

CHAPTER 11: “THE INTERIOR OF A HEART”

WORDS

abhorrence	laden	presentiments
antipathy	latent	preternatural
balked	machinations	scourge
celestial	malice	smiting (smite)
ethereal	odious	unamiable
forlorn	omniscience	vengeance
impalpable	pious	
iniquity	pith	

QUESTIONS

1. What effect does Reverend Dimmesdale’s guilt have upon his popularity in the colony?
2. What practices does Dimmesdale begin as a result of his guilt?

NOTES

Tongue of Flame: Biblical reference to the Pentecost. After Jesus’ ascension, the disciples were overcome by the Holy Spirit in the form of a great wind; then, they saw tongues of flame above their heads and were given the ability to speak in many languages. Afterwards they traveled the ancient world as the apostles.

Enoch: Biblical character from Genesis who is “taken” by God. This has been interpreted to mean that he became part of God’s heavenly cohort. In extra-Biblical legend, he is the chief of all angels.

corrupted faith of Rome: the Roman Catholic Church. Of course, the corruption would be from Dimmesdale’s (i.e., Puritan’s) point of view.