

021 JUDGE

Do you wish to challenge any of the jurors before they are sworn in, Mr. Southwell?

022 ROBERT

I will challenge none.

023 JUDGE

Then I welcome the prosecution to the floor.

MUSIC UNDERSCORES THE OPENING STATEMENT.

**START >>>**

024 LORD BURGHLEY

These indictments shall be proven easily, as it seems Mr. Southwell, despite claiming innocence, has not denied any of the indictments brought against him. Mr. Southwell having acknowledged himself to be a Catholic priest, and thanking God for it, you need not any further proof. He need not confess that he was made a priest since the first year of Her Majesty's reign, for he was not yet born when her Majesty began her reign.

(a pause, sarcastic)

How old are you, anyway?

025 ROBERT

I think that I am near the age of Our Saviour who lived upon the earth thirty-three years.

026 LORD BURGHLEY

(clearing his throat)

For a third point, you have already admitted you were at the Bellamy residence to administer the sacraments. Did you not know The Statute that has made this same act treason?

027 ROBERT

I know the statute. But it is impossible to make any such law agreeable to the word of God.

028 LORD BURGHLEY

Mr. Southwell, you once again let slip a word, that I must insist the jury acknowledge.

(MORE)

**LORD BURGHLEY** (CONT'D)

That the laws of England, of our Queen, are not laws according to the word of God.

029 ROBERT

(defensive)

Yes, but-

030 **LORD BURGHLEY**

But our Queen Elizabeth rules by divine right. She is God's chosen representative on Earth.

031 ROBERT

Well, I-

032 **LORD BURGHLEY**

Every fresh attack on Her Majesty made by both the Pope and the King of Spain had to be met with fresh laws. With each weapon they drew, we were forced to defend Her and England. And therefore, defend God.

033 ROBERT

Sir, I-

034 **LORD BURGHLEY**

And once you came to England, you wielded a new weapon of corruption: words. Your treasonous words in your treasonous pamphlets.

035 ROBERT

I sought no treason-

036 **LORD BURGHLEY**

And likewise we met these treasonous pamphlets with law and made it a felony to publish them, a felony to keep them. But imagine, my gentle patrons, the man's mind who may deign to write them-

037 ROBERT

My Lord-

038 TOPCLIFFE

Hold your peace, until the Queen's Counsel has spoken! Only then shall you be heard.

Robert's energy shifts on a dime.

039 LORD BURGHLEY

(smiling)

He may speak.

ROBERT TAKES A BREATH, RENEWING HIS STRENGTH.

040 ROBERT

My Lords, I beg your leave to  
answer forthwith. I am decayed in  
memory with long and close  
imprisonment, and I have been  
tortured many times. And I had  
rather endured as many executions.

041 LORD BURGHLEY

(indignant, defensive)

I never heard that you were  
tortured...

<<< END

WALLA: THE COURT MURMURS WITH DISTASTE. IT IS  
WELL KNOWN HE WAS TORTURED.

042 TOPCLIFFE

If he were tortured, let me die for  
it!

WALLA: THE CROWD GROWS MORE UNRULY IN THEIR  
MURMURS.

043 JUDGE

Order, order.

WALLA: THE CROWD QUIETS.

044 ROBERT

He called it the manacles. They are  
new. And you, my good Englishmen,  
deserve to know their name and  
nature. They are instruments of  
pain, designed to break both body  
and soul. They are fixed to the  
wrists so no blood flows freely.  
Then, by chains, the arms are drawn  
upward, until a man hangs in the  
air.

WALLA: A FEW GASPS. THE CROWD GROWS UNRULY.

045 JUDGE

Order-