

Body Paragraph #1

One aspect of Puritanism exhibited in both Winthrop's "A Model of Christian Charity" and Wigglesworth's *Day of Doom* is the powerful and effective use of fear to exercise and | *rule* maintain control over its congregation. Any Puritan deviating from the one true righteous path will receive punishment meted out in ^{or} fast and furious manner. In "A Model of Christian Charity," Winthrop warns his community of the atrocities that will befall it should it fail to keep the covenant with God. If secular and ethereal pitfalls (such as greed and the worshipping of "other gods" (p. 216) cannot be avoided, the Church will suffer devastating and far reaching repercussions. He writes, "We shall shame the faces of many of God's worthy servants, and cause prayers to be turned to curses upon us until we are consumed out of the good land..." (p. 216). So it is Winthrop's contention that not only will the town receive the wrath of God in heaven, but they will receive the wrath of the Puritan Church on earth, for they would be held *good* responsible for the disgracing and moral downfall of the entire religion (a hefty weight for one community to bear). Unable to tolerate the shunning and loathing from their peers, they would eventually leave the land. *rule trans.* Escape, however, is not an option for the tormented souls of the condemned in Wigglesworth's vivid poem. The poem serves as a cautionary tale to transgressors as to what awaits them come Judgement Day. Don't ask for mercy for none will be forthcoming. Pleas for clemency or leniency will fall upon deaf ears; furthermore the mere request of these favors will result in increased torment. *quick example here would illustrate your pt* Spouses, friends, children will show no pity or compassion, as it is, the author proclaims, "out of fashion" (p 304). The ultimate fate of sinners is spelled out in stanza 210 "Their pain and grief have no relief, their anguish never endeth, there must they lie, and never die..." (p 306). It is their lot to eternally endure pain and suffering, and to be in a perpetual state of dying. If these depictions of hell weren't enough to scare a wayward

Puritan straight, he was probably beyond redemption anyway. Fear is a strong and powerful emotion. Wigglesworth and Winthrop seem to be aware of this as both their writings expertly play on the fears of the men.

How and to what degree do you think Wigglesworth's ambivalent feelings towards his father's death influenced his poem about Judgement Day?

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