**Dr. S. CHOUCHANE**

**3rd Year Literature Module**

**Academic Year: 2024/2025**

**Lesson 7**

**The Crucible 1**

**Summary of *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller**

*The Crucible* is set in 1692 during the Salem witch trials in Massachusetts, and it explores the dangers of mass hysteria, the abuse of power, and the consequences of scapegoating. The play begins when a group of young girls, led by Abigail Williams, are caught dancing in the woods and are accused of witchcraft. To avoid punishment, the girls start naming others in the community as witches, which leads to widespread panic and accusations.

The central character, John Proctor, is a respected farmer who had an affair with Abigail. Abigail, still in love with him, seeks to have his wife, Elizabeth, accused of witchcraft. As the trials intensify, Proctor and others, including his wife and friends, struggle against the growing injustice and hysteria. Proctor ultimately chooses to stand by his integrity rather than falsely confess to witchcraft, even though it will cost him his life. The play ends with the tragic execution of Proctor and others, illustrating the destructive power of fear and mass accusation.