our son in law John Fuller: and our dauter rebecke Shepard did both of them by #[a most] (a most violent death and did acting vere strangely at the time of ther death) farder saith that wee did Judg then that thay both deead of a malignant fever and had no suspicion of wichcraft of aney nether Can wee acues the prisoner at the bar of any such thing