

TEXTE 4 : JOHN LOCKE (1632-1704)

What efficacy force and severity has to alter the opinions of mankind. Though history be full of examples there is scarce an instance to be found of any opinions driven out of the world by persecution, but where the violence of it at once swept away all the professors too. I desire no one to go further than his own bosom for an experiment whether ever violence gained anything upon his opinion ; whether even arguments managed with heat do not lose something of their efficacy, and have not made him the more obstinate in his opinion ; so chary is human nature to preserve the liberty of that part wherein lies the dignity of a man, which could it be imposed on, would make him but little different from a beast. I ask those who in the late times so firmly stood the ineffectual force of persecution themselves, and found how little it obtained on their opinions, and yet are now so forward to try it upon others, whether all the severity in the world could have drawn them one step nearer to a hearty and sincere embracing the opinions that were then uppermost. Let them not say it was because they knew they were in the right, for every man in what he believes has so far this persuasion that he is in the right.

J. Locke, *An Essay Concerning Toleration* (1667).

1/TRADUCTION :

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

2/ QUESTION:

- Pourquoi selon Locke dans ce texte est-il impossible de contraindre la croyance ?
- Quelles conséquences Locke tire-t-il de cette impossibilité ? En quoi celles-ci se distinguent-elles radicalement de celles de Hobbes dans le texte précédemment étudié ?