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The Crucible Character Analysis

Have you ever wanted full control of a situation? If so it was probably because you wanted things to be your way. In the novel, the crucible, by Arthur Miller, Reverend Hale is a character that puts matters in his own hands by denouncing the victims, attempting to save those accused as witches and by trying to make the trials fair.

The first way Reverend Hale puts matters in his own hands is by denouncing the victims of witchcraft. During the trials in Salem, Abigail Williams and the girls claimed to see the devil. They even did this in court to raise their credibility in court to make it seem like they weren’t lying. In response to this, Reverend Hale is angered and yells to Danforth, “I see nothing. Your honor”. (Miller 109). This is important because as seen in the novel Reverend Hale clearly does not believe the girls and knows that they are lying. He wants to tell Danforth that he does not see what the girls are seeing to cast doubt. This shows Reverend Hale as a person that puts matters into his own hands because he knows that if he did not object to what the girls were saying then the court just might have fallen for it.

The second way Reverend Hale puts matters in his own hands is by attempting to save those accused as witches. This I seen when he talks to Mrs. Proctor about the situation Mr. Proctor is in. He tells her, “I beg you women, 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 that throws his life away for pride.” (122). This is important because Reverend Hale again attempts to grasp control of the situation. He cannot bare to see Mr. Proctor die because he thinks he is innocent. He wants Mrs. Proctor to let Mr. Proctor lie in order to save his life. This shows Reverend Hale asking others to lie for what he thinks is right. As a holy man he was taught to not lie but this shows otherwise.

The last way Reverend Hale puts matters into his own hands is by trying to make the trails fair. After attempting to save Mr. Proctor by making him confess, Danforth believes his confession is false and he must be lying. In response to this Reverend Hale defends Proctor saying “Excellency, It is enough he confess himself. Let him sign it, let him sight it.” (131). In this quote it shows Reverend Hale taking control of the situation by basically telling Danforth to back off in a calm way. He points out that Proctor has already confessed and that should be enough to spare him.

Reverend Hale is seen in this novel trying to get the situation by denouncing the victims, attempting to save the accused and by trying to make the trials fair in his own eyes. As a character in the court that saw the girls as liars, he wanted to make sure he was there to object and give his take on the accusations. He even put down his beliefs to make this happen. In the end, he ended up not succeeding in getting what he wanted with the death of Proctor.