

Anne Hutchinson

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Anne Hutchinson was a Puritan remarkable advisor who spread her own explanation of the Bible, leading to the Antinomian disputes in the Massachusetts Bay Colony. She was and she is a real hero in the American history. Anne Hutchinson was undoubtedly a strong personality who refused to deny her ideal and ethics. She did not bother about the cost of such points even in the face of diversity. Anne Hutchinson was a strong woman. Honestly to be said, it can be hard for today's generation to understand how it could be possible to live following the Puritan rules in the established American colonies, particularly if someone is a woman. At that period of the American history, females were not even allowed to think for themselves and express their viewpoints. Anne Hutchinson was a religious leader, mother, and wife. Nowadays, she can be truly named as the first American feminist. It is significant to remark that her considerations and judgments were negative for the Puritan leaders. Still, Anne had never tried to insult humans. Her vision was as simple as all individuals with high education have. She had her certain attitude following Church norms. She truly aimed to participate and help ordinary people to succeed. It is possible that Hutchinson's credo was too simple, and that is why the majority of Colony's leaders worried about that moment ("Anne Hutchinson", 2002).

Anne Hutchinson was a religious liberal who became one of the founders of Rhode Island after her banishment from Massachusetts Bay Colony. She married William Hutchinson, a successful tradesman, in 1612, and they migrated to Massachusetts Bay Colony, in 1634. *The Wordy Shipmates* by Sarah Vowell is an outstanding effort to explain the reality of America as a Puritan nation to the contemporary public. Along with the other prominent representatives of the Puritan movement, Vowell describes Hutchinson as the influential woman with quite a strong character (Bensen, 2008). Hutchinson's legacy greatly demonstrates her beliefs about women

who were a blessing from God, not a curse on mankind. Anne Hutchinson is an eminent personality of the 17<sup>th</sup> century since she was a woman to be admired by anyone who believes in the rights of each human to freedom of speech, thought, and freedom to worship.

Given the father's academic competency and strong faith, it is not surprisingly that Anne developed an interest in theology and the religion at a quite young age. Anne was a home-schooled girl, and she used to read books from her father's library, where she found answers to questions about faith. She has grown to admire her father's assertiveness and ideas, and she was not afraid of asking about the church's authority and the principles of faith ("Anne Hutchinson", 2002). Hutchinson was a well-educated in the Bible, exceedingly intelligent from the father's education and her own self-studies, highly-skilled in the medicinal herbs and midwifery. Anne Hutchinson quickly became a leading representative of the community. She used to organize weekly meetings with Boston women to discuss recent preaching and give her own expression to theological views. Ultimately, she began re-interpreting the notion preached in the church. Soon, when Anne Hutchinson started organizing meetings, such appointments became quite controversial events. She proposed a doctrine of salvation that could be realized exactly through the God's insight of grace existence. Soon, Anne Hutchinson's doctrine was viewed as an attack on tough moral and legislation of the New England Puritans, and the Massachusetts priesthood's power. As a result, Anne's vision had led to the significant political polemic in the colony, and strong adherence that have appeared on both sides (Reuben, 2011).

Anne stressed the personal intuition as a means of reaching God and salvation, rather than the observance of institutionalized beliefs and the ministers' regulation. Hutchinson's opponents blamed her for antinomianism. Such a view supposed that God's mercy has freed the Christian from the necessity to follow installed moral principles.

Massachusetts Bay Colony has quite a depressive and harsh religious climate at that time. Boston was a severe place in reality of that period. It had repressed everybody's religious duty to pray. Anne Hutchinson led the life of a trusted profound mother, housewife, and ordinary wise woman in Massachusetts Bay Colony. A charisma of Anne had been combined with her gentle character and unique power of her mind. Such an aspect had attracted other people to Anne's personality. Hutchinson used to speak about her own divergent theological vision. She emphasized an individual intuition over the institutional belief and certain rules since she considered them as a proper means to reach God ("Anne Hutchinson", 2013). Anne Hutchinson had refused that correspondence with the religious principles was a character of sainthood. Soon, she insisted that true piety had appeared from the humans' inner experience of the Holy Spirit. The character of the church's criticism that Anne Hutchinson had proposed emerged around the conception of salvation by human actions. She believed in salvation by grace. Also, she considered that an individual could not be saved by himself/herself. Anne Hutchinson has finally realized that the difficulties in the colonial life, the tough union of state and church were more suffocating than liberating. There was not any real religious liberty to speak of in the Massachusetts Bay Colony, particularly, for an educated English woman such as Anne Hutchinson.

Hutchinson used to criticize the Massachusetts Puritans for their close legalistic moral conception. Still, Bostonians widely supported her protests against the priesthood's authorities. Nevertheless, John Winthrop opposed Anne Hutchinson, and that is why she lost much of her support after his victory in elections as a governor. The General Court had judged Anne for disgracing the ministers, and afterwards she was convicted and sentenced to banishment in the year 1637. After rejecting to recant, Anne was tried before the Boston Church. She was formally

excommunicated (“Anne Hutchinson”, 2013). Hutchinson, as a woman with great religious conviction, challenged the Puritan priesthood and affirmed her view of the “Covenant of Grace”. She considered that a moral demeanor and godliness should not be the initial qualifications for a visible consecration (Rogers, 2008).

Anne Hutchinson had already created her personal teachings considering her own vision of John Cotton’s considerations. Hutchinson has viewed her confidence in her own personal closeness with God. In reality, it could have been misunderstood as a vanity rather than holiness, but still Anne had not talked publicly about such issues, at least when she was waiting for her family’s trip to America. Anne also felt that all humans needed to find faith in Heaven. However, such a simple way to salvation did not leave so much in order to govern. Still, it was not acceptable (“Anne Hutchinson”, 2002).

Anne Hutchinson’s ideas were based on Antinomianism, an anti-law as was considered by her opponents. The system of convictions had challenged the teachings of redemption, emphasizing a certain connection of a relationship with God and accenting on a rescue by grace. Following the human’s inspiration, the teachings had induced to raise the Holy Spirit above the Bible. The doctrine had also challenged the authority of the laws, priesthood, and church over a human-being. Anne’s vision was opposed to the orthodox accent on work for salvation, grace, concepts about priesthood and church authority. Hutchinson’s party considered that they were able to overemphasize their mission and blame people for Legalism.

Anne Hutchinson was a remarkable leader in religious disagreement in Massachusetts, almost causing a major split in the colony before she was banished. Hutchinson is undoubtedly a major figure in the history of the American religious freedom movement (Lewis, 2013). Anne Hutchinson conducted the principles of religious freedom and civil liberty, which were presented

in the U.S. Constitution. The spirit of Anne Hutchinson was a definite for the first preacher woman and fearless adherent of freedom in New England. Anne Hutchinson is an outstanding personality of the 17<sup>th</sup> century since she was a Puritan spiritual adviser to be admired by everybody who believes in the rights of human beings in order to reach freedom of thought, speech, and a freedom to worship. Anne Hutchinson left a great legacy with her majestic beliefs that women were a blessing from God, and it was not a curse on humankind as it was commonly considered at that time.

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