

#### 4. PROCTOR AND DANFORTH (pp.85-86)

DANFORTH. Come, man, sign it.

PROCTOR. You have all witnessed it — it is enough.

DANFORTH. You will not sign it?!

PROCTOR. (*Desperately.*) You have all witnessed it; what more is needed?

DANFORTH. Do you sport with me? You will sign your name or it is no confession, Mister!

(*Proctor signs the confession.*)

DANFORTH. (*Reaching for the paper*) If you please, sir.

PROCTOR. (*Looking at the paper.*) No.

DANFORTH. Mister Proctor, I must have...

PROCTOR. (*Putting paper behind him.*) No—no. I have signed it. You have seen me. It is done! You have no need for this. I confess to God and God has seen my name on this! It is enough!

DANFORTH. No. sir. it is...

PROCTOR. You came to save my soul, did you not? Here! — I have confessed myself, it is enough!

DANFORTH. You have not con...

PROCTOR. I have confessed myself! Is there no good penitence but it be public? God does not need my name nailed upon the church! God sees my name, God knows how black my sins are! — it is enough!

DANFORTH. Mister Proctor...

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 salvation that you should use me!

DANFORTH. I do not wish to...

PROCTOR. I have three children — how may I teach them to walk like men in the world and I sold my friends?!

DANFORTH. You have not sold your friends...

PROCTOR. Beguile me not! — I blacken all of them when this is nailed to the church the very day they hang for silence!

DANFORTH. Mister Proctor, I must have good and legal proof that you...

PROCTOR. You are the high court, your word is good enough! Tell them I confessed myself; say Proctor broke his knees and wept like a woman; say what you will, but my name cannot...

DANFORTH. (*With suspicion.*) It is the same, is it not? — if I report it or you sign to it?

PROCTOR. No, it is not the same. What others say and what I sign to is not the same!

DANFORTH. Why? Do you mean to deny this confession when you are free?

PROCTOR. (*Rising.*) I mean to deny nothing!

DANFORTH. Then explain to me, Mr. Proctor, why you will not let...

PROCTOR. Because it is my name! Because I cannot have another in my life! Because I lie and sign myself to lies! Because I am not worth the dust on the feet of them that hang! How may I live without my name? I have given you my soul, leave me my name!

DANFORTH. Is that document a lie? If it is a lie I will not accept it! What say you? I will not deal in lies, Mister! You will give me your honest confession in my hand, or I cannot keep you from the rope. What way do you go, Mister?