

- Andrew Hamilton on Freedom of the Press -



In 1733, John Zenger founded the New York Weekly Journal, / and was critical of the government. // He was arrested on a charge of **libel**. // The following is a simplified **excerpt** / of his **lawyer's** argument in his **defense**. // The case **established** / a strong **precedence** / for **freedom of speech**. //

"There is **heresy** in law as well as in religion, / and both have changed very much. // Not two centuries ago, / a man of religion / would have been burned as a **heretic** / for expressing religious opinions / which are publicly written and printed today. // They were men, / men **capable** of making mistakes. //

"We **take the liberty**, / not only to differ from them in religious opinion, / but to condemn them and their opinions too. // 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 no examples / from Mr. Attorney / of any legal action against 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 Government. // All men agree / that this is a **reign** of liberty, / and while men stick to the truth, / I hope they may safely speak and write their feelings about the conduct of men of power. // Were this to be denied, / then the next step may make them slaves. //

1733年、ジョン・ゼンガーは『ニューヨーク・ウィークリー・ジャーナル』を創刊し / 政府に批判的であった // 彼は名誉毀損の罪で逮捕された // 以下は簡略化された抜粋である / 彼の弁護における弁護士の論争の // この事件は確立した / 強い前例を / 言論の自由のための //

「宗教に異端があるように、法律にも異端がある、 / そして、両者は大きく変わってきた // 2世紀前にも満たない、 / 一宗教者が異端として火刑に処されたであろう / 宗教的意見を表明したことで / 今日、公に書かれ、出版されている // 彼らは人間であり / 誤りを犯す可能性のある人々であった //

我々は自由を選ぶ / 単に彼らと宗教的意見を異にするためだけでなく / 彼らやその意見をも非難するために // 私は察しなければならない / これらの自由を行使することにおいて / 思考や発言において / 信仰もしくは宗教の事柄について、 / 私たちは正しい / なぜなら、いわれているのだから / ニューヨークはこの種の自由が非常に多く認められていると / いまだ私は例を一つも聞いたことがない / 検察官から / この種の侵害に対し法的措置を取ったという例を // 私は極めて明白だと思うことから / ニューヨークでは人が神について自由に発言できるが / 政府について言う言葉には特別な注意を払わねばならない // すべての人々が同意する / これは自由の時代であると / そして、真実にこだわる一方で、 / 私は力を持つ者たちの行動について、彼らの感情を話し、書くことが安全にできることを望んでいる // この自由が否定されるなら / 次の一歩は人々を奴隷にすることになるだろう。」

Vocabulary and Phrases

libel	名誉毀損
excerpt	抜粋
lawyer	弁護士
defense	弁護
establish	確立
precedence	判例
freedom of speech	言論の自由

heresy	異端
heretic	異端者
capable of X	Xをすることが出来る
presume	察する
take the liberty	勝手に行動する / 自由を取る
make free with	敬意を払わない
reign	統治する

Total Number of words used

: 258 words

Time for 120 wpm

: 129 sec.

Time for 150 wpm

: 103 sec.

Your BEST TIME

: _____ sec.

* TIPS *

Summary① Fill Blank:

A journalist was _____ for _____ in 1773, and his lawyer defended his right to speak the truth about _____. The argument is that if it is _____ to punish a man for _____ opinions, it is also wrong to punish him for _____ opinions. If men are free to _____ the gods, they ought to be free to _____ about the government. If people cannot speak the _____ about their rulers, they may as well be _____.

Summary② Summary(50 -80 words):

Summary③ Sample Answer:

A journalist was arrested for libel in 1773, and his lawyer defended his right to speak the truth about government. The argument is that if it is wrong to punish a man for religious opinions, it is also wrong to punish him for political opinions. If men are free to insult the gods, they ought to be free to complain about the government. If people cannot speak the truth about their rulers, they may as well be slaves.