

The Trial of Ann Hutchinson

ANNE

Thank you, Governor Winthrop

WINTHROP

Mistress Hutchinson, with regard to our dispute, I'd like you to know that I—

ANNE

Excuse me, but when you use the term “dispute,”
I presume you mean our disagreement over my teachings

WINTHROP

That's precisely what I mean. Now, as to the specific nature of your teachings—

ANNE

(Interrupting again.) What would you like to know? I have nothing to hide.

WINTHROP

I am well aware that you claim to communicate with the Holy Spirit and that—

ANNE

May I ask how you've obtained such knowledge?

WINTHROP

I am your governor. It is my duty to know everything I can when one of my flock seeks to usurp my authority, especially when that person also happens to be both my neighbor *and* a woman. Still, I came here this evening hoping to find some way to end our dispute. Let us, therefore, set aside our preconceived notions of one another, difficult though that might be.

ANNE

I thank you for your kind words, good Sir, for it is my wish to reconcile as well. After all, the Almighty requires that we live in harmony, and I shall pledge to do my best in that regard.

WINTHROP

Splendid! I am extremely pleased to hear you say such a thing.

ANNE

I can assure you that my husband will be equally pleased.

WINTHROP

So will my clergy. They'll be overjoyed when you publicly recant your heretical teachings.

ANNE

But I never said a word about recanting any such thing. And I have no intention of doing so.

WINTHROP

Woman! Sit down and be silent! Can you not see I am here to help you? I can assure you that it

is Not in your best interest to go to take these matters to trial. (*Anne sits, reluctantly.*) Tell me, do You truly believe that *you*—a mere woman—can convince a jury of men that Almighty God has Somehow ordained a person of your sex to communicate directly with his Spirit?

ANNE

I do.

WINTHROP

On what basis?

ANNE

My faith and my faith alone