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History 221-02  
The Trial of Bridget Bishop Analysis

1. In both accounts as Bridget Bishop enters the courtroom the afflicted persons fall into fits again. Samuel Parris's account states 4-5 women, Elizabeth Hubbard, Mercy Lewis, Ann Putnum, and Abigail Williams, accuse her of 'hurting them'; whereas Ezikial Cheever's account only states two women, Mercy Lewis and Ann Putnum. Following the accusations in both she is asked how she pleads and claims her innocence stating she'd never seen them or been there before. The event where Jonathen (and Mary) Wilcot states that he'd cut a slit in her apparition's coat the night before, and them checking Bishop and finding the cut in her coat, happened in both accounts.

Here the accounts differ as in Parris's account, she was then questioned about her first husband's death and in Cheever's account goes on to the charges Ann had made against her. Afterwards the afflicted people are afflicted again. In both accounts she denies having a contract with the devil. In Cheever's account Mary Lewis gives testimony to her having a contract with the devil. She claims her innocence in both accounts again, and then Cheever's account ends. In Parris's account it continues, stating that the afflicted people become afflicted again and Bishop claims she didn't know the afflicted had also claimed to be witches but Hathorne and Corwin said they told her and 'proved' her a liar to the court. Paris ends his account with the Hathorne asking Bishop if she cares that the girls are afflicted and she says no.

Bishop was treated as guilty from the moment she entered the room. The atmosphere of the court was hostile and the questions Hathorne and Crowin asked her were phrased in a way that she had to prove her innocence rather than the accusers having to prove her guilty.

2. The evidence presented in court is a physical examination done by Capt. George Corwine of Bridget Bishop, Rebecah Nurse, Elizabeth Procter, Alice Parker, Susanna Martine, and Sara Good. In the examination it is found that Bishop, Nurse, and Procter have growths, 'much like to Tetts' between their anuses and vaginas that is abnormal in women.
3. In the Blys testimony Bishop is accused of bewitching a sow her husband and her had sold to their neighbors the Blys. The Blys suspect witchcraft due to Bishop being upset about the deal made as she had gone through the Lt. instead of giving her the money directly, and then several months later after the sow had given birth it began to have strange fits and at one point broke out of its pen and ran toward the Bishop's house.

4. Bishop is ultimately found guilty of “Witchcraft in and upon the bodyes of Abigail Williams, Ann Putnum, Mercy Lewis, Mary Walcott, and Elizabeth Hubbard.” All the evidence used against Bishop is circumstantial as no one can prove any of this happened and the claims being made are even kinda dumb because none of them even claim her ever being physically there. Based on the previous four documents, it is shown that the people being tried for witchcraft had to prove their innocence more than the people accusing them had to prove the defendant's guilt, and that if someone claimed another had done witchcraft against them, and the person they were accusing was an outsider, then that's all the court needed to execute them.