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OPENING STATEMENT OF HENRY ASHURST BEFORE JUSTICE OF THE PEACE WALTRON
IN WINSLOW, ARIZONA - CIRCA 1908

Your Honor, as I approached the trial of this case today, my heart was burdened with crushing and gloomy forebodings. The immense responsibility of my client's welfare bowed me down with apprehensions. A cold fear gripped my heart as I dwelt upon the possibility that through some oversight or shortcoming of mine there might ensue dreadful consequences to my client, and I shrank within myself as the ordeal became more imminent. Yet the nearer my uncertain steps brought me to this tribunal of justice, distinguished as it has been for years as the one court of the rugged West where fame attended the wisdom and justice of the decisions of Your Honor, a serene confidence came to my troubled emotions, and the raging waters of tumultuous floods that had surged hotly but a moment before were stilled. Your Honor, I was no longer appalled. I no longer feared the issue in this case. Aye, I reflected that throughout the long years of your administration as judge, there had grown up here a halo as it were of honor and glory illuminating Your Honor's record, eloquent of a fame as deserved as that of the chastity of Caesar's wife, a fame that will augment with the flight of years and with increasing luster light the pathway of humanity down the ages so long as the heaving billows of the stormy Mediterranean shall beat vainly upon the beetling cliffs of Gibraltar.

JUSTICE WALTRON: Sit down, Mr. Ashurst. You can't blow any smoke up this court's ass.