

Notes for Billy Budd Part II

Billy tells Dansker his ordeal w/o telling him it's the **afterguard**. Says the traitor is "**a cat's paw**"
1st watch below deck, sees a fat man, thinks it's afterguardsman, but he sees Billy first, "commends" him.
Claggart always had a pleasant word for him, although his intelligence went up, **he was still simple minded**
Experience is a teacher. He was blinded by **innocence**. Claggart then accuses Billy in front of **Cap Vere**, one
of the impressed sailors is dangerous, and has acted strangely during a recent encounter w/ the enemy
Indomitable was used as a scout, and other things, not because of abilities, but quality commanders
Ran into enemy frigate, had to run for it **Vere** appreciates **Billy's** qualities as a **sailorman**
Vere called Billy Budd a "**King's Bargain**", for they got a great sailor for nothing. Then calls **Mr. Wilkes**, a
midshipman, to get **Albert**, his **hammock boy**. **Tells him to go fetch Billy and go to his cabin**
Billy enters with Claggart, **Claggart** tells **Billy** in the face that he's committed **mutiny**, **Billy** is speechless.
Then, he punches and kills **Claggart**, he and **Vere** try to revive him, but it's like "**handling a dead snake**"
Vere tells **Billy** to wait in stateroom, gets surgeon, **struck dead by an angel of God, yet the angel must hang**
Also stashes Claggart's body in stateroom, calling **drum head court**. **Surgeon** called the drumhead court
impolitic, but to argue is insolence, resist, mutiny. **Lieutenants** and **Marine Captains** also share the surgeon's
surprise/concern. Officers believe they should wait till they rejoin fleet, then leave it up to the **Admiral**. Vere
fears uprising, so arraigns Billy, said it was all true, but he was loyal to the King, and didn't mean to kill him.
No answer for why **Claggart** would lie to him, **Vere** called it a "**mystery of iniquity**", owe allegiance to the
King and not **Nature**, leave **Billy's** soul to heaven, but he is to be hanged under **Mutiny Act**
Being a commander needed two qualities, **Vigor and Prudence**, A true officer is like a true monk
Vere was the **1st Lieutenant**, head sailor. Took place in Captain's cabin. Billy says that he "**ate the King's**
bread, and is true to the King". **Officer of Marines** asks why Claggart would lie, Billy has no answer
One time, aboard the **Somers** in **1842**, commander, under Articles of War modeled after England, executed
some midshipmen. Vere tells Billy privately of the conviction, on his way out, senior lieutenant sees
suffering in Vere's face. Only the chaplain can see Billy. Moved Billy between two guns on upper gundeck,
in chains, visited by chaplain, but since he didn't realize he was even there, leaves. Chaplain returns after
midnight, tells him all this crap about afterlives, Billy's got no idea what the hell he's talking about
Billy's last words were "**God Bless Cap Vere!**" . after he dies, complete silence, throws body into ocean, and
everything proceeds as normal. After returning to the fleet, encounters **Atheiste**, Vere is hit by a musketball,
succeeded by senior lieutenant, destroys the **Atheiste**, takes both ships into Gibraltar, Vere dies here, saying
"billy budd"; Later, in a naval chronicle stated that claggart was stabbed by Budd, assassin was not an
Englishman, but rather an alien taking an English name. Billy budd was a piece of the Cross

What is a drum head court?