Drama

Fourth year- the second semester

The 8th lecture: د.ليلى باطوق

Let us try to finish act four. What was act four about? What is the setting and what was taking place? What are the events that happen in act four? These are the simplest questions that you could be asked; it is about the events/ the development of action of the play. If you know the development of action, you will be able to answer the critical questions or analysis of the play but if you do not know what has happened, it will be very difficult for you to analyze and answer the questions in the play. The setting is in Salem jail/ it is in the prison. One of the important incidents in act four is the attempt to postpone the persecution of the prisoners. Why did they want to postpone the execution of them? What was the real reason behind their attempt to postpone it? Paris wants to keep his position. How will he be able to keep his position by postponing the execution of the prisoners? What is the relation here? Paris wants to postpone the execution because he wanted to save his life/ because he was threatened. How will this save his life for what? For one day/ one week/ one month?!! Threat is going to take place again. So, what is the relationship again? What is the real cause for postponing the execution? What did he want to do in order to save his life? The whole act revolves around confession. From the beginning of act four, we see that the action is going towards tempting the prisoners to confess their guilt that they are witches/ that they have been dealing with the devil/ that they have been practicing witchcraft on some people in Salem. So, the whole action in act four is about confession (The attempts of Hale and Paris precisely to make the prisoners confess their guilt or their sin of witchcraft). Why is this confession important? Who are the people who are trying to make the prisoners confess? It is Hale and Parris. The judge did not know about that and when he came he was angry that why Hale is inside the prison and what he is doing with the prisoners. So, it is these two characters.

Now what is the reason behind tempting the prisoners to confess? There are different reasons related to different characters. You say that if Proctor does not confess, this will cause trouble because the other prisoners were executed. He is a prisoner/ he is guilty/ he will be killed and that’s it. What is the problem here? Do not look at the things from the surface. Try to think deeply of the causes. When you talk about reasons and causes, you have to differentiate between the characters. There are different reasons. For Hale, for example, his reason is real human. He is sympathetic with Proctor/ he loves Proctor/ he respects Proctor, Rebecca and the others and he really does not want them to be hanged for something that he is very sure that they did not commit. Hale believes them and he believes that everything was caused by Abigail. He was almost sure of that. He really wanted them to confess to save their lives. This is his cause. He wanted Proctor to live. It was a deal between him and the court that if he admits, his life is going to be saved but he refuses to do that. He appears as a tragic hero that he does not accept guilt that he would save life forever. So, Hale’s cause is to save their lives because he was sure that they were innocent.

He is very selfish. It is based on self-interest. It was not because he loves those people and he did not want them to be killed although he had an insight that they might be innocent. He almost knows but as you are saying that he does not want the people to rebel against the court because one of the causes that have been mentioned is that Proctor and Rebecca are well-loved by the people and people now will not endure it anymore and they might rebel because some incidents of rebellion have taken place in other cities or in other towns. So, they were afraid that they might rebel. Did they have evidence that people might rebel? The threats that Paris has been receiving>> These are signs that people might rebel. If people rebel, it means they will rebel against the church which was the authority of the town. Why is Parris so keen that Rebecca and Proctor in particular that they confess? They want Rebecca and Proctor in particular to confess because they are well-loved and well-respected by people, so if they confess that they are guilty, there image is going to be broken in front of the people and the people will say that it is fair. If they think of the other criminals who die, they will say it was fair. It means that the court was fair and just and they were killed for a reason because if Proctor and Rebecca are guilty, it means even those people who were executed were also guilty. So, they do not have anything to rebel against. But if they do not confess and they are killed, there might be rebellion but if they confess, this is going to be a strong reason for the people to remain respecting and responding to the church as well as to the authority/ the court and all these judges in Salem.

What is difference in the techniques of confession or in the court’s means of confession in act four? They insisted that Proctor signs a written paper that he is sinful of witchcraft. Why did they insist on that? What will be the use of that for them? How will they convince people? They intended to hang the written confession on the church because sometimes people would say that he confesses and people might not believe but when they see the signature that would have a great advantage for them. So, they insisted on doing that. Proctor refused that. At the beginning he agreed. At the beginning he was hesitant to confess but at the end he felt desperate/ he saw the situation that his children his children are without parents because his wife also was in jail; she was not yet pardoned by the court. He thought of many things and he almost confessed and he signed the paper. But with the insistence of Parris to get the paper of him, something was awakened in himself. So, he refused to get the paper which was signed and he takes it and tears it apart and because it was not that they were happy or satisfied with his confession, they wanted something else from him. What was that? He now confessed of witchcraft. He confessed and he signed but why did he change his mind? They insisted on other things. They insisted that he also confesses that Rebecca and the other prisoners have also practiced witchcraft and he kept saying to them that I confess all my guilt/ all my sin and I do not know about the others and they kept pressing him that you should confess and give names of others who are associated with the devil but he refused and he realized that signing this confession might be a threat for his friends. Not only a threat, it was like a betrayal; he betrayed them because until now they did not confess. And when he met Rebecca it is as if she was blaming him indirectly that why did you confess>>> if you confess, it is as if you are condemning us (Rebecca and the others). So, he realized that this confession is really like a confession on his friends and he felt ashamed of himself that he has confessed while his friends are still persistent and still enduring and did not confesses. When he met Rebecca, again this helped in awakening his conscience and awakening his power inside him not to confess and it gave him the power to tear the confession apart.

**Page 135:**

His conversation with his wife is very significant in awakening his conscience. When he asked her about his friends, she told him about those who have died and those who are still in prison and what their situation is. He asked about Giles and she told him that he was dead. He thought that he was hanged but she says:

(Elizabeth, quietly, factually: He were not hanged. He would not answer aye or nay to his indictment;)

He refused to confess she says to him.

(for if he denied the charge they’d hang him surely, and auction out his property.)

As a rule, if somebody does not confess and he is hanged, his property is going to be taken. It will not be left for his family/ for his relatives.

(So he stand mute, and died Christian under the law. And so his sons will have his farm. It is the law, for he could not be con-demned a wizard without he answer the indictment, aye or nay.)

When she continues telling him about how he died in a heroic way under attempt of making him confess, again this awakens his conscience.

(Elizabeth: Great stones they lay upon his chest until he plead aye or nay.)

They kept putting stones on his body to press him to confess.

(With a tender smile for the old man: They say he give them but two words. “More weight,” he says.)

When they were obliging him to confess and putting stones, he would not confess. He just kept saying to them put more weight.... I am ready to have more weight. He died insisting on not confessing of something that he did not do.

It is said that trials of witchcraft were very severe and very cruel. Actually here Arthur Miller is like representing these means of questioning people in witch trials to reflect the severe trials that took place at the time of McCarthyism in America in the 50s of the age.

Why did they let Elizabeth to meet her husband? Is it to give him a goodbye moment? They let Elizabeth to meet her husband to make him confess/ to press on him to confess.

You can read page 138 and 139. Now he is confessing and he is signing the confession and he see how they are happy for that. All this is on these two pages. And again if you read page 140, you will see how he refuses to give them more names.

**Page 141**:

(Danforth: Look you, sir. I think you mistake your duty here. It matters nothing what she thought - she is convicted of the unnatural murder of children, and you for sending your spirit out upon Mary Warren.)

Who are they talking about? They are talking about Rebecca that she has killed the children of the Putnam’s family. This is her sin that she has killed the children by using witchcraft.

(Your soul alone is the issue here, Mister, and you will prove its whiteness or you cannot live in a Christian country.)

You have to prove that you are not guilty otherwise you will not be allowed to live in this Christian religious country.

(Will you tell me now what persons conspired with you in the Devil’s company?)

You have to tell us now what the sins of these other prisoners are.

**Page 142**:

(Proctor: You will not use me! I am no Sarah Good or Tituba, I am John Proctor! You will not use me! It is no part of salva-tion that you should use me!)

What kind of use is he talking about here? How are they going to use him? They have something related to him. >>> He is talking about the written confession because they said that they are going to hang it on the door of the church. If they hang it, it means what? If the respected Proctor is sinful and he has confessed that, it means that the trials and the judges were just/ that everything was correct/ that people were killed because of a cause/ that there is no reason for people to rebel. He does not want to allow them to have good reputation through his confession.

(You will not use me! It is no part of salva-tion that you should use me!) >>>> What does he mean by salvation? Salvation is related to salvation of soul. What do the Christians believe in? What was the deal between the court and him? How did they convince him that if you confess, your soul is going to be purified and saved? Now he is saying to them that I have already confessed. If you care about my salvation, I have been purified and salvation has been achieved through my confession. Writing the confession is not part of the salvation. If you confess orally, it means that you have confessed. It is not part of salvation. It does not mean that if I do not write it, it means that I am not going to be saved or my soul is not going to be purified. He knows now that it is not that they want to purify his soul as a pure Christian.

**Page 142**: here the situation is still about the written confession. He signed but he refused to give them the paper. He knew that they wanted to hang it on the church. Danforth the judge here is trying to have the paper. When Danforth says to Proctor why you do not want us to take the paper, he says because it is my name.

(Proctor, with a cry of his whole soul: Because it is my name! Because I cannot have another in my life!)

It is his name/ it is his reputation. If it is known that he is the servant of the devil, people will have that forever; it is going to be linked with his name forever. He will have the name once in his life.

(Because I lie and sign myself to lies!)

He says to him I refuse to give you because when I signed and I confessed, I was lying; it was not a real confession. I confessed but I was really lying and I do not want to pursue in that lying. Because I am not worth the dust on the feet of them that hang! >>> because once his confession is hanged, the other prisoners who did not confess are going to be killed. He is saved but the expense is killing other people. So, he says my life is not worth the sand that is beneath the people who are going to be killed/ the prisoners that did not confess.

(How may I live without my name?)

I am going to be saved and you are not going to hang me but how will I be able to live?! I do not have a name. Inside himself he knows that he is guilty of confessing of something that caused the killing of his friends. He will live with guilt. He will not be able to live because he will disrespect himself for not being a real man and for being a betrayer of his friends.

(I have given you my soul; leave me my name!)

If I have confessed orally and if it is said that you have given my soul salvation, that is enough, but give me my name. Do not force me to give names of others and do not force me to be a betrayer by hanging my confession which will be like evidence against my friends. In this way, he will not be able to live with a false name because he will disrespect himself forever.

Now how does Danforth respond to that? Danforth feels that there is no chance to give that paper for him, so he says to him is that document a lie?

(Danforth, pointing at the confession in Proctor’s hand: Is that document a lie? If it is a lie I will not accept it! What say you? )

Is that confession a lie? You are saying it is not a lie, it is not accepted. And I will consider you a liar and you are going to be executed for being a liar in the court.

So, Proctor does not give him the chance because he knows that they are going to kill him, so he takes the paper and tears it.

**Page 144**: (I will not deal in lies, Mister! Proctor is motionless. You will give me your honest confession in my hand, or I cannot keep you from the rope. Proctor does not reply. Which way do you go, Mister?)

Either you give me that written confession or I am not going to save your life and I am not going to be able to keep you from the rope (he means from hanging).

(His breast heaving, his eyes staring, Proctor tears the paper and crumples it, and he is weeping in fury, but erect.)

Danforth really wanted that confession but Proctor tears the paper and crumples it.

Now when Hale looked at him tearing the paper wanted to prevent him and he told him that what are you doing? You are going to be hanged for that.

(Proctor, his eyes fully of tears: I can.)

Danforth told him you cannot tear it because you are going to be hanged. Proctor says I can tear it and I am ready to be hanged.

(And there’s your first marvel, that I can.) >>>>This is the first proof that I can.

(You have made your magic now, for now I do think I see some shred of goodness in John Proctor.)

He says it is only now that I respect myself. Only now I feel that there is something good in myself/ in Proctor the new man.

(Not enough to weave a banner with, but white enough to keep it from such dogs.)

He is not afraid anymore of the judge and the other. He is not afraid of death as he was previously.

(Elizabeth, in a burst of terror, rushes to him and weeps against his hand. Give them no tear! Tears pleasure them!)

He is addressing his wife here. He is telling his wife do not cry because these tears in your eyes give them pleasure. They will feel happy that they have avenged me.

(Show honor now, show a stony heart and sink them with it!) >>>>Be strong as I am because in this way they are going to sink.

(He has lifted her, and kisses her now with great passion.)

He feels that he has really purified himself and his good name as it used to be before.

Now Danforth’s gone and he is not going to try anymore but Paris who is really desperate to have that confession still insist. He looks at Hale and Elizabeth saying to them that go after him, plead with and let him confess.

**Page 145**: Hale insists that he confesses but of course we know that he is doing it not out of self-interest as Paris but out of real sympathy and out of love.

(Hale: Woman, plead with him! He starts to rush out the door, and then goes back to her. Woman! It is pride, it is vanity.)

He begs her to go back to her husband and to let him confess. He said to her what he is doing is out of pride and out of vanity.

(She avoids his eyes, and moves to the window.)

She does not want him to influence her. Although she is sad for her husband but it seems that she is proud of her husband for what he has done.

(He drops to his knees. Be his helper! -) >>>>He said to his wife you can help him.

(What profit him to bleed? Shall the dust praise him? Shall the worms declare his truth? Go to him, take his shame away!)

What will he gain if he will be hanged? There is no profit out of that. He will be buried and what will he gain out of that! When he is killed, is he going to be purified when the worms in the tomb eat his body? Go to him and convince him that it is not a shame that he confesses and that he deserves to save himself and his life.

(Elizabeth, supporting herself against collapse, grips the bars. of the window, and with a cry: He have his goodness now. God forbid I take it from him!)

She was almost collapsed. She was trying to stand up. She says>> (He have his goodness now. God forbid I take it from him!).

She is convinced that what her husband did is the right thing. So, she is thinking the same way as he is that by not confessing and by not accepting the dirty deal, he really saves his reputation/ he really regains his respectful name. Now he has regained his good name and reputation back. (God forbid I take it from him!) >>I cannot take away that good reputation from him. She praises God that does not make her take away that good reputation from him.

(The Curtain Falls)

It is tragic incident but for Proctor himself it was better than his previous situation when he almost had a hope to be alive.

Miller ends his play with a conclusion telling us what has happened later on.

**Page 146**:

Not long after the fever died, Parris was voted from office,) >>>>He lost his job.

(walked out on the highroad, and was never heard of again.)>>>He disappeared from Salem.

So he is telling us what has happened to the other characters in the play. Parris was voted/ dismissed from his office and he disappeared from the town.

(The legend has it that Abigail turned up later as a prostitute in Boston.)

We know that Abigail ran away stealing the money of her uncle. The new thing is that she lost all the money that she has stolen. She does not have a job and she ended as a prostitute in the town of Boston.

(Twenty years after the last execution, the government awarded compensation to the victims still living, and to the families of the dead,)

After twenty years, it was very clear that those who were hanged and executed were really victims; they were innocent, and the government compensated them like purified their names. They were already executed but their related were alive. So, the government awarded compensation to the victims still living and to the families of the dead.

However, it is evident that some people still were unwilling to admit their total guilt, and also that the factionalism was still alive, for some beneficiaries were actually not victims at all, but informers.

Some of them were not victims but they just gave names of other people.

Elizabeth Proctor married again, four years after Proctor’s death.

We know that Elizabeth was not hanged and she married after four years of the death of her husband.

(In solemn meeting, the congregation rescinded the excommunica-tions - this in March 1712. But they did so upon orders of the government. The jury, however, wrote a statement praying forgive-ness of all who had suffered.)

So, apologies were given by the authority.

(Certain farms which had belonged to the victims were left to ruin, and for more than a century no one would buy them or live on them.)

As it has been mentioned before in act four the farms of the people were ruined because the people were not working on them. They were busy, going to the court and going to prison visiting their relatives, so they neglected their farms that have remained for long time without real harvest.

(To all intents and purposes, the power of theocracy in Massachu-setts was broken.)

At the end, theocracy of the town was broken. It means the authority was not in the hands of the church anymore and the situations became better.

As you see development of action is not enough. You have to know what is behind the action of the play. The development of action is very important and what is behind the action/ the hidden motives behind action are very important in analyzing the development of the action in the play.

What are the important issues in the play? Do you know what the significant ideas in the play are? McCarthyism >>> this is one important issue. It has a relationship to the act of accusation/ the act of examiners in trials. Is there confidence among the parties of the examiner and the examined? No. This is the most important thing and this is how Arthur Miller makes use of the witch trials that took place in Salem in the 17th century as if it were a symbol for a reflection of what was happening during his life in America in 1950s. It is something that happened long time ago and this is how he makes use of it to reflect the situation that happened to him in particular during his life in America.

What is the common thing between the witch trials and McCarthyism? >>> accusing people without having evidence. A person is being accused as if this is evidence against him without having real proof against him. And what is more important is that to prove that you are loyal and you are innocent, you have to give names of guilty people/ you have to accuse people. This almost happened during McCarthyism and during witch trials.

During the witch trials, they were afraid of devils and witchcraft. During of McCarthyism, they were afraid of communism. You know the Communist people who were helping Russia against the Democratic and so. Every time they were afraid of something. Nowadays the fear is against the Islam (Islamophobia). The term that they always use is terrorism. Now it is the idea of terrorism whether it is related to Islam or any other. Since 9/11 (**September 11th)** until now, it is the idea of terrorism and whenever there is a terrorist attack, people are being caught everywhere, they have been accused without evidence and once a person is accused, he might be persecuted or he might be punished out of the country without a real evidence. What is their justification? Since there is a threat for the community, we do not have to have evidence. We are going to act to save the community. What happened in Boston in the last 5 days is similar in away (in Boston attack). Once the explosion took place in the marathon, you know how the story happened of the arrest of the Saudi student. He was injured and people were injured in the ground. Other people out of human relations were helping the victims and taking them to the hospitals. One American almost helped that young boy. He wanted to help him and he carried him and once he noticed that he has brown skin and that he is not a pure American, he let him on the ground and he called the police as if he was a suspect. He just suspected him that he might be one of the terrorists who did the explosion and he was injured. He was taken to hospital but he has been questioned and examined and his apartment was investigated by the FBI. They have the right to do that if he is accused but the idea is that once there is a great fear of something, the authorities behave without depending on evidence. This takes us to the important issue in the play which is **hysteria**. What is the factor that developed the action in this play? It is the hysteria. They were very afraid of witchcraft. The whole community was afraid of witchcraft, so the young girls who were powerless in their community were very wickedly how to make use of this fear of the community to pretend in order to free themselves of the accusations. So, it is the idea of hysteria. So, what is happening nowadays it the hysteria of terrorism.

So, in this play you have to concentrate on the issue of **hysteria**; how it helped the development of action in the play. Concentrate on how hysteria is very powerful in developing the action of the witch trial in particular in the play. What are the other things you are going to concentrate on? >> Issue of witchcraft. How are you going to deal with issue of witchcraft? It is a very important issue in the play. It is connected with the idea of hysteria because it was not real at all. And we as audience/ as readers know from the beginning that it is not real. That is why when we analyze the play from the beginning till the end, we analyze it with power because we know that the motivating action in the play is the hysteria of witchcraft and it was a faked hysteria; it was not a real one. We know that the motivating action in the play is the hysteria of witchcraft. We know that it was not a real one but for the characters in the play, they did not know that. They were really afraid of it.

At one point in the play, the authority of a town knew that it was faked but still they insisted on pursuing with it because it was going to affect their positions in the town. So, again it was the fear of losing their positions that really made them pursue in their wrong judgments.

Reputation is also a very important issue in the play. Reputation is related to many characters in the play. So, you have to concentrate on how each individual character is related to reputation. And there is reputation of the court. It is not only related to individuals; there are individuals plus the court itself (the authority itself preserving their position>> this is related to reputation). The most character related to this issue is Proctor, not Paris. Paris was only caring for his position. From the beginning of the play, reputation is related to Proctor. From the beginning when his wife discovered his unfaithful relationship with the servant Abigail, he repented and he cut that relation. As the culture of Christian people at that time, convicting guilt is a means of salvation but for him, he thought that this is a past sin and he has regretted it and he has ended it, so it will not affect his reputation. So, from the beginning of the act when the idea of witchcraft was related to the daughter of Parris and when he was talking with Abigail, he realized that Abigail was lying and influenced the other young girls but he did not come with force and power and said to the judge that this young girl is a liar and she is unfaithful. He did not say it because he thought that it is a past sin that has ended and it will not have its consequences in the future. But he was wrong because it really had its consequences in the future and he had to admit it at the end in order to regain his real reputation/ his real good name. It was like a means of his salvation that he admitted his past sin. So, it is not only at the end, but it is from the beginning.

The word power is very important in the play. Power is related to court. You have to talk of power of the court. If we are talking about the church or the authority and power, what kind of life or what kind of authority was it? You have to concentrate on the conception of theocracy in the play. So, power is related to authority. This is related with Abigail as a female character. Issues of power, reputation and other things are related to all characters but sometimes it appears stronger in one character more than the other. When we say reputation, for example, it was with Proctor more than the others, especially, he gained his real name again. As we said power is more with Abigail because the power that she gain and she exploit it is the one that really motivated and developed the action of the play. How did Abigail gain that power? Depending on what? Hysteria again. All issues are related to each others. When you talk about Abigail, you should talk about the power that she gained through hysteria and witchcraft

We have power of the high classes in the society/ aristocratic. They were related to theocracy and the religious authority in the town. By force they can take, for example, the property of poor people and forcing them to do things in order to take their life. They are making use of their power to accuse owners of farms, for example, to accuse them of a sin that they are free of. It is just to buy their lands with less money.

The power of witchcraft as mentioned here is related to hysteria again; how witchcraft is very powerful in helping the action in the play. Tituba is a slave and slaves usually do not have a word in the society, especially, at the time of Salem in that age. Although she was a slave, yet she had power through naming other people. So, it is related also to hysteria of witchcraft.

A student: we have issue of religion. If anyone did not attend the church, he was simply accused of witchcraft.

The doctor: this is related to theocracy/ the power of the church. People were watched. The idea of private life was not there. A person cannot say that this is my private life and I can do whatever I want in it. Because Proctor did not go to the church three times a month, he was accused of being sinful/ guilty.

Do we have other examples of power? You said Tituba, what about the young girls? There is the power of children. Although they were young girls but they were believed. Mary Warren, for example, is a servant/ she a young child and she was believed. All the young girls usually in puritan life, females in general, do not have a say in the community. But in that Salem community in that time, all the young girls were powerful that they have really developed the witch trial in Salem.

We have the power of the innocent prisoners who really insisted on not confessing. They were really powerful. Giles, for example, endures stones. He was powerful enough. He endured real punishment in order to gain his own name and his own self.

At the beginning of the play, we see the description of common people. Some scholars say that these common people/ these minor characters cannot be considered minor because they have given power to the important ideas of the play. They emphasize the idea of theocracy in Salem. Another example of positive power is of Proctor. Actually scholars say that he was powerful from the beginning. He was respected/ he was loved by people and he has his own situation that people fear to deny him anything. He had some kind of power. But at the end of the play, he was powerless but again this powerless position was not negative because he gained his reputation at the end. He was deprived of his power by being deprived of his reputation and his name but again admitting his adultery/ his past sin which could have been covered by him and he would have remained with good reputation. But his conscience inside him was struggling him. He has struggle inside him. At the time, he exploded and he mentioned everything. So, although he appeared powerless, but with this powerless position at the end of the play, he gained his reputation and his real salvation by being purified of his past sin that he used to hide in the past thinking that it will not be covered and it is something that happened in the past and that’s it; it will not have a consequence. But it appeared that it had really consequences and results in the future.

So, think of the idea of power and empowerment and how powerless people gained power in the play.

We have issue of the power of land in the play. You remember at the beginning of the play the idea of minding other’s business. People in Salem were not minding their own business. Everyone was looking at his neighbor. Everyone was looking at what his neighbor has wanting to gain more than neighbor. So, the power of land/how it affected the relationship between people>>>it is a negative kind of power. It has affected the people negatively because they did not have love and sympathy among them. They have envy and hatred. Their envy and hatred made them confess against their neighbors although they know that they are innocent. They accuse their neighbors and they give names of their neighbors in order to get hold of their lands.

One important issue is the relationship between people in Salem. Was it a relationship of love? No, it was not. There are examples of love and respect but the overwhelming atmosphere was not love. It was fear from one’s neighbor that he might go to authority and tell them that I did not go to the church that day/ that I did not do that ceremony that day.

The whole atmosphere among the people of Salem at that time is that fear of each other/ fear of not being able to live in a certain level in the society/ fear of the authority/ fear of being punished for doing something that is not really a crime but it is considered in a theocratic society as a crime.

Now what is the idea of **public and private**?

There is nothing private in Salem. Everything happens inside the house is known. Anyone can interfere and say about it. The very clear example is that it is not your private life that on Sunday you do not go to church. If you do not go for one day, it is going to be signed and written in the registration book of the church although this is my private life. I am sick today and I do not want to go. I have some excuses and I do not want to go.>>> But this is not your private; this is something that should be done by everybody. It is for the public. For example, Proctor thought that his Proctor’s old sin which is his relation with Abigail is a private issue that happened in the past and that’s it, but he realized that it was not; it was related to the public and it had its consequences that caused his downfall/ his death.

Now what is hypocrisy? It is pretending نفاق. So, again it is related to private and public. Sometimes people act out of hypocrisy and this of course relates in the bad relationship between people. They might harm others in order to gain something.

The kind of theocracy and religious culture in Salem at that time was based on fear and not on real religion. People were only afraid that if you do not do that, this will happen to them. So, sometime they pretend something and they feel other things. Anything that is private is considered to be a sin. We have many examples in the play. Dancing in general was considered prohibited during to the church and authority at that time. They did it in secret but you see what consequences happened later on.

Do you know what it is meant by **breaking of charity** among the people in the play? Charity of person does not mean only that you give amount of charity; it means being good. The bonds that are combining people in Salem/ the relationship between people in Salem was not a healthy relationship. It was based on hypocrisy, of fear and on self-interest. So, there was breaking of charity. There was no charity among people. They fear betrayal. A neighbor will betray his neighbor in order to gain a benefit out of that.

What do you think Arthur Miller’s main cause of writing ‘The Crucible’ is?

It is McCarthyism. This is what really appears. What he really meant and what he really cared is the human aspect of the play. It is breaking of charity. It is as if he is giving us a moral lesson that we should live with love in our communities. We should live with charity. We should have charitable bonds among us in life inside our house/ inside our school/ inside our neighborhood. There is no sense of love relationship among the characters in Salem.

This is what Arthur Miller cared for. Although it appears that the whole play is like a political criticism of communism and McCarthyism that he himself suffered of, but actually Arthur Miller himself emphasizes the fact that his play is a social criticism more than political criticism. He was criticizing the social aspects in the play that reflect the social life of his age. Neighbors do not have relationship with others. This is a defect in a society because once you do not feel for your relatives, your neighbors and your friends, it means that you are not going to act humanly. It means that hypocrisy and self-interest are going to guide you. Actually he is criticizing people for doing that. So, although the play appears as a reflection or a symbol of McCarthyism of the age, yet he was really emphasizing social criticism more than political criticism.