

critical thought gradually manages to clarify

⁴Ignorance absolutizes ideas that have a relative justification, and when the possibilities of misunderstanding there are in all views have been exploited so that the rational content of a certain view is lost, then critical thought gradually manages to clarify even to believers that the view is untenable. In such cases, superficial and therefore popular catchwords make parrotry easier and strengthen suspicion that there must be something wrong with the teaching. The old authorities lose their authority, and the loss of certainty brings about a general doubt of more and more, and finally a refusal to believe in anything at all. . . .

⁵Individuals at higher stages, being able to seek for themselves, begin an independent search instead of blindly accepting the form of religion engrafted in them in childhood

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