

The Crucible
Audition
Reverend John Hale

HALE. (To *Elizabeth*.) Let you not mistake your duty as I mistook my own. I came into this village like a bridegroom to his beloved; bearing gifts of high religion, the very crowns of holy law I brought, and what I touched with my bright confidence, it died; and where I turned the eye of my great faith, blood flowed up. Beware, *Goody Proctor*-cleave to no faith when faith brings blood. It is mistaken law that leads you to sacrifice. (*She looks at him then front*) Life, woman, life is God's most precious gift; no principle however glorious may justify the taking of it. I beg you, woman-prevail upon your husband to confess. Let him give his lie. Quail not before God's judgment in this, for it may well be God damns a liar less than he that throws his life away for pride. Will you plead with him? I cannot think he will listen to another

ELIZABETH. (Quietly. With *loathing*.) I think that be the Devil's argument.

HALE. Woman, before the laws of God we are as swine. We cannot read His will.

ELIZABETH. (*Sincerely-simply*.) I cannot dispute with you, sir, I lack learning for it.