

THE PASSION OF MARY

By

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THE PASSION OF MARY

A play in three acts

DEDICATED TO PROFESSOR LA RUFFA

MARY DYER

ANNE HUTCHINSON

REVEREND JOSEPH COTTON

ANGELS

GOD

REVEREND JOHN WILSON

ENDICOTT

ANNE BURDEN

WILLIAM HUTCHINSON

AYIDA

WILLIAM DYER

ROGER WILLIAMS

GEORGE

LORD CROMWELL

MARMADUKE STEPHENSON

HUMPHREY NORTON

PATIENCE

CATHERINE SCOTT

JOHN

CHRISTOPHER HARPER

TOWNS PEOPLE, CONSTABLES, FAMILY MEMBERS, WOMEN IN PRAYER, "CRIMINALS"

Ii, Setting and Time

Massachusetts, Providence, and England, in the 1600s. Sets should be simple and easy-to-move.

ACT I

- Scene 1 The Forest At Night, near Boston
- Scene 2 Home (Interior and Exterior) of Anne Hutchinson
- Scene 3 Courtroom and yard surrounding it.
- Scene 4 The Forest in the late Evening
- Scene 5 Boston prison

ACT II

- Scene 1 Dyer's home in Providence
- Scene 2 Inn in England
- Scene 3 Home in England
- Scene 4 Home in England
- Scene 5 Inn in England
- Scene 6 Small cabin in boat

ACT III

- Scene 1 Prison, Boston
- Scene 2 Courtroom, Boston
- Scene 3 Dyer's Home, Providence
- Scene 4 Dyer's Home, Providence
- Scene 5 Outskirts of Boston, outdoors
- Scene 6 Court Boston
- Scene 7 Boston Commons
- Scene 8 Outside
- Scene 9 Prison and Boston Commons
- Scene 10 Prison and Boston Commons

"I trust God speaks through me. Without that, I couldn't do my job."

- George *W.* Bush

ACT ONE

SCENE 1

(AT RISE: It's late at night, in October 1637. We see the woods near the Commonwealth of Boston, MA. At the front of the stage are MARY DYER, ANNE HUTCHINSON, REVEREND JOSEPH COTTON with a shovel. They are digging a grave for a small child. MARY is very weary, and embraces the lifeless baby. Behind them, upstage and on a riser, are GOD (portrayed by a woman) and ANGELS. One ANGEL spreads her wings about Mary as a representation that she is her angel.)

MARY DYER

Please, we must keep our secret between us,
as our lives on earth are all we have 'til eternity
Reverend Cotton, I need faith to live, as my dead child lies all torn and gruesome to
all in the world but me.

(Cotton and Anne look at child. He quickly looks the other way.)

REVEREND COTTON

Ghastly, Mary, what have you done that this child is born so twisted?

ANNE HUTCHINSON

(glares at him)

This is a fact of nature, Reverend Cotton. Many God-fearing women have—

REVEREND COTTON

Here it be tactful to hold your tongue.

ANNE HUTCHINSON

I cannot do that.

REVEREND COTTON

Women have no connection to God but by the church. I thank the Lord this
monster did not survive to live in its wretched face and body.

MARY DYER

My poor baby. That I have a child and my husband at home should be comfort
enough to you, Reverend Cotton, that I am blessed.

GOD

You shall have more children, Mary Dyer.
Your Samuel will have brothers and sisters
I welcome this small child to the hereafter.
Please hear me that I love you forever.

ANGELS

Oh Mother, Father God, bless our sister
Give her comfort from her blessed family
Let her know and feel your passion and care
And grow 'cause of Anne Hutchinson's blessings.
Please, guard her secret from the Puritans,
Please make the Reverend remain a true friend.

GOD

(gestures to Cotton)

Prepare for heartbreak, He shall deceive them,
I give to all these humans true free will,
Though they're preached to follow the Reverend

ANGELS

They trust him so, how could he be so cruel?

GOD

(shaking her head, gestures to Mary)

Her inner light won't be destroyed at all,
Not by any man of this colony.
There's hate in Boston, you'll see, my angels

REVEREND COTTON

Hand me the Monster.

MARY DYER

(begins to cry)

I did not sin.

ANNE HUTCHINSON

My sister, you are a victim, not a sinner

REVEREND COTTON

I'm here for you, Mary. Talk with me, and I will talk with God.

ANNE HUTCHINSON

She needs to talk to Him, herself.

REVEREND COTTON

Anne, now is not the time to preach as you do with the women in your kitchen
You must pray in silence, and not amongst men, as we lead the true way.

GOD

(Laughing)

I love human beings, men and women
But they need to understand creation.
Children are made by women, not by men.
Like Jesus, my son, born by a woman--

(Mary's Angel lies on the ground, as Cotton lays the baby
down. Mary leans, kisses the child "good-bye." The Angel
covers her wings over the child.)

If his words were heard the way they should
There'd be no discrepancy, confusion,
People and countries would truly be good.

REVEREND COTTON

Let us leave now—the Indians are watching!

(Cotton and Anne walk towards stage right exit; Mary gazes
at the grave. Anne stops, turns and watches Mary. Her
Angel brings the baby to God. Anne walks back to Mary,
and escorts her off stage. God talks to the audience.)

You, my children, need healing for your scars

(God turns to the Baby)

And you, Mary's child, are not a Monster--
You are a child, a beautiful baby,
I welcome you to Heaven.

(God kisses the baby, and the Angel walk off with the baby,
holding her with great care.)

ACT 1

SCENE 2

(Late Fall, 1637. Anne Hutchinson's home is one
large room with stone walls, wooden benches,
and beds. Anne is preparing cider and cups for many
people. She has laid out fruits, bread, and
hunks of cheese. AN ANGEL is distracted, and
alerts GOD.)

AN ANGEL

Harken, o' Heavenly Mother, harken!
Tonight strife divides the colony
Anne Hutchinson will need protection.
All these busy body men, John Endicott,
Reverend Wilson have a mission
Lead Massachusetts as a pure lot
Not by the Natives or any women

(Wilson and Endicott assemble outside of Anne's
home, and wait for backup Puritans to arrest her.)

GOD

Oh, it will never come to pass, Angel
These Puritan men who may strive to dwell
in isolation from other faiths there!
Snobs!

(Mary walks in from outside.)

ANNE HUTCHINSON

(stopping with the cider preparation, bowing to greet Mary,
Anne helps her remove outdoor clothes.)

Peace be with you, Mary Dyer.

MARY DYER

I crave more peace, Anne. My beloved William, I am so blessed to have him as my
true love. But the work in the meeting hall, he doth smart from issues of their
grand importance.

ANNE HUTCHINSON

The Natives?

MARY DYER

Aye. John Endicott, Reverend Wilson are planning war with the Pequot. I fear for
all our souls, even if we have not a desire to hurt more humanity. Our silence
makes us guilty.

ANNE HUTCHINSON

I have spoken with my William of your husband's desire to be governor of the
Commonwealth. If he could commit, now is the time. We could send word to
Roger Williams of the plans the Commonwealth has for the Natives.

(Mary eats cheese when Anne speaks; she is stressed and
shows it with her attack on the food. Anne resumes
preparing food and cider for her guests.)

MARY DYER

It would be traitorous, Anne. I asked William to stay silent.

ANNE HUTCHINSON

But it is not part of the humanity of the women of the New England.

MARY DYER

They will whip my William and young Samuel. Cut off my tongue if I disagree.

ANNE HUTCHINSON

I pray that he doth become Governor, Mary Dyer.

MARY DYER

If we could be like Esther, and solve the problem from within, having the women tell their husbands to prevent the cruelty on the Natives.

ANNE HUTCHINSON

Esther, truly remarkable savior. Have no fear. We shall educate the women, who will teach their husbands the truth. Our Williams set an example for the rest of the people— they are so gallant.

MARY DYER

But Reverend Wilson is convinced it is the will of God that we claim their land.

ANNE HUTCHINSON

'Tis our will. If only we live in peace with them. We need to show how He is for Love and Healing.

MARY DYER

We cannot discuss this issue with the women tonight.

ANNE HUTCHINSON

Be brave, Mary. I will speak of the plans of the Commonwealth for the Natives.

MARY DYER

How can I be brave when I am just a young woman?

ANNE HUTCHINSON

A young woman! My sister, my friend, you have the light of God. You are strong. Trust in the Heavenly being, who will manifest courage in your life.

MARY DYER

I do not know how.

(Mary eats.)

I am so stressed, fearful and lost. I crave more food.

ANNE HUTCHINSON

You are not with child, Mary.

MARY DYER

I crave food nonetheless. William has such affection for my breasts when they are full.

(Anne Burden enters; she is also wearing a heavy cloak and a hat. She carries a wampum bag, and gives it to Anne.)

ANNE BURDEN

Blessings to you, Anne.

ANNE HUTCHINSON

(smiles at Mary)

Oh, how beautiful. Supporting the Natives.

ANNE BURDEN

Oh no, my husband and I are making wampums. There is money to be made.

ANNE HUTCHINSON

The Natives are masters of this art; we could create other crafts. We want them to prosper.

ANNE BURDEN

We do?

MARY DYER

We have much work.

(A few more women enter Anne's home. Outside the team of Endicott and Wilson are hiding and watching. Anne Hutchinson's husband visits.)

WILLIAM HUTCHINSON

My blessed wife, I shall go outside so you may teach only the women.

ANNE HUTCHINSON

(smiling at her husband, she fixes his jacket, and bows. He exits.)

Have a pleasant walk, William.

WILLIAM HUTCHINSON

I cherish my moments with you, and think of you when we are apart.

ANNE HUTCHINSON

(explains to Anne Burden)

The Natives need much help, and—as God's chosen people—we can help them live in abundance. After their plague, so many of them died. Why are we planning to invade them? Do you know my friend Roger Williams?

ANNE BURDEN

The heretic.

ANNE HUTCHINSON

He is a believer. Sincere, honest. He seeks to have all men and women worship in a way true to their own hearts.

(William hears something from Wilson's direction, and looks. Wilson and Endicott hide. Wilson taps Endicott on his nose and immediately puts his finger on his lips to sssh him. Endicott makes a mournful face, and puts his hand on his mouth. Wilson looks at him sternly.)

ANNE BURDEN

My husband saith he was expelled from the Commonwealth.

ANNE HUTCHINSON

Aye, he was, Anne Burden. Laugh, for we came to the New England to follow our religious beliefs. Roger is creating Providence as a haven for all who seek true freedom of religion. He would not shun you or a Native!

ANNE BURDEN

The Indians do not have the truth!

ANNE HUTCHINSON

We must become more tolerant. Honor our land and the Natives who were here first. Roger Williams has bought land from the Natives. He is doing good for all of God's people. All.

ANNE BURDEN

But my husband saith—

ANNE HUTCHINSON

Do you ever disagree with John? In your heart?

ANNE BURDEN

I should subject myself unto him. Were we not created by God for the benefit of all men?

ONE OF THE WOMEN

Aye.

ANOTHER WOMAN

I say there have been too many men leading the church.

(PURITAN MAN enters Anne's home. Woman sees, and stops her conversation. Mary shushes Anne.)

ANNE HUTCHINSON

Of course, we do not really know as much about God as he knows about us. God knows every hair on our head.

ANOTHER WOMAN

We must talk about our families. Mary, you seem very weighty today. Are you with child?

ANNE HUTCHINSON

(graciously smiles as Mary reaches for more food.)

I would know if she were.

(MARTHA and her slave, AYIDA enter Anne's home. Ayida helps Martha remove her cloak and hat, and Ayida leaves the home.)

ANNE HUTCHINSON

She should stay. Please.

MARTHA

No, Anne. The pagans will never see God the way we do.

ANNE HUTCHINSON

Your servant will see God in her own way.

(Puritan Man rolls his eyes and leaves the home. Anne exits, and calls to Ayida).

Greetings?

(Ayida turns around, and bows.)

ANNE HUTCHINSON (Continues)

Please, come in where it is warm. What is your name?

AYIDA

Ayida.

ANNE HUTCHINSON

Ayida, please come and hear God's word with us. Sit by the fire, and warm your soul.

(Anne and Ayida enter the home.)

We're talking about our freedom to share our thoughts on God's teachings for the freedom we are here for.

(Many Puritan Men arrive on the yard. Wilson, Endicott join them. Wilson gazes at Man 2 in this scene.)

ANNE HUTCHINSON

In Matthew 6, the BIBLE shows we commune directly with God when we pray and help the needy. Jesus says we can do good works for one another. Give to the poor in private. Our clergy should give. “Therefore when thou doest alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, they have their reward”

ANNE BURDEN

Anne, I cannot fathom you would speak so ill of our clergy.

MARY DYER

Ahhh, she jests.

ANNE HUTCHINSON

We are in dark days, our church and leaders both govern us. How much control would you want in your life? They plot wars against a whole nation! Why do they whip our husbands, when they disagree? What are we to do?

MARY DYER

Dialogue with our enemy?

ANNE HUTCHINSON

The Natives are not our enemy, Mary Dyer.

MARY DYER

We believe them to be our enemy.

(Man 2 is especially offended by the women’s conversation. And he shows it. Man 2 motions to Wilson, who points Man 2 to go inside.

ANNE BURDEN

Are you insulted by my present, Anne Hutchinson?

(Wilson listens, and shows more and more anger.)

ANNE HUTCHINSON

You gave with love. I am saddened we cannot create a long and lasting peace with the Natives. We have claimed this land as our own, we have not bought it. We are stealing from them.

ANNE BURDEN

Pagans, Red Satans.

ANOTHER WOMAN

At Sunday’s sermon, Reverend Cotton said only some of the men are predestined for Heaven. So we must set our lives to be high in God’s esteem. And perhaps—

(Wilson points to Man 1 and Man 2 to go inside. They dust themselves off. William is returning home, and sees men.)

ANNE HUTCHINSON

'Tis an amazing statement. As mothers, we welcome the men—the boys; we teach our children. We build their lives. Let us use our advantages as women to show them to respect women? They will remember our contributions by the time they grow up.

(Man 1 and 2 enter.)

MAN 1

Good day, Goodwife Hutchinson, I've come to listen to your words. I--too--have questions about Sunday's sermon.

MAN 2

I, too, wonder why we need to bless Indians.

ANNE HUTCHINSON

Amazing. Our righteous Reverend teaches us to subject ourselves to men. And we do, but would you subject yourself to us?

MAN 2

(shrugs)

Does it matter?

MAN 1

Of course.

(William steps inside, and tries for Anne's attention.).

ANNE HUTCHINSON

They created you.

MAN 2

God created all that is.

ANOTHER WOMAN

Are you sure, man, that God is a man?

WILLIAM HUTCHINSON

Anne!

ANNE HUTCHINSON

I don't know.

MAN 2

God is a Man.

WILLIAM HUTCHINSON

I love you, my dear Anne. You are the sweetest. God is neither man, woman but spirit. For we have our limitations as mere people.

MAN 2

Heresy. You have your limitations. I have my expectations about my life now and maybe after.

ANNE HUTCHINSON

Why should we disagree?

MAN 1

My wife certainly manifests God in all her ways.

MAN 2

(to Man 1)

You are traveling a dark path, man.

MAN 1

The heathen makes a valid point; we all see things differently.

MAN 2

The truth, the truth! There is one way.

(Man 1 stays. Man 2 exits, and Endicott smiles.)

MARY DYER

Some things will be revealed to us in good time. Meanwhile, let us bless our neighbor, and help supply their human needs. People welcomed William and me to the Commonwealth, and invited us to eat the fine New England foods.

ANNE BURDEN

Aye, William Dyer, and his fine, hard cider!

(The women all laugh.)

ANNE HUTCHINSON

It is the right thing to tend to the needs of your friends, protect and love them. And love your enemies...

MAN 1

Even the Indians?

ANNE HUTCHINSON

This is their land.

(Puritan Men pound door, and enter Anne's home.)

ANNE HUTCHINSON (Continues)

Please, be peaceful.

WILSON

Anne Hutchinson. Obey your Reverend and God, our Father. You are hereby under arrest by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for heresy and sedition against the Commonwealth.

(All the Men surround Anne, grab her arms, and bring her out. William and Mary follow.)

You shall be hung for your treasonous ways.

MARY DYER

Please, spare her. She doest good.

WILSON

Mary Dyer, does your husband know you are here?

MARY DYER

Aye.

WILSON

(shaking his head)

He must keep you in his control as I do with my family and my flock. Devil woman.

ANNE HUTCHINSON

She is a good woman. Be brave, Mary Dyer. I pray for you. Be strong.

MARY DYER

You are my best friend.

ACT 1

SCENE 3

(AT RISE: March 1638, Both the court and the yard outside. The court has benches and a large podium and desk. Outside the courthouse are the townspeople. Mary sees William Hutchinson, who embraces her.)

WILLIAM HUTCHINSON

It is very good to see you, Mary Dyer.

MARY DYER

I can only imagine the harshness the Commonwealth has directed to you.

WILLIAM HUTCHINSON

There has also been much love. I thank you for your time in spite of your delicate condition---

MARY DYER

I will be strong, for Anne needs us.... I am strong.

WILLIAM HUTCHINSON

Aye. Your Samuel has helped us with the chores, you taught him well.

MARY DYER

He will be one man, who will understand the struggles of a wife. Did you tell Anne about the defeat of Pequot?

WILLIAM HUTCHINSON

She worries about the Natives and is praying for the souls of the Commonwealth.

MARY DYER

They need more than prayer. The Pequot nation has meant only good.

WILLIAM HUTCHINSON

What makes us choose evil to lead us?

MARY DYER

Why do they define the Natives as "Red Satans?" While Roger Williams, whom they hate, has created peace with such pagans?

(Anne's eldest children come to join them.)

ANNE'S SON

Father, the horses are resting and drinking water.

WILLIAM HUTCHINSON

Very good. Please, wait inside, we shall join you.

(Children go inside the courthouse.)

We shall be leaving the Commonwealth. They banished Roger.

MARY DYER

We have built such roots in the community; it shall be hard for us to choose.

(She smiles as she sees her husband, who is inside.)

William has powerful positions with the landowners and the court.

(William Dyer comes to William and Mary. As she curtsies to him, he squeezes her shoulder. They make eye contact through scene.)

MARY DYER

(smiles)

Joyful, my dear. Did you see Anne?

(GOODWIFE exits the building and collapses.)

WILLIAM DYER

No, and Reverend Wilson is not tolerant. (points to Woman) He took all her inheritance, land. She has no male heir; she gave his papers to the new college.

MARY DYER

Does the court see the value of her gift? There will be scholars of the BIBLE.

WILLIAM HUTCHINSON

They would soak the poor woman of all her blood if they knew it had value.

MARY DYER

That is not the way of Jesus.

WILLIAM DYER

You are so unaware of the evil that does exist, Mary. Some day, you will be the woman you were meant to be.

MARY DYER

We are dividing our own. Can we not fight back?

WILLIAM HUTCHINSON

Fight? Who will join us? Where were the people when Roger was excommunicated?

MARY DYER

I cannot tolerate this.

(Endicott, Wilson have a higher dose of holier-than-thou-attitude as they exit the courthouse. Endicott's SLAVE walks several paces behind him. Wilson approaches Mary, ignoring the men with her.)

WILSON

Ahh, Mary Dyer. You are here on behalf of our Jezebel.

MARY DYER

I am here to support Anne Hutchinson, a spiritual woman who has helped the women and children of the commonwealth.

WILSON

You stray far from our teachings. Her antinomian ways of looking inward for answers defies the authority of the church and State. She should not teach men.

MARY DYER

My friend is a great woman, Reverend Wilson.

WILSON

Your friend is a midwife...and an Indian sympathizer.

(A YOUNG TEENAGE BOY, with long hair, is led into the court. His MOTHER and FATHER wait outside the building. They notice Endicott and Wilson, hoping this duo will show mercy to their son. Endicott stares at the boy.)

MARY DYER

You were once a baby.

WILLIAM HUTCHINSON

Reverend Wilson, I beg of you. You speak of my wife.

WILSON

Silence, Man. Do not influence our judgment.

WILLIAM HUTCHINSON

I pray to.

WILSON

It may be used against you.

WILLIAM HUTCHINSON

Have you not forgotten the spiritual repression in Old England?

WILSON

Mary Dyer, what child has a soul till they have learned the teachings of the BIBLE? They're savages like the Indians. Watch them play, and tell me.

MARY DYER

There is nothing I can tell you, Reverend Wilson.

WILSON

That is the truth.

MARY DYER

Ask the Commonwealth how Anne Hutchinson has helped them.

WILSON

Merchants. People unworthy of pity. They want more money from us each time we buy. Thieves.

(Wilson turns away from Mary quickly, joins Endicott. The Slave follows him inside, as do some townspeople. William Dyer returns to courthouse. The rest of the people go inside, except Mary and William Hutchinson.)

ENDICOTT

Young man, please step forward.

(Teenage Boy is brought to Wilson).

You are accused of breaking the first, second and third commandments. Sleeping at Reverend Wilson's sermons. And I see you are also disobeying the fourth.

(Anne Hutchinson and Constables enter, along with Mary and William. Mary sits with women. Samuel with William Hutchinson. Anne stays in the back. Wilson eyes Mary Dyer while questioning Teenager on trial.)

YOUNG TEENAGE BOY

Forgive me.

WILSON

Speak up, boy. Why is your hair so long, boy? You're not an Indian! I know your mother and father; you are decreasing their stand in our Commonwealth. Do you know your commandments?

YOUNG TEENAGE BOY

(nods)

Yes.

WILSON

What, then, is the first commandment?

YOUNG TEENAGE BOY

No other gods. Thou shall have no other gods, Sir.

WILSON

And the second?

YOUNG TEENAGE BOY

Not to take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.

WILSON

Aye. And the third?

YOUNG TEENAGE BOY

(looks down)

Honor thy father—

WILSON

No! You do not—

(staring at MARY DYER)

Where is your soul, boy? These children are the devil's—

(The Boy's Mother begins to cry.)

ENDICOTT

Silence, woman!

(Father gazes from across the courtroom to the Mother, sternly putting his hand over his mouth. She works very hard to suppress her tears.)

WILSON

What is the third commandment?

YOUNG TEENAGE BOY

Keep the Sabbath holy, Sir.

WILSON

And remember it. Remember the Sabbath to keep it holy.

(CHURCH LEADERS, including Cotton, enter. They all will be supportive of Wilson.)

WILSON

You have disgraced your family, child.

ENDICOTT

This boy is wild, Reverend.

WILSON

He dost not know how to read the BIBLE.

YOUNG TEENAGE BOY

I do, Sir. I do, I do, I do.

ENDICOTT

The court disagrees. Ahhh, you shall be whipped. Paint an "L" on your chest for a week. You are Lazy, Boy. Wake up. I would cut off your ears, but your hair would cover it and the Reverend wouldn't know if you fell out of fellowship again.... I would.

Take him. Make sure I see that "L."

(Endicott watches his exit. Mother runs after the boy.
Father follows slowly, while looking back at the court.)

WILSON

(eyeing Mary, not the Boy. Mary looks over to William,
who alternates between watching her and Wilson, as he
writes down what is being said.)

Scorn the child, not the father. Scorn the mother. She must teach her son better.
See how she weeps. Man, tell your wife to keep her silence in court.

(Father nods, aware that he's not been put down by the
Court. Williams steps out to pray.)

ENDICOTT

Where are you going, man? Your wife shall be on trial next.

WILLIAM HUTCHINSON

I am praying.

WILSON

(shaking his head. Laughing maliciously)

As though God will listen to something you say.

(God enters and stands by William.)

WILLIAM HUTCHINSON

Oh Lord, please bring a kinder and more gentler life to these families, their
children, mothers. Please bring healing to all the families on trial. And I pray for
you to keep me calm and strong for my beloved Anne. And bring her a happy life
away from prison.

GOD

(embraces William)

Dear William, a prison can be a town
Your wife is free because she does believe
When these men are all buried six feet down
You and she shall be with me as family.

(Anne is led to the front of court, as God nudges William to
go in. She sees him, and smiles brightly for his presence has
brightened up her otherwise dark day.)

WILSON

Let me address the mothers of the Commonwealth. Children should be awake and
alert on the Sabbath. Respect your Leaders for we govern and bring wisdom that
nobody else is able to do. Do not allow your children to sleep on the Sabbath.
They must be taught the BIBLE.

WILSON (Continues)

(looks at Anne)

Anne Hutchinson, troublesome woman, the court accuses you of threatening our peace, degrading our ministry. The Holy Ghost shall only dwell in a man of God. You are a mere woman. This court censors your female opinion, and shall excommunicate you.

ANNE HUTCHINSON

I hear your words, Reverend Wilson, yet there is nothing wrong that I have done.

WILSON

I have told your trespasses, idiot. You dangerous instrument of the devil.

(William rises in anger. Son pulls him down.)

ANNE HUTCHINSON

And why is talking of God so wrong?

WILSON

Your words are contrary to our teachings; our leaders are men--scholars of God.

ANNE HUTCHINSON

That is a matter of conscience...and confidence, I believe.

WILSON

You believe. Your conscience you must keep silent, or it will be kept for you.

ANNE HUTCHINSON

So, I must not entertain the Saints, because you choose to possess my conscience?

WILSON

Then it is our conscience that must make you follow the rules.

ANNE HUTCHINSON

What law caused you to lock me up in jail?

WILSON

The fifth commandment, in particular.

ANNE HUTCHINSON

Honor my father and mother. What law have I broken?

WILSON

This Commonwealth you dishonor. It is as disrespecting your parents.

ANNE HUTCHINSON

I am the Lord's servant.

WILSON
SILENCE!

ENDICOTT
SILENCE!!!

ANNE HUTCHINSON
You mock with a holy attitude!

WILSON
Women who instruct men dishonor their husband and themselves....

ANNE HUTCHINSON
I acknowledge no such crime, Reverend, but remind you of the spirit of Esther, and of Ruth, Mary, Martha....

WILSON
Do you realize the influence you have on our children, the ones you have brought into the world. You are a threat to the purity of this Commonwealth.

COTTON
She uses herbs and kettles to deliver children. What justifies this pagan behavior?

ANNE HUTCHINSON
It is medicine, to cleanse and mend the pain of birth. So you understand what it is to bring a child into the world, Reverend Wilson?

WILSON
Of course I do, I am a man of the Lord, you forget the creator of all things. I can handle what you describe as "pain" in childbirth. I am a man.

ENDICOTT
You dishonor the church when you have meetings in your home.

ANNE HUTCHINSON
You impose more constraints in the new land than we had in Old England. It is unlawful to speak of God, even to study and recall the last sermon?

WILSON
Why must you continue this course?

ANNE HUTCHINSON
The elder woman should instruct the young. That is the rule in the book of Titus.

WILSON
All this I grant, but teaching men is wrong.

ANNE HUTCHINSON

You cannot convince me of that, no matter what. Not that I invite any man to come into my home and learn from me.

(Mary jolts; Anne has lied)

WILSON

And yet there were men there, men listening to you. No! It's the wives you must . teach the women to subject themselves to their husbands. They must.

(William Hutchinson stirs again. Endicott and Wilson notice. William's Son tried to hold him down again.)

WILSON (Continues)

(seeing William.)

Have some respect for the State, man.

ENDICOTT

Have some respect for the Church, Hutchinson.

ANNE HUTCHINSON

You have laid accusations that are false.

WILSON

You have practiced sedition and treason with your deceptive lies to the Commonwealth. Old woman, do not try the tricks of Satan; seduction is a sin, understand this that your sex is not capable to bear God's witness.

ANNE HUTCHINSON

And where in God's Word is that written?

WILSON

We are your judges; you are not ours. Obey.

ANNE HUTCHINSON

I must please your authority?

WILSON

Yes!

ANNE HUTCHINSON

No, I answer to the one who is higher. Jesus did, Moses did.

WILSON

They were men, men who served the Lord.

ANNE HUTCHINSON

And Esther, Sarah, Mary, Goodwife Noah—

WILSON

Silence!

ANNE HUTCHINSON

Now I am here teaching the court....

WILSON

You claim we are unable ministers of both the Lord and the New Testament. Excepting John Cotton and his covenant?

ANNE HUTCHINSON

If ever I spoke that, it was proven by God—his word and his wisdom.

WILSON

You cannot know, you are merely a woman.
Why do you teach the men?

ANNE HUTCHINSON

I do not teach the men.
(William Hutchinson and Mary know she has lied.)

REVEREND COTTON

Anne Hutchinson, this is my brother you're disrespecting. Woman, you must learn to listen.

(Anne feels like she's falling apart.)

REVEREND COTTON (Continues)

You are difficult in your opinions, unmanageable woman.

ANNE HUTCHINSON

(weakly)

Can my pastor show what I stated so untrue?

REVEREND COTTON

I have only heard about your teachings, that you claim my brothers in the Lord lack divine connection.

WILSON

The men of God here have spoken, woman. Ministers—undeniable men. Even Reverend Cotton, who is your friend.

ANNE HUTCHINSON

(looking at WILSON and COTTON)

I see there is no difference between your teachings.

WILSON

And the men you teach?

ANNE HUTCHINSON

(she looks round about the courtroom)

I fear I may not have taught men a thing.

(a few women laugh, men tell them to “sssh.”)

WILSON

This be the woman who claims me an unable minister, I pray for your soul, Godless sinner. We shall excommunicate you.

ENDICOTT

I am persuaded your revelation is nothing but a woman’s delusion. It is our ruling that you be banished far, far, far away. Banished –be gone from our society

WILSON

(screams)

Hang her!

ANNE HUTCHINSON

I desire to know wherefore I am banished?

ENDICOTT

Say no more. The court knows wherefore and is satisfied.

(to WILLIAM DYER)

Anne Hutchinson’s supporters shall no longer work for the Commonwealth.

(Anne is led out by Constables. William and children run behind. Mary runs through captors to join Anne, she cries.)

MARY DYER

Can you not see she is with child?

ENDICOTT

Who is that woman who protests?

REVEREND COTTON

That’s Mary Dyer, the mother of the Monster.

(Endicott nods; he’s heard this story.)

WILSON

Where is the Monster’s grave? It is important that I know.

ACT ONE

SCENE 4

(AT RISE: Angels and God are in the same forests at in the beginning.)

ANGELS

Oh God, we love Goodwife Hutchinson
We see how Reverend Cotton chastised her
and how she lost her case, her home, her town
We do believe she needs an angel spirit.

GOD

(is holding the baby)

She has an angel—caring, Mary Dyer
We will see her from here with providence
Sweet Mary, we are her protecting guide
Her life will inspire independence
These men, they try others' souls and bodies--
Behold these God-fearers and her baby.

(Wilson, Endicott, Cotter enter into the woods. God lies
down, holding the child, lovingly)

ENDICOTT

Might I suggest we return in the morning?

COTTON

We must see the Monster now.

WILSON

Decide the fate of Mary Dyer, lest she taint our commonwealth.

COTTON

She has. Whether she be the bastard child of King James or a mere commoner—a
Catholic, how pure can she be?

ENDICOTT

I believe her to be a servant in disguise...and—obviously--a mere woman.

COTTON

And illegitimate!

ENDICOTT

Miserable woman

COTTON

The baby is buried here.

WILSON

The Monster. A baby is pure.

COTTON

(Cotton uncovers the Monster Child, as God sits up, and watches.)

Behold, The Monster Child.

ENDICOTT

It has a head, but no face.

WILSON

(turns his head away.)

The horns.

(God rolls her eyes)

ENDICOTT

Ahhh, Monster. See how its ears stand on its shoulders.

WILSON

I cannot bear to see this atrocity.

ENDICOTT

And its nose dost not exist.

WILSON

How can you even gaze upon this---

ENDICOTT

Are these eyes extended from its body? It has two mouths!

WILSON

Two mouths? How?

ENDICOTT

Claws, like a fowl's. With sharp talons.

(Wilson looks away again. Endicott takes the baby and tosses it towards the ground. God retrieves it before any damage has been done. If the baby lands without God catching it, then she will comfort the baby.)

WILSON

Perhaps it is Mary who infected Anne with evil folk wisdom. This Monster shall be her eternal damnation.

COTTON

Had it been another mother, the child would be whole. But this be Mary Dyer, bastard child of parents of unknown origin. Feh!

WILSON

Please, get it out of my sight.

(Endicott grabs baby, but God will not let go of it. Endicott falls. One Angel frowns at God for doing something wrong. God smiles, shrugs.)

ENDICOTT

Help! Help! The Monster! Save me!

(Wilson hurls away with fear. Cotton reaches down to help up Endicott. Once up, the three run like frightened children. God and Angels wave “bye bye,” and slap each other “five,” shake one another’s hands.)

ACT ONE

SCENE 5

(AT RISE: It is later that night. Anne in prison. Williams Dyer and Hutchinson, and Mary are visiting her.)

ANNE HUTCHINSON

It was so good to see you, finally, and the spring doest bring us closer to leaving. I shall miss you.

MARY DYER

Aye.

(Mary turns to the Williams.)

I beg of you to leave us for now. I must speak with her.

WILLIAM DYER

(Williams embrace their wives, nod, and leave.)

I will see you shortly, my love.

ANNE HUTCHINSON

You are so blessed to have dear William with you.

MARY DYER

We are with true love. All of us.

MARY DYER, (Continues)

(Mary waits till they have left, and she turns to Anne.)
Anne, my heart has been so heavy for the fear you showed in court.

ANNE HUTCHINSON

I am not afraid of these horrible people, who call themselves men of God. They have a lot to learn.

MARY DYER

With all my respect, Anne, if you were not afraid, why did you tell them you do not teach men?

ANNE HUTCHINSON

(pauses)

I do not know.

MARY DYER

Lies are cowardly.

ANNE HUTCHINSON

(pauses)

I did not teach men. None have learned from me.

MARY DYER

Our husbands are men.

ANNE HUTCHINSON

Aye. I have learned from you. How could I fear so much?

MARY DYER

If I were you, the way I believe in you, I could have told the truth.

(Mary embraces Anne.)

I do not know if I could have told the truth as me, though.

ANNE HUTCHINSON

You would have. I know.

(Mary walks away.)

I will miss you very much.

(As she leaves, Endicott, Wilson, Cotton, Constable immediately push and enchain Mary.)

WILSON

(Accusing)

Mary Dyer! You stand accused of contamination of the Commonwealth of Boston, giving birth to a monster.

COTTON

I cannot protect you from this crime.

WILSON

Bastard Woman.

(Through all this, William Dyer tries to reach for his wife,
but is held back by the Constables.)

ANNE HUTCHINSON

Reverend Cotton!

ENDICOTT

You have deviously hidden your monster spirit from the people of this
Commonwealth.

ANNE HUTCHINSON

Twice you've broken our trust.

COTTON

I must protect my flock.

ANNE HUTCHINSON

We sought your counsel.

ENDICOTT

(to Anne)

Silence, woman. I will not allow you to create any more dissent and division in our
Commonwealth.

WILSON

No good will ever come from you, Mary Dyer. I banish you from Boston.

ANGELS

Be brave, Mary Dyer, please do not cry
Take this as your chance to find more truth and more friends
Mary Dyer, we all need some light,
And not be surrounded with just dead ends.

GOD

I see hope and comfort and providence
For you, your William, and Anne Hutchinson.
The people, the church leaders in Boston
will always be excluding everyone
Look to tomorrow, Mary Dyer, and smile.
This new life will suit you a little while.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

SCENE 1

(AT RISE: Mary is writing a letter to Anne Hutchinson at the table. There are foods and cups for tea on the table. William enters. He goes to kiss her as he speaks.)

WILLIAM DYER

My sweet Mary, what a day we've had. I need to speak with you about a very important event.

MARY DYER

(rises and hugs William.)

Please, wait. I missed you all day. But I have set the table for Roger, and we shall talk.

WILLIAM DYER

(holding on dearly)

Do you have something you would like to tell me, then?

MARY DYER

I feel so loved, and blessed. Come, I am writing to Anne. I have much to tell her.

WILLIAM DYER

(William, still in embrace, shakes his head, sadly.)

I have much to tell you.

MARY DYER

Esther said she wanted to change her name to Anne, after I told her of how she stood up to Reverend Wilson. I felt it be important to tell our little helper about Esther again.

WILLIAM DYER

(smiling)

And again. I love the woman you are.

MARY DYER

It was important I write to Anne. She has been in my thoughts for about a week.

WILLIAM DYER

(embraces tighter)

I understand, and Mary—please sit down.

(Mary sits, ROGER WILLIAMS enters. Roger looks lovingly at Mary.)

ROGER WILLIAMS

You are a strong woman, Mary Dyer.

(William shakes his head to Roger, trying to convey he has not told Mary.)

MARY DYER

(gets up. Embraces Roger.)

Roger. I have some tea, which I shall get you to warm up. Fruits, dates, some fresh nuts.

ROGER WILLIAMS

I could leave.

WILLIAM DYER

Your tea will cool.

ROGER WILLIAMS

We cannot make the same mistakes they did in Boston, there need be no problem when the Dutch, the Jews, Muslims or another group settle in and have something against us. If we bring the wisdom of the Lord, the "Providences of the Most Holy and Only Wise God"—

WILLIAM DYER

Graciously welcoming all to our community without judgment. Our wives and servants can visit the new travelers. Mary is always cooking and talking.

MARY DYER

(entering)

and raising crops—herbs, flowers. Foods.

(Mary pours tea, and points to flowers on the table.)

ROGER WILLIAMS

A remarkable woman. Might we travel through this new land, and speak to the cities about Providence, teach them of our tolerance.

WILLIAM DYER

Everywhere but Boston?

ROGER WILLIAMS

Aye.

MARY DYER

Boston needs the truth. Surely attitudes and anger would have changed by now.

ROGER WILLIAMS

If we show tolerance to all—the Moslem and the Jew, they would understand the truth we've found from the lessons of Jesus the Christ.

WILLIAM DYER

Aye.

ROGER WILLIAMS

They might find our way.

MARY DYER

Roger, let us understand all the religions' wisdom.

ROGER WILLIAMS

I pray they discover Jesus from our example and tolerance.

MARY DYER

What works for you and me will set us free. Yet it might not be special for another—a Moslem, a Pagan, even other Christian.

ROGER WILLIAMS

They need Christ.

MARY DYER

They may not believe that. The Jew, the Indian, and Moslem see thru their eyes...

ROGER WILLIAMS

You women, you do not understand.

WILLIAM DYER

Oh, she understands.

MARY DYER

Roger, we must rise above our own spirit to see the needs of each person. So many election scandals in Boston, and all their concern was that their guy was their man held the power. But I ask, what needs would our leaders service?

ROGER WILLIAMS

They will help their families prosper.

MARY DYER

To see them cheat to win, change the location of the polls without telling a soul except the people that voted for Endicott. Reverend Wilson is a man of God without compassion.

ROGER WILLIAMS

You resent no longer being in Boston.

MARY DYER

Nay, I cherish my freedoms.

ROGER WILLIAMS

Mary Dyer, you speak with such anger about Reverend Wilson.

MARY DYER

It saddens me that I am unable to travel freely to visit people who were my friends. When we have the ability to come to the new land, or return to Old England if we need or want... But we are vermin in Boston? For what reason? That I love you and Anne?

ROGER WILLIAMS

Here is where you were meant to be.

MARY DYER

I do not know your answer to be true. I am unsatisfied to stay in one place. I enjoy Providence. We are on holy ground that allows us to be blessed in the eyes of God.

ROGER WILLIAMS

Do you cherish our efforts of diplomacy – that we could buy this land — our home, from the Natives?

WILLIAM DYER

A true deal, without bloodshed but goods and monies to bless the natives. A nation of fairness and equity.

MARY DYER

Agreed. For our truth and equity with our fellow man comes from feeling their needs, and how we want to be treated.

ROGER WILLIAMS

So, what about England? What about our freedom from their tyranny? With Cromwell as their ruler, claiming this land, Boston, Connecticut as his. What must we do to show this is our land? The land of the people of the Providence. That we bought from the Indians.

WILLIAM DYER

Must we defer to the Brits' nobility and follow their advice?

ROGER WILLIAMS

We offer relations, diplomacy.

WILLIAM DYER

Cromwell will be angry. We are of British blood.

MARY DYER

Set a land charter. Create a land charter that allows us the power of our own land, not as a colony. We bought this land from the Natives. (emphasizes) The Natives. This was their land, we bought it! England has no part to our Providence.

WILLIAM DYER

And have Cromwell approve it, my dear Mary?

MARY DYER

Set sail to England, present our land charter.

ROGER WILLIAMS

William, your wife has a brilliant mind.

MARY DYER

I chose William for the same reason, Roger.

(William puts his arm around Mary, smiles.)

ROGER WILLIAMS

(he bows to Mary.)

Aye. I shall leave now, dear Mary Dyer. I thank you for the fruit and nuts.

(Roger hurries out of the home.)

WILLIAM DYER

I am so blessed to have you.

MARY DYER

I, too, you.

WILLIAM DYER

There is an important – Mary, please sit down.

(William picks up Mary's letter to Anne.)

MARY DYER

That is very private.

WILLIAM DYER

Anne, she has been murdered.

MARY DYER

No.

WILLIAM DYER

By Indians.

MARY DYER

That is impossible.

WILLIAM DYER

I wish it were not so. I grieve. There was a massacre at her home in New Amsterdam. And everybody knew there were Indians who killed her dog, her children. Her. They can not find Susannah...

MARY DYER

I must go.

WILLIAM DYER

No, what if they kill you?

MARY DYER

They will not. I love all people...

WILLIAM DYER

You hate the sin; keep yourself away from the sin. Come with me to England.

MARY DYER

No. I need Anne. My children, she she she helped me with – we protested how Endicott and Wilson treated the Natives. It was important that –

WILLIAM DYER

Say it.

(William holds Mary as she cries. These moments should take all the time she needs to recover from the shock of losing her best friend, and the comfort William gives her.)

MARY DYER

The Indians... She was, she protested against our massacres, rapings, murders of Indians. How can this be?

WILLIAM DYER

I ask myself, as well. The people she loved, they did not know her.

MARY DYER

If I may say to you, what I wanted to say to Anne.

WILLIAM DYER

Yes, you may.

MARY DYER

I thought I would see her again.

WILLIAM DYER

I know the love you and Anne had for one another.

MARY DYER

(reading)

God is with you, Anne, and speaks directly to you just as I to my William. The power you gave me here in Providence, as a friend... more than a friend, like a sister. And we supported one another through the building of our homes—twice, here and in Boston. And to sit and talk with you when you were here, trying to crack nuts together, and break them. You made me laugh, Anne. And you stopped me from crying. You saved me through many painful childbirths which made me that much stronger...

William? William. I don't know if she hears me.

WILLIAM DYER

(hugs his wife.)

I do.

ACT TWO

SCENE 2

(AT RISE: Mary, Roger, and William are eating meat and bread in a British Inn. There are a few other people at a nearby table. GEORGE is sitting down alone, praying, and writing. Occasionally one of the locals sits down with George, and hugs him. Throughout the scene, Mary gazes at him.)

WILLIAM DYER

We shall teach Lord Cromwell to be respectful of the Indians as we work on this charter. It is most important that he acknowledge we own this land.

ROGER WILLIAMS

Shall we speak of the cruelty of our English brothers in Boston? Their murderous ways?

WILLIAM DYER

It's hard to know as some Indians are true heathens.

MARY DYER

William, you always looked into their hearts.

WILLIAM DYER

How can you speak so forgivingly after what they did to Anne?

MARY DYER

They? Not all of them.

WILLIAM DYER

Do you want to understand why Roger believes in putting up fences to protect our Providence?

MARY DYER

So we shall become as elite at the Puritans of Boston?

WILLIAM DYER

As protected.

ROGER WILLIAMS

Less so from the Naragansett, more from the others. The Patuxet and the others will need to recognize our charter, too.

MARY DYER

Our neighbors will respect us if we're peaceful to them.

ROGER WILLIAMS

We are. But the other white men are not, how can they discern one of us from another?

WILLIAM DYER

We shall build a strong wall for our protection.

MARY DYER

They, too, have a sanctity of light and their honest beliefs

ROGER WILLIAMS

Their sanctity of light is merely that they may find the light.

MARY DYER

We have forsaken them with cruelty.

ROGER WILLIAMS

(rising)

WE did no such thing. We must go.

MARY DYER

Our brothers and sisters treated them and us with much dishonesty.

ROGER WILLIAMS

(Roger eyes William, to convince him to stand.)

But we are different.

MARY DYER

Only by the colour of our flesh.

ROGER WILLIAMS

And the depth of our beliefs. They have gods, Mary. Gods. We're patient enough to convert them — there is hope for the Indians. But we have to go. Lord Cromwell is not easy to please.

(William stands.)

MARY DYER

Aye, but they have faith. And it has worked with them for many a year.

(ANNE BURDEN comes to Mary's table.)

ANNE BURDEN

I hear your voice, I know it from my past.

MARY DYER

You seem familiar. I am Mary Dyer from Providence.

ANNE BURDEN

I am Anne Burden. We would often pray with Anne Hutchinson. How is she?

MARY DYER

(smiles, shakes head, hugging Anne.)

Anne. I lost my Anne—she and her children, most of them, were killed near New Amsterdam.

ANNE BURDEN

(looking straight in Mary's eyes, and keeping her hand on her shoulder.)

I am so sorry.

MARY DYER

I am still trying to find forgiveness and understand how a woman so comforting, how her inner light was so ignored by many many people, including Indians who would be so spiritual.

ANNE BURDEN

I keep hearing you mention the inner light. Are you speaking as a follower of the Friends of Truth?

ROGER WILLIAMS

They do not believe in works, Mary Dyer.

MARY DYER

Neither do I. I seek only the truth.

ANNE BURDEN

I seek the truth, too.

ROGER WILLIAMS

Don't seek him for the truth. I give you more truth....

MARY DYER

Yes, yes, dear Roger, but you disregard the paths people walk. As you, yourself, said so—Jew, Christian, Christian, Christian, Indian and Moslem. There are so many.

ROGER WILLIAMS

Only that they may find Christ.

MARY DYER

And again, I ask unto you, what if they do not even seek the Christ?

ROGER WILLIAMS

Come, we must meet with Lord Cromwell. Mary, please do prepare our beds, we shall be late.

MARY DYER

And so shall I.

WILLIAM DYER

(Embracing his wife)

Mary, do what you need to give yourself a blessing today.

MARY DYER

I am always blessed by you, my William. Even as you pray for separatism from the Crown... and separation of our beliefs from the government and one another.

WILLIAM DYER

I shall work on that Mary.... having a mind as open and as pure as yours.

(Roger is impatient. William looks at him.)

I can make my own bed, as you know, my wonderful wife. You must feel lonely.

MARY DYER

I am not. I shall break bread with my friend, here.

(William and Roger exit.)

ANNE BURDEN

We can pray?

MARY DYER

I pray, sometimes, dear Roger would be tolerant. We are all of the same earth.

ANNE BURDEN

Aye.

MARY DYER

I believe that God is with all of us. All. We may have different names for The Lord. Some may not even believe. Others might feel their God is as a woman. How would I know. All I feel is the miracles of life — in the beauty of our land, flowers, animals, foods that we eat and nourish the lives of my family, you, Roger, the Indians... and Lord Cromwell. I'm in awe of life.

ANNE BURDEN

We are all as a melting pot of differences if we hear one another's true desires. We all seek some light, even from a dark path.

MARY DYER

You must have so much to tell me.

ANNE BURDEN

Aye. After Anne left, I faced so much darkness. My husband died, the leadership of Boston became more and more cruel to me. How could I find God when they said our lives and deaths have been predestined? What would I even work for?

MARY DYER

I do believe the growth comes through discovery.

ANNE BURDEN

I told Roger of the glories I found with the Friends.

MARY DYER

Wonderful

ANNE BURDEN

(Shaking her head.)

Roger proclaimed that we—the Quakers—could not be redeemed.

MARY DYER

(Hugs Anne.)

Oh... he is creating a religion, and hates the competition.

(Looking into the audience.)

I feel so blessed to be with an Anne, when another Anne used to help me so much.

(George rises, the room quiets down, and most of the people flock to him.)

GEORGE

My Friends of Truth. People are in need—we are seeking freedom here in England, persecuted for obeying God rather than men. Come let us share what we have learned

ANNE BURDEN

Brother George, I bring thee, sweet Mary Dyer, from New England, originally from England.

GEORGE

Bless you, sweet Mary. Thou art call-ed to speak for the Lord.

MARY DYER

I thank you, and am seeking truth, as my husband and friends seek a peaceful reconciliation with the Puritans of New England and the Indians who have nurtured that land for thousands of years. We bought land from the Indians. Peacefully.

GEORGE

Thou shall return and also nurture that land and bring wisdom to all.

MARY DYER

Aye. We've had strife. I need strength to contend.

GEORGE

Thou shalt build thine power and bravery to diminish thy fear. Stay here, study with me.

MARY DYER

My second child was stillborn: the Puritans in Boston cast me out. They cast away my best friend, Anne Hutchinson for holding forth the studies of the BIBLE to all, including the men— leaders. They didn't listen, and she became so fearful that she lied, she lied and said she never taught men about God.

(MARY crying.)

I forgave her, but the fear has stayed with me all these years, even after she was murdered. I want to be brave and always speak truth.

WOMAN, ONE OF CROWD

Why, I teach to men! We are here to helpeth all. These poor Puritans still livest in the 16th century.

GEORGE

Fear begets dishonesty. Dishonesty dilutes knowledge. Share the truth in all ways to all the men and all the women. To everyone who passes in thy midst, thou must be true.

MARY DYER

I like (smiles) thy way of speech.

GEORGE

I speak to thee, Sweet Mary, of thy blessings, and want you to teach.

(Mary flexes her arms and feels her strength as George and the friends walk off stage.)

ACT TWO

SCENE 3

(AT RISE: HOME IN ENGLAND.
Mary prepares the beds, then lugs a large
BIBLE onto the table and reads as Roger and
William enter.)

ROGER WILLIAMS

And look at our Mary, did you make any friends as we worked with nobility?

MARY DYER

I sure did, sweet Roger, though thou wilt not approve.
They are indeed the Friends of Truth, who thou dost condemn.

(Roger cringes, as William smiles)

WILLIAM DYER

It is good to search for the light, my true love and this will bless you and our
children. You are great, and will be an even greater woman.

(Roger takes William aside.)

ROGER WILLIAMS

She is your woman and must follow your way.

WILLIAM DYER

I have always sought her wisdom, and have learned from her.

ROGER WILLIAMS

All I can say is I am glad we live in Providence, and not Boston. But we are in
England, and these Friends of Truth are highly persecuted here.

WILLIAM DYER

Well... if we keep her with us wherever we go, she shall not make your bed and
cook your meals.

(William moves from Roger and embraces Mary.)

MARY DYER

I hope thou succeeded well with Lord Cromwell.

WILLIAM DYER

Truly, he is a very sad man, Mary. We leave for New England tomorrow.

MARY DYER

I will send thee prayer, William. I wish to stay, build my inner light.