

In 1616, Galileo had agreed not to teach the Copernican theory. Church officials interpreted his *Dialogue* as a violation of that agreement. Galileo disagreed, but his position on the subject hardly mattered. Facing serious charges, Galileo was detained.

Sister Maria Celeste - Galileo's daughter - learned about his difficulties. Found guilty, he was "condemned" to imprisonment in the "Holy Office." Given a chance to recant, so he would not have to spend the rest of his life in a dungeon, Galileo did so.

At the time, he was 70 years old. Wearing the robes of a penitent, he told Church officials that he cursed, and detested, any heresies which he may have ever espoused.

The Church banned his *Dialogue*. The book remained banned for the next 200 years.

Galileo thought Pope Urban VIII would help him, because they were friends, but the Pope was fighting the Protestant Reformation at the same time as Galileo faced his accusers. The Pope, in other words, had bigger issues to face than those involving his friend.

Six months after his conviction, Galileo was allowed to return to his Tuscan home. Although in his own house, he was confined to the premises. He could neither teach nor travel without the Church's permission.

Resenting his circumstances, Galileo began to sign his letters: "From my prison."

Credits:

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Starring:

Simon Callow - Galileo

Laura Nardi - Maria Celeste

John Fraser - the Inquisitor

Alexa Jago - Voice of Maria Celeste

Cornelius Garrett - Voices of the Ambassador and Castelli

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/Galileo-Accusations-and-Trial1>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

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