Drama

Fourth year- the second semester

The 6th lecture: د.ليلى باطوق

* Identify the speaker, characters spoken to and characters spoken about:

-(I have heard it said, and I tell you as I heard it, that she comes so rarely to the church this year for she will not sit so close to something soiled. What signified that remark?)

The speaker is Parris. The character that is spoken to is Abigail. The character that is spoken about is Elizabeth.

- They want slaves, not such as I. Let them send to Barbados for that. I will not black my face for any of them!

Abigail is talking to Parris. When he asked her is it you that they have fired you because of something serious and so and then he continues I am wondering why the whole families in the village are not asking you as a servant, she answered that all people want slaves but I am not like that.

When we say what is the context or what is the situation what is the significance of this? Usually when you know the situation, we know what the quotation is talking about. If I give you this quotation and I ask you to write the context, it means the situation of this quotation. You will say the speaker is this and the character spoken to is that and they are talking about whatever the Proctors of the Villagers. When her uncle asks her about why she was not hired for seven month, this is the situation. And she said to him I was not hired for seven month because all people want slaves.

* Mention two features of Puritan life.

They are strictly religious and they do not allow any kind of entertainment. They treat children as adults that they do not have enjoyment or entertainment. They are strict even with children. They are very close to themselves; no one knows their matters and within their families. So, they are very conservative. They are extremely religious. Religious men are God representative on earth. They call for great respect for religious people and they consider them as representative of God on earth.

* Match the characters.

- Her condition makes the villagers believe that witchcraft afoot in Salem. (Betty)

-Cannot forgive her husband for his infidelity. (Elizabeth)

-She has seven dead children. (Ann Putnam)

A sweet old lady who believes the children are just playing games. (Rebecca).

- He is greedy and obsessed with his reputation (Parris).

-Slave from Barbados. (Tituba).

* Explain and comment.

It means that your answer should be in the form of assay. The introduction should be the context and the content should be the explanation and the comment together. So, you have more than one paragraph in your essay.

Let us continue with act two.

The end of act two is a very important ending because the relationship to **McCarthyism** is really very clear at the end of act two related to the idea of accusing people, evidence, having proofs or not having proofs. So, the relation of the play to the theme of McCarthyism is very evident here.

Last time we start at page 70.

When Hale was talking or negotiating with the Proctors, other characters entered like GilesCorey and Francis Nurse. They came and they were worried and they were telling about new things that happen in the village. What did they tell the Proctors and the others? Their wives have been arrested. For what accusations were they arrested? All arrests that are taking place are related to witchcraft but some people have specific crimes that they have been arrested for. One accusation is reading books but again it was not really reading books, it was related to reading book. The husband says that I never mentioned that my wife practiced witchcraft. I just said that she spent most of the time reading books.

There is a specific accusation that was related really to reading books.

P72: (Giles: That bloody mongrel Walcott charge her.)

**Martha** was accused by Walcott.

(Y’see, he buy a pig of my wife four or five year ago, and the pig died soon after. So he come dancin’ in for his money back. So my Martha, she says to him, “Walcott, if you haven’t the wit to feed a pig properly, you’ll not live to own many,”)

Walcott bought a pig from Martha but the animal died after four weeks and then he came back to her and he asked her for his money back. Because the pig I bought from you is dead, I want my money back. She refused to give him the money back and she told him that if you do not know how to feed a pig, it means that you will not have many of them because whenever you have a pig, it will die. If she said that, what does it mean?

(she says. Now he goes to court and claims that from that day to this he cannot keep a pig alive for more than four weeks because my Martha bewitch them with her books!)

His accusation is that since that time she has bewitched him with her books. She is always holding a book and reading. So, they are twisting events now. They are saying that since she reads a lot, these are books of magic that she is reading, so she uses the skill of magic as Walcott says to bewitch him so that he will not have alive pig forever. All his pigs will die because of the magic that she has spelled on him before. She is a person who read lots of magical books according to the accusation now. Her husband says, yes I said that she reads books but she only reads them for entertainment. We know that according to the puritan life, reading books for entertainment was not allowed. Even reading books was a crime at that time. So, the specific accusation against her is that she bewitched this Mr. Walcott who could not have pigs.

We said the on page 70 we see two characters coming to the setting. We have GilesCorey and then Francis Nurse. Giles comes and says that his wife is arrested and now we know why she was arrested; we know the accusation against her. That quotation we have just read specifies the accusation.

Go back to page 71. There is an important quotation.

(Hale, pleading: Nurse, though our hearts break, we cannot flinch; these are new times, sir.)

When these people are worried that their wives are arrested or accused, Hale is trying to comfort them and saying do not worry; if somebody is innocent, surely the court will reveal that. The court is a just one and it will rebel that. And he says though our hearts break, we cannot flinch. Although we all sympathize with you and our hearts are broken by your situation, but we cannot flinch; we cannot resist the situation now. Nurse = Francis Nurse is the husband of Rebecca. Also he comes and says that Rebecca has been arrested. Everybody is shocked. Rebecca is known as a nice lady and everybody respect her and likes her. Hale here is sympathizing with these two husbands and says our hearts break with you; we sympathize with you, but we cannot do anything. We cannot resist the law now).These are new times). The village is undergoing new thing that is very serious that nobody can interfere with.

(There is a misty plot afoot so subtle we should be criminal to cling to old respects and ancient friendships.)

In this situation, nobody can sympathize with the other and side with the other. It is a serious situation. All of us should forget our relatives and friends. Friendship has no time now. You are my friend and I am so much trust you but in the situation like this I cannot come and go to the law and say that I am very sure of this person, do not arrest him.

(I have seen too many frightful proofs in court)

He says actually the court has many evidences that are frightful.

(the Devil is alive in Salem,)

He assures them that there are evidences and proofs that there is witchcraft in Salem.

(and we dare not quail to follow wherever the accusing finger points!)

He says that anybody accuses a person, we will just follow that until the court proves it is not wrong or correct.

(Hale, turns from Francis, deeply troubled, then: Believe me, Mr. Nurse, if Rebecca Nurse be tainted, then nothing’s left to stop the whole green world from burning. Let you rest upon the justice of the court; the court will send her home, I know it.)

He believes in the justice of court. This is very ironical here. He says to him do not worry, the law/ the court is just; if there is no evidence against any of the accused person, they will come back home.

This is very ironic. This is exactly what happened during McCarthyism accusation that people were promised that the court is just; if there is no evidence or proof against the person, the person will be free while actually this did not occurred. Even if the evidence was weak, it would be considered as evidence against the person.

Now another person comes. **Ezekiel Cheever** comes and then a marshal **Herrick** also comes. Who is going to be accused now? Now a new accusation is pointed at Elizabeth.

Page 72:

Giles (Martha’s husband) is very angry now. When this person comes with new accusation, he says to him go to hell, you will be burnt in hell fro you hasty accusations and arresting people without evidence. He tells his that this is the law and he has to respect the law. And he says why he is coming that he is coming to arrest Elizabeth now. What is the accusation against Elizabeth? What is the first question that they ask the Proctors about? >>> Is she has a dull or a puppet?

Did she say that she has a puppet or a dull? No, she forgot because she has just been given that dull by her servant. They see the dull on the chair. When the dull is seen, immediately it is taken by Cheever as evidence. You are saying that you do not have a dull but this is a dull? Whose dull is this? She says that it is not hers and that it was given to her by her servant. Why were Cheever and Herrick so serious about the dull, especially when they saw something in the dull?

If you read age 73 and 74, it is all about the needle and the significance of the needle. They find a needle. Everybody is asking what the significance of the needle is.

(Hale: What signifies a poppet, Mr. Cheever?)

He says what is the importance of a puppet?

(Cheever: Why - He draws out a long needle from the poppet - it is a needle!

Cheever, his hands shaking: Why, this go hard with her, Proc-tor, this - I had my doubts, Proctor, I had my doubts, but here’s' calamity. To Hale, showing the needle: You see it, sir, it is a needle!)

He says I was suspicious at the beginning. I did not believe the accusation against her but now when I see the needle, I am very sure and it is very drastic evidence against her.

The accusation is that Elizabeth is trying to kill Abigail through witchcraft. She has a dull and if she tries to kill that dull by stabbing the dull with anything, at the same time, Abigail will be stabbed. This is related to witchcraft. So, they are explaining to them now what the significance of that puppet is, what is the significance of the needle is and what the accusation is behind that.

At the bottom of page 74:

Cheever saw the needle it that position and he was trembling and his eyes opened. It is a sign of shocking and terrifying surprise.

(Cheever, wide-eyed, trembling: The girl, the Williams girl, Abi-gail Williams, sir. She sat to dinner in Reverend Parris’s house tonight, and without word nor warnin’ she falls to the floor. Like a struck beast, he says, and screamed a scream that a bull would weep to hear.)

So, she was sitting at the table and dining and suddenly she screamed and she fell.

(And he goes to save her, and, stuck two inches in the flesh of her belly, he draw a needle out.)

He found a needle in her belly or in her stomach.

(And demandin’ of her how she come to be so stabbed, she - to Proctor now - testify it -were your wife’s familiar spirit pushed it in.)

The magic of your wife pushed the needle in her belly. She is directly accusing Elizabeth of killing her by her witchcraft.

Page 75: (Cheever: ’Tis hard proof! To Hale: I find here a poppet Goody Proctor keeps. I have found it, sir. And in the belly of the poppet a needle’s stuck. I tell you true, Proctor, I never warranted to see such proof of Hell, and I bid you obstruct me not, for I -)

From his point of view, this is a real proof against her. From our point of view as readers, it is not a real proof; it is a false proof. You will see in the play the idea of false and true. This topic of false and true is very important in the play. Even during McCarthyism accusation, from some people’s points of view, these are pure evidence, clear evidence and very strong evidence against people, but from others’ points of view, they are not; they can be interpreted in other ways. Here of course there is something hidden. It is not true evidence, while the point of view of Cheever and the investigators it is true. So, the idea of false or true whether it is true or false is much repeated in the play.

Elizabeth Proctor and her husband are trying to explain that the puppet in the beginning is not theirs and that they have just seen it today. They said ask Mary Warren the servant. She is the one who brought it. They were sure that they can easily prove it but unfortunately they were not able to do that because Mary Warren was not helping them.

If you have read the act, what do you think of Mary Warren?

A student: she is coward. He has week personality.

The doctor: do you think that she has a deal or an agreement to do that? She did not know about that. She was deceived by Abigail. You remember the description of Abigail from the beginning. From the beginning of the play, although she was described as beautiful but at the same time she was very witty and clever and she was using her skill to deceive everybody. Here if you read the dialogue, you will notice that she was really deceived. She was coward because she was the person who will rescue them and inside herself she knows that this was by Abigail but she would not admit it. She was afraid of Abigail. How did you know that she was afraid of her? Abigail is threatening the girls that she will use her skill of witchcraft to destroy them all. How does Hale appear here? He was sympathetic with Proctors and it seems that he believes what Mrs. Proctor (Elizabeth) says.

Page 76: (Hale, watching Mary Warren closely: Child, you are certain this be your natural memory? May it be, perhaps, that someone conjures you even now to say this?)

Are you remembering well what happened?! Or is it that somebody is conjuring you/ bewitching you now to say something different (to say the thing that you mention now)?

(Mary Warren: Conjures me? Why, no, sir, I am entirely my-self, I think. Let you ask Susanna Walcott - she saw me sewin’ it in court. Or better still: Ask Abby, Abby sat beside me when I made it.)

When she said this, the Proctors now are sure that it is Abigail who is really behind the accusation. She just mentioned her name as a witness that she made it during her sitting in the court but this has made it clear for the Proctors that it is Abigail who has planned for this accusation. Hale wants to believe and help them but of course he will not do that because Abigail’s uncle is Parris and he is the minister of the village.

When Elizabeth heard that Abigail is a witness, her breath is knocked out.

(Elizabeth, her breath knocked out: Why - ! The girl is mur-der! She must be ripped out of the world!)

She is talking about Abigail. She understands that Abigail is a real danger that she should be ripped out of the world. Ripped out of the world>> means to be killed. She should be cut out of the world. We should free the world from her. She was not wise when she said that. This is going to be taken as an accusation against her. When Cheever heard her said listen! He took it as an accusation that it seems that she really intends to kill her. She is proving this. She says that she should be cut out of the world which means she should be kill/ she should die.

Page 77: ( Proctor: If she is innocent! Why do you never wonder if Parris be innocent, or Abigail?)

As I said although Hale is sympathetic with them but it seems that he would not side with them. Proctor here is angry at him. You are saying if she is innocent. You do not believe that she (Elizabeth) is innocent. Are you still suspicious if she is innocent or not?! Why are you suspecting her innocence while you are not suspecting the innocence of Parris or his niece Abigail? You are not suspecting them and you are just suspecting my wife although it is very clear in front of you!

(Is the accuser always holy now?)

Is it that whoever accuses anybody will be considered as innocent and holy and nobody has to ask him about anything?! The accuser here is Abigail.

(Were they born this morning as clean as God’s fingers?)

Are these two people very holy that they were born today so that they do not have any sins?!

(I’ll tell you what’s walking Salem - vengeance is walking Salem.)

I will tell you what is happening really now in this village. It is vengeance/ it is revenge. Everybody is seeking revenge that is why we are seeing this mysterious happening.

(We are what we always were in Salem, but now the little crazy children are jangling the keys of the kingdom, and common vengeance writes the law!)

Now we are following the accusations of these little girls. We are following what they are saying.

(This warrant’s vengeance! I’ll not give my wife to vengeance!)

I will defend my wife and I will not let you take her and accuse her of such things which are very clear.

Page 78: Now Cheever wanted to arrest Elizabeth now and he wants to chain her as a criminal and her husband is refusing that.

(There are other men's voices against his. Hale, in a fever of guilt and uncertainty, turns from the door to avoid the sight; Mary Warren bursts into tears and sits weeping. Giles Corey calls to Hale.)

When they saw Elizabeth when she was chained by Cheever and she was taken away from her house, the site was very sad and frightening. Hale was feeling guilty. He sympathizes with them but he cannot do anything with them. He was feeling guilty because he was not certain of all these things. He was not very sure that Elizabeth was guilty (he says that **if** she were guilty). He was not sure that she was guilty but he will allow Cheever to take her and to arrest her. Even Mary Warren the servant was not happy for the arrest of her mistress. She was weeping and crying.

It is very clear that Proctor is angry from Hale. He is not listening to him. Hale is feeling guilty of the situation and he is trying to calm him down but Proctor would not listen to him.

(Hale: Charity, Proctor, charity.)

Why are you angry from me? Have charity on me. I am not guilty.

(What I have heard in her favor, I will not fear to testify in court. God help me, I cannot judge her guilty or innocent - I know not.)

He says believe me. I am not sure whether she is guilty or innocent. Whatever good things I can say about her and of her, I will say in court. I will not fear it; I will be very courageous and I will say whatever I believe good in your wife. He says I cannot judge her guilty or innocent. Until now I am not sure whether she is innocent or guilty. I know not = I do not know that.

(Only this consider: the world goes mad, and it profit nothing you should lay the cause to the vengeance of a little girl.)

He is trying to comfort him. Although everything is going mad here but you should not blame everything on that little girl (Abigail). He is not sure whether Abigail is guilty or whether Elizabeth is guilty.

(Proctor: You are a coward! Though you be ordained in God’s own tears, you are a coward now!)

Proctor believes that Hale is a coward because he is afraid to side against Parris and he niece. Hale answers him again by talking about the court and how they have great judges.

At the end of the act, Proctor turns back to Mary Warren and he is trying to convince her to go and confess against Abigail. It is very clear that she is scared from Abigail.

Page 80: (Proctor: My wife will never die for me! I will bring your guts into your mouth but that goodness will not die for me!)

What does he think of his wife? He thinks of her as a perfect wife. His wife in his opinion is that of goodness. She is very good and he will not allow anybody to spoil her reputation in this way. He says my wife will never die for me. He believes that Abigail is doing that in order to get revenge from Elizabeth.

It would be a shock even for Abigail herself that Proctor thinks that his wife is so good that he would sacrifice his own reputation in order to save her. Was it a good decision? No, it was again twisted like the other evidence against him and he will be considered as criminal. So, the act ends with that.

Look at page 81: The curtain falls, but what is the comment that is written?

It seems that there was scene two to this act here but the playwright decided to cut it after the first publication. The setting of that scene was in the forest.

(\*Act II, Scene 2, which appeared in the original production, was dropped by the author from the published reading version, the Collected Plays, and all Compass editions prior to 1971. It has not been included in most prodluctions subsequent to the revival at New York’s Martinique Theatre in • 1958 and was dropped by Sir Laurence Olivier in his London production in 1965. it is included here as an appendix on page 148.)

If you want to know the events that would place in scene two that dropped from the original text, you can find it on page 148 at the end of this edition.

It is in the forest. Abigail meets Proctor and she was happy that his wife is going to die and she is going to be his new wife but she was shocked and he tells her about everything. Immediately she will reverse the situation and she will use it against him.