

The Crucible

## Giles Corey/Danforth

2017 Auditions

Giles: They'll be hangin' my wife!

*Judge Hathorne enters. He is in his sixties, a bitter, remorseless Salem judge.*

Hathorne: How do you dare come roarin' into this court! Are you gone daft, Corey?

Giles: You're not a Boston judge yet, Hathorne. You'll not call me daft!

*Enter Deputy Governor Danforth and, behind him, Ezekiel Cheever and Parris. On his appearance, silence falls. Danforth is a grave man in his sixties, of some humor and sophistication that does not, however, interfere with an exact loyalty to his position and his cause. He comes down to Giles, who awaits his wrath.*

Danforth, *looking directly at Giles*: Who is this man?

pARRIS: Giles Corey, sir, and a more contentious -

Giles, *to Parris*: I am asked the question, and I am old enough to answer it! *To Danforth, who impresses him and to whom he smiles through his strain*: My name is Corey, sir, Giles Corey. I have six hundred acres, and timber in addition. It is my wife you be condemning now. *He indicates the courtroom.*

Danforth: And how do you imagine to help her cause with such contemptuous riot? Now be gone. Your old age alone keeps you out of jail for this.

Giles, *beginning to plead*: They be tellin' lies about my wife, sir, I -

Danforth: Do you take it upon yourself to determine what this court shall believe and what it shall set aside?

Giles: Your Excellency, we mean no disrespect for -

Danforth: Disrespect indeed! It is disruption, Mister. This is the highest court of the supreme government of this province, do you know it?

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GILES, *beginning to weep*: Your Excellency, I only said she were readin' books, sir, and they come and take her out of my house for -

Danforth, *mystified*: Books! What books?

Giles, *through helpless sobs*: It is my third wife, sir; I never had no wife that be so taken with books, and I thought to find the cause of it, d'y'see, but it were no witch I blamed her for. *He is openly weeping*. I have broke charity with the woman, I have broke charity with her. *He covers his face, ashamed. Dan-forth is respectfully silent.*

Hale: Excellency, he claims hard evidence for his wife's de-fense. I think that in all justice you must -

Danforth: Then let him submit his evidence in proper affidavit. You are certainly aware of our procedure here, Mr. Hale. *To Herrick*: Clear this room.

HERRICK: Come now, Giles, *He gently pushes Corey out.*

Francis: We are desperate, sir; we come here three days now and cannot be heard.

Danforth: Who is this man?

Francis: Francis Nurse, Your Excellency.

Hale: His wife's Rebecca that were condemned this morning.

Danforth: Indeed! I am amazed to find you in such uproar; I have only good report of your character, Mr. Nurse.

Hathorne: I think they must both be arrested in contempt, sir.  
Danforth, *to Francis*: Let you write your plea, and in due time I will-