

## The Puritan Mind

### Reading 1:

Profane no Divine Ordinance.  
Touch no state matters.  
Urge no healths.  
Pick no quarrels.  
Encourage no vice.  
Repeat no grievances.  
Reveal no secrets.  
Maintain no ill opinions.  
Make no comparisons.  
Keep no bad company.  
Make no long meals.  
Lay no wagers.

~The Twelve good rules of Puritan Behavior

### Reading 2:

**In Adam's Fall,  
We Sinned All.**

**Thy Life to Mend,  
The Bible Attend.**

**A dog will bite  
A Thief at night.**

**The Idle Fool  
Is Whipt at school.**

- New England Primer, 1690

### Reading 3:

*Surely there is in all children a stubbornness and stoutness of mind arising from natural pride, which must, in the first place be broken and beaten down; that so the foundation of their education being laid in humility and tractableness, other virtues may, in their time, be built thereon. For the beating and keeping down of this stubbornness parents must provide carefully... that the children's wills and willfulness be restrained and repressed, and that, in time, lest sooner than they imagine, the tender springs grow to that stiffness that they will rather break than bow.*

~ John Robinson

### Reading 4:

The God that holds you over the pit of fire, much as one holds a spider or some loathsome insect, abhors you and is dreadfully provoked. His wrath toward you burns like fire; he looks upon you as worthy of nothing else but to be cast into the fire.

~Jonathan Edwards, 1734

- **What are the basic Puritan beliefs illustrated in these quotations?**
- **In what ways did the Puritans attempt to make religion a controlling force in everyday life?**

## CRIME AND PUNISHMENT IN PURITAN TOWNS

As you now know, Puritans were extreme Protestants who had very strict, strong religious beliefs.

They believed that only a small number of people would actually make it to Heaven and that most people weren't good enough to get there. To get to Heaven, Puritans believed you must lead a simple life with few pleasures, work very hard, sacrifice, and attend church regularly.

It was their belief that you did not live this way, and instead involved yourself with activities that were either frivolous or didn't have a religious purpose, that you should be punished. Puritan courts were very strict with those who broke the Puritan laws.

The most serious crimes of murder, treason, and witchcraft, were punishable by death. Other crimes were usually punished by some form of public humiliation: the stocks, the pillory, the bilboes, the ducking stool, etc.

The following people have committed crimes and are to be tried in a Puritan court. Read what they have done, fill in the chart, and decide on a Puritan punishment to teach them a lesson.

- Mr. White: A neighbor was on his way to the Meeting House last Sunday and saw Mr. White working in his fields. He was using his horse to collect his recent harvest of pumpkins for sale at the local market.
- Mr. Smith: Mr. Smith and his brother, visiting from Boston, were seen playing cards at a nearby tavern.
- Mrs. Harris: For the last two Sundays she has been sleeping in late and not been attending church. Her friends know she has not been ill, but they don't know why she hasn't been attending church services.
- Mrs. Martin: The other day Mrs. Martin was seen on her way into town to visit the market with brightly colored ribbons in her hair and bright red lipstick on.
- Master Thomas: Last Sunday young Thomas (age 8) was seen playing with his rolling hoops in the field behind the church by an elder at the church. This is the second time Thomas has been seen playing on the Sabbath.
- Miss Greene: Miss Greene's neighbor was stopping over to buy some eggs from the Greene's, when Miss Greene approached her and began to speak unkindly about a man who lives in town. Miss Greene made several negative comments about the man.

These snippets are from colonial newspapers and describe "criminals" and their punishments for their crimes.

**Whereas several idle, gossiping women make it their business to go from house [to house] about the island, inventing and spreading false and scandalous reports of the good people thereof, and thereby sow discord and debate among neighbors, and often between men and their wives, to the great grief and trouble of all good and quiet people, and to the utter extinguishing of all friendship, amity, and good neighborhood: for the punishment and suppression whereof, and to the intent that all strife may be ended, charity revived, and friendship continued,—we do order that, if any woman, from henceforward, shall be convicted of tale bearing, mischief making, scolding, drunkenness, or any other notorious vice, that they shall be punished by ducking, or whipping, or such other punishment as their crimes or transgressions shall deserve, or as the Governor and Council shall think fit.**

*Common Scold.*—Catharine Fields was indicted and convicted for being a common scold. The trial was exceedingly amusing, from the variety of testimony and the diversified manner in which this Xantippe pursued her virulent propensities. "Ruder than March wind, she blew a hurricane;" and it was given in evidence that after having scolded the family individually, the bipeds and quadrupeds, the neighbours, hogs, poultry, and geese, she would throw the window open at night to scold the watchmen. Her countenance was an index to her temper,—sharp, peaked, fallow, and small eyes. To be sentenced on Saturday week.—*Nat. Adv.*

The following prisoners were also tried last week for various thefts, found guilty, and received sentence, viz.

Cornelius Arie, to be whipt 25 ftripes, and fet one hour on the gallows.

Thomas Joice, to be whipt 25 ftripes, and branded.

William Scott, to be whipt 25 ftripes, and fet one hour on the gallows.

John Goodbread, and Edward Cooper, 15 ftripes each.

James Campbell, to be whipt 30 ftripes, and fet one hour on the gallows.

Michael Tool, to be whipt 20 ftripes.

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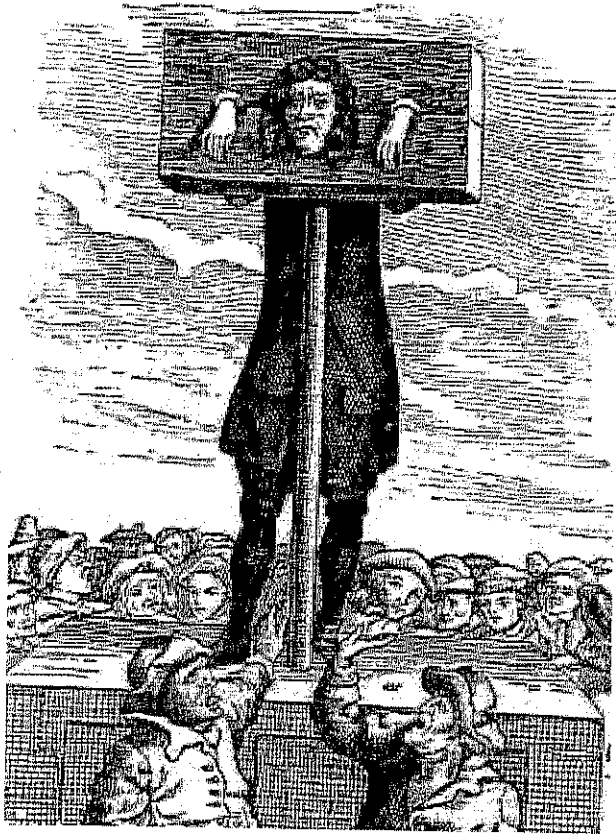
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## PURITAN PUNISHMENTS

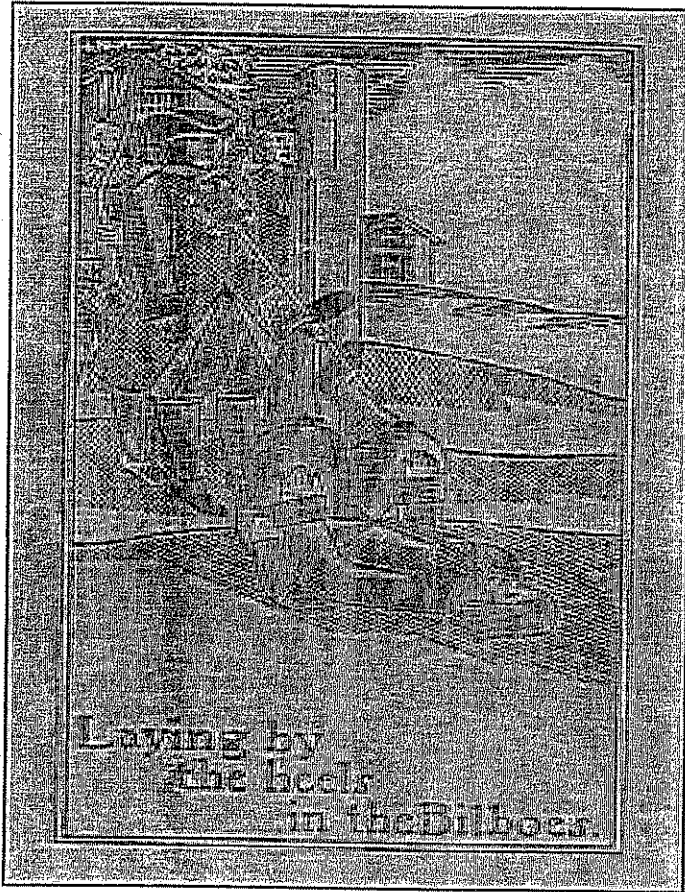
1. Benefit of clergy: The convicted may have plead "benefit of clergy", in which case if they read a passage from the Bible perfectly - without a single mistake - their sentence would have be reduced.
2. Pillory: The convicted would have his or her hands placed in a locked stockade for a set period of time (a whole day, 3 hours, etc.) and the community would be invited to pelt him/her with food. The convicted must clean up anything thrown at him/her when their sentence was complete.
3. Stocks: The convicted would sit on a wooden board or platform with their legs straight, slightly raised, and clamped between two fitted holes for a set period of time. Knees can't be bent, legs can't be rotated at all. Legs become very stiff and sore from this position.
4. Wearing a shame sign: The convicted must make and wear a sign around their neck declaring their crime to the community.
5. Branding: A more serious punishment for either more serious crimes or for those who have committed lesser crimes multiple times and just don't seem to learn. The convicted is marked with a hot branding iron with letters that stand for their crime: "HT" for hog thief, "R" for rogue (vagabond), "M" for manslaughter, "H" for heretic, etc. Branding could take place on the cheek, forehead, hand, or finger.
6. Ducking Stool: The convicted is strapped to a small stool at the end of a long sturdy pole. The stool is repeatedly dunked under water. This punishment was usually reserved for women who were accused of gossiping.
7. The Bilboes: The convicted is forced to lie on the ground and have his/her legs padlocked to each side of a long metal rod. The rod is suspended several feet above the ground, so the convicted just lies there with his/her feet in the air as the community comes by and ridicules him/her.
8. Whipping: A common punishment for men only. The number of "lashes" is administered to the convicted person's back, depending on the severity of the crime. (usually between 5 and 20).
9. Public Shaming: The convicted's hands are lashed together and tied to the saddle of a horse. Someone rides the horse through town, with the accused having to walk behind the horse, yelling about the convicted person and his/her crime(s). The community is expected to turn out to laugh at and ridicule the convicted person and throw small objects at him/her.



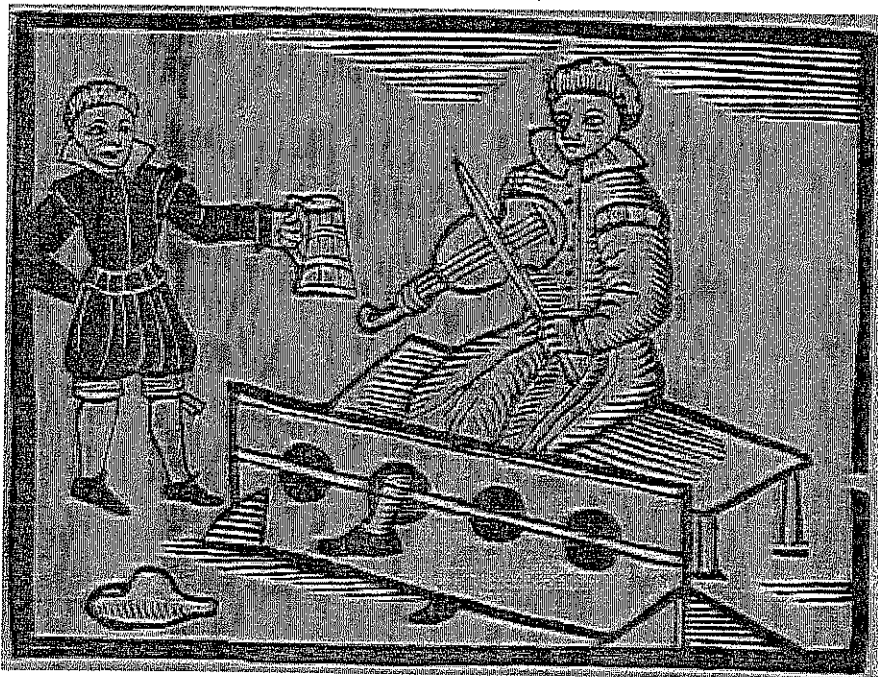
The Pillory



The Ducking Stool



The Bilboes



The Stocks



The Whipping Post



Branding

BRANDING SLAVES





## BAD THAI COPS TO ENDURE KITTY SHAME

(08-06) 04:38 PDT BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) --

Thai police officers who break rules will be forced to wear hot pink armbands featuring "Hello Kitty," the Japanese icon of cute, as a mark of shame, a senior officer said Monday.

Police officers caught littering, parking in a prohibited area, or arriving late — among other misdemeanors — will be forced to stay in the division office and wear the armband all day, said Police Col. Pongpat Chayaphan. The officers won't wear the armband in public.

The striking armband features Hello Kitty sitting atop two hearts.

"Simple warnings no longer work. This new twist is expected to make them feel guilt and shame and prevent them from repeating the offense, no matter how minor," said Pongpat, acting chief of the Crime Suppression Division in Bangkok.

"(Hello) Kitty is a cute icon for young girls. It's not something macho police officers want covering their biceps," Pongpat said.

He said police caught breaking the law will be subject the same fines and penalties as any other members of the public.

"We want to make sure that we do not condone small offenses," Pongpat said, adding that the CSD believed that getting tough on petty misdemeanors would lead to fewer cases of more serious offenses including abuse of power and mistreatment of the public by police officers.

Hello Kitty, invented by Sanrio Co. in 1974, has been popular for years with children and young women. The celebrity cat adorns everything from diamond-studded jewelry, Fender guitars and digital cameras to lunch boxes, T-shirts and stationery.