

# Andrew Hamilton on Freedom of the Press

There is **heresy** in law as well as in religion, / and both have changed very much;/ and we well know / that it is not two centuries ago / that a man of religion would have been burned as a heretic / for owning such opinions in matters of religion / as are publicly written and printed at this day.//

They were **fallible** men, / it seems,/ and we **take the liberty**, / not only to differ from them in religious opinion, / but to **condemn** them and their opinions too;/ and I must **presume** that / in taking these freedoms in thinking and speaking/ about matters of faith or religion, / we are in the right;/ for, though it is said /there are very great liberties of this kind taken in New York, / yet I have heard of no information / proffered by Mr. Attorney/ for any offenses of this sort.//

From which I think it is pretty clear/ that in New York a man may make very free with his God, / but he must take special care / what he says of his Governor.// It is agreed upon by all men / that this is a reign of liberty,/ and while men keep within the bounds of truth, / I hope they may with safety both speak and write- / their **sentiments** of the conduct of men of power... / were this to be denied, / then the next step may make them slaves.//

法においても、同様に宗教においても、異端が存在しており、/ そしてどちらとも大きく変革してきている / そして私たちはよく知っている / それは2世紀前ですらない / 宗教に生きる人は異端者として燃やされたのであろうこと / 宗教の事柄においてそうした考えを持つことに対して / 今日に公に書かれ、出版されているような//

彼らは、間違っている人たちだった / 一見して見ると、/ そして私たちは自由を持っている / 宗教的な意見において彼らとは異なるだけでなく / 彼らと彼らの考え方も非難できる / そして私はこう推定しなければならない / 考えることと話すことにおいて自由を持つことは / 信仰や宗教の事柄について / 私たちのほうが正しいと:/ 言われている / ニューヨークではこの類（言論、信仰）の優れた自由があると、/ しかし未だに私は一切情報を聞かない / ゴリツパな検事殿から提供される（はずの）/ この種のあらゆる犯罪に関して//

このことから思うに、それは極めて明白である / ニューヨークでは人は自分自身の神については何を言ってもよいこと / しかし、その人は特別な注意を払わなければいけない / 知事（権力者）に対していうことには// すべての人に同意されることだが / ここは自由が支配する領域で / 人が真実の境界線の内側にとどまっている間は / 私は人々が安全に話すこと、書くことを希望している / 権力を持つ者の行動への意見を… / もしこれが否定されるならば / 次の段階には、人々を奴隷にするかもしれない//

## Vocabulary

heresy	異端
fallible	ミスをする可能性がある
	完璧じゃない
take the liberty	勝手にする
condemn	非難する
presume	推定する

make free	無遠慮にふるまう
sentiments	感情、意見

## \*TIPS\* 皮肉について

英語でも、日本語でも、皮肉の効いた文章は大きく変わりません。

基本は【ネガティブな事に対してポジティブな言い返し】をします。

例えば、お部屋を片付けていないと、

「まあ、とってもきれいなお部屋ですこと」 = “Oh, **it's so clean.**” などと言われます。

こうした表現が長文で登場すると、皮肉と気が付かずに「本当に部屋がきれいなのだ」と勘違いすることがあります。内容のポジティブとネガティブは常に判断するようにしましょう。

There is \_\_\_\_\_ in law as well as in religion, and both have changed very much; and we well know that it is not two \_\_\_\_\_ ago that a man of religion would have been burned as a heretic for owning such opinions in matters of religion as are publicly written and printed at this day.

They were \_\_\_\_\_ men, it seems, and we take the liberty, not only to differ from them in religious opinion, but to \_\_\_\_\_ them and their opinions too; and I must \_\_\_\_\_ that in taking these \_\_\_\_\_ in thinking and speaking about matters of faith or religion, we are in the right; for, though it is said there are very great liberties of this kind taken in New York, yet I have heard of no information \_\_\_\_\_ by Mr. Attorney for any offenses of this sort.

From which I \_\_\_\_\_ pretty clear that in New York a man may make very free with his God, but he must take special care what he says of his Governor. It is agreed upon by all men that this is a reign of \_\_\_\_\_, and while men keep within the \_\_\_\_\_ of truth, I hope they may with safety both speak and write their \_\_\_\_\_ of the conduct of men of power... were this to be denied, then the next step may make them \_\_\_\_\_.

Question 1: How does Hamilton compare politics and religion?

Question 2: In what way does Hamilton assert that custom has changed from 200 years prior?

Question 3: What does Hamilton believe to be the result, if the press is not free to criticize power?

Summarize ( 50 ~ 80 words) :

---

---

---

---

---



### **\* Background knowledge:**

In 1733, John Peter Zenger founded the New York Weekly Journal. The paper was critical of the government, and Zenger was arrested on a charge of seditious libel. The court then debarred his defence council, leaving him without council. Hamilton, a famous lawyer, heard of the case, and traveled from Philadelphia to New York to take up the printer's case. Thanks to Hamilton, the jury found Zenger "Not Guilty".

### **\* Q&A Sample Answer**

Q1: There is heresy in both politics and religion. There should be freedom in both politics and religion.

Q2: In the past, people were burnt for heresy, but no longer. Hamilton does not want people to be punished for criticizing government.

Q3: Without freedom of the press (to criticize the government), the people are made slaves.

### **\* Summary Sample Answer**

(Very Short)

People shouldn't be punished for publishing religious or political opinions. If people cannot speak ill of the government, they become slaves to it.

(50 ~80 words)

In the past, people were burned at the stake for religious heresy, but now we can express ourselves more freely. This is good. I am aware of no cases of religious heresy being brought to court. This means that we can insult god, but must be careful with how we speak of the government! If people are punished for expressing opinions about those in power, they may as well be slaves.