

## **JOHN ELIOT AND THOMAS MAYHEW *TEARS OF REPENTANCE (1653)***

These Indians . . . have for some years inquired after Church-Estate, Baptism, and the rest of the Ordinances of God, in the observation whereof they see the Godly English to walk. I have from time to time, delayed them upon this point . . . But now being come under Civil Order, and fixing themselves in Habitations, and bending themselves to labor, as doth appear by their works of Fencings, Buildings &c. . . . now my argument of delaying them from entering into Church-Estate, was taken away. Therefore in way of preparation of them thereunto, I did this Summer call forth sundry of them in the dayes of our publick Assemblies . . . to make confession before the Lord of their former sins, and of their present knowledg of Christ, and experience of his Grace; which they solemnly doing, I wrote down their Confessions:

### **Then Waban was called forth, whose Confession was as followeth . . .**

Before I heard of God, and before the English came into this Country, many evil things my heart did work . . . I wished for riches, I wished to be a witch, I wished to be a Sachem . . . Then when the English came, still my heart did the same things; when the English taught me of God (I coming to their Houses) I would go out of their doors, and many years I knew nothing; when the English taught me I was angry with them: But a little while agoe after the great sickness, I considered what the English do, and I had some desire to do as they do; and after that I began to work as they work; and then I wondered how the English come to be so strong to labor . . .

This Confession being not so satisfactory as was desired, Mr. Wilson testified, that he spake these latter expressions with tears, which I observed not, because I attended to writing; but I gave this testimony of him, That his conversation was without offence to the English, so far as I knew, and among the Indians, it was exemplar . . . he is much respected among them, for they have chosen him a Ruler of Fifty, and he Ruleth well according to his measure. It was further said, they thought he had been a great drawer on to Religion; I replied, so he was in his way, and did prevail with many; and so it rested.

### **The next that was called, was William of Sudbury, his Indian Name is Nataôus**

I Confess that before I prayed, I committed all manner of sins, and served many gods: when the English came first, I going to their Houses, they spake to me of your God, but when I heard of God, my heart hated it; but when they said the Devil was my god, I was angry, because I was proud: when I came to their houses I hated to hear of God, I loved lust in my own house and not God, I loved to pray to many gods.

Then going to your house, I more desired to hear of God; and my heart said, I will pray to God so long as I live: then I went to the Minister Mr. Brown's house, and told him I would pray as long as I lived; but he said I did not say it from my heart, and I beleeve it. When Waban spake to me that I should pray to God, I did so. But I had greatly sinned against God, and had not beleaved the Word, but was proud . . .

**Taken from John Eliot and Thomas Mayhew, *Tears of Repentance: or, A Further Narrative of the Progress of the Gospel amongst the Indians in New-England* (London: Peter Cole in Leaden-Hall, 1653), 7–11.**