

English Coursework: The Crucible

Dear John,

Before you discard this letter in disgust, hear what I have to say. It may benefit you, and all those near you greatly. You have but one week to make up your mind about this matter and tell court that you did indeed sign in Lucifer's book. To spend your last days in a cell would not befit a man of your standing among the community. Help them see that the court is not here to harm them, but here to help them.

By showing me, if not the court, the powerful and undeniably accurate beliefs you have, you have made a marked change in me. I came to this town full of conviction and authority, thinking I "knew" about witches and was determined to pursue them with vigour. Yet, as I look upon those times, I realise that I have less sympathy for the way the witch-hunt has been conducted. I have discovered that my real sympathies lie with the accused and not with the accusers. Even tonight I have heard rumour that Abigail has decided to run away, showing only that she fear the judgement of the town. Only you, in your wisdom and with your unclouded judgement saw that sometimes even the best courts could be wrong. To mix religion and law has brought great grief upon this village, and only you can turn it around by staying alive and showing people that the whole trial is a joke dictated by a few girls and a silly sport that grew out of hand.

Consider your actions carefully as you will soon reap the consequences of them, be they good or bad. Saving face in this world pales in comparison to the lives that you may save by pursuing the goals you set out with. By being stubborn John, you destroy the only chance anyone has of showing the hysteria for what it is. Truth is the only way to heaven as is written in many a holy scripture. By repenting for something you did not do will be counteracted by saving others from the same fate.

The sins that you may have committed will be forgotten by virtue of your truthfulness. So please, when you speak to Danforth again, think of others including your wife and children, needless to say the village, and I daresay the whole of the business will come to an end.

Whether you ponder over my words, or contemplate your death. You will always be right in the eyes of our Lord and I.

I wish you Godspeed my friend, Hale