

TEXTE 6 : JOHN STUART MILL (1806-1873)

We have now recognized the necessity to the mental well-being of mankind (on which all their other well-being depends) of freedom of opinion, and freedom of the expression of opinion, on four distinct grounds; which we will now briefly recapitulate. First, if any opinion is compelled to silence, that opinion may, for aught we can certainly know, be true. To deny this is to assume our own infallibility. Secondly, though the silenced opinion be an error, it may, and very commonly does, contain a portion of truth ; and since the general and prevailing opinion on any subject is rarely or never the whole truth, it is only by the collision of adverse opinions that the remainder of the truth has any chance of being supplied. Thirdly, even if the received opinion be not only true, but the whole truth ; unless it is suffered to be, and actually is, vigorously and earnestly contested, it will, by most of those who receive it, be held in the manner of a prejudice, with little comprehension or feeling of its rational grounds. And not only this, but fourthly, the meaning of the doctrine itself will be in danger of being lost, or enfeebled, and deprived of its vital effects on the character and conduct: the dogma becoming a mere formal profession, inefficacious for good, but cumbering the ground, and preventing the growth of any real and heartfelt conviction, from reason or personal experience.

J.S. Mill, *On Liberty*, (1859), Chap.2, « Of the Liberty of Thought and Expression».

1/TRADUCTION :

- Etablir un lexique anglais-français comprenant les termes les plus difficiles du texte.
- Traduire soigneusement le texte en français

2/ QUESTIONS:

- Quelles sont les quatre raisons qu'énumère Mill en faveur de la liberté d'opinion et de son expression ?
- En quoi le lien qu'établit Mill entre les idées de tolérance et de vérité est-il extrêmement original ?