

for as it is unable to comprehend an opposite opinion, it is equally inadequate and unwilling to weigh the arguments in its favor, or to estimate the evidence on which it is maintained. Having no conception of independence itself, independence in another appears presumption, if not something worse ; and never having imagined that other opinions could possibly be true except its own, to hold any different could only be explained by supposing a want of honesty or a want of grace.

I might dwell upon the fear by which creeds paralyze the faculties of weak and sensitive natures, by which they deprive them of all power for calm and deliberate examination, by the fear of being excluded from their Church, by the fear of being discarded by their friends, by the fear of being cast into hell, above all these, by the fear of losing the favor of God and the friendship of Jesus, and with right and true minds, this is the greatest of all fears. In the midst of so many terrors, it is too much to expect that our weak humanity could be calm,—that it could look with unmoved heart at the appalling indications of so many and dire threatenings. It is like examining a man on the terms of his faith, while the officials of persecution are arranging the faggots or putting screws in the rack.

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MORAL EVIL is the only thing in God's creation of which it is decreed that the more we are familiar with it, the less shall we know of it. — *J. Martineau*.