

12] Had any idea of a material God. In answer to his request I told him, there was only one true and living God who had made the World and all things therein. That if I should make him a God, he would be of wood or some other substance which could be easily burnt or destroyed. They all smiled at the Idea of bowing a God - and evidently saw the absurdity of a material Idol. Whether Satan is permitted to practise any oral deception in support of his Spiritual Dominion (for he is the God of this world) and in maintenance of those Dark Superstitions, which universally pervade the minds of these poor Heathens, I cannot tell - I have met with no New Zealanders even the most enlightened amongst them; but who do firmly believe, that their Priests have communication with their God - and many both of their Priests and others have told me that they have heard their God. This is a subject of such a mysterious nature, that I cannot make up my own mind either to believe or to disbelieve what is so universally credited in New Zealand. I do not pretend to know how far the Agency of Satan may extend in a barbarous and uncivilized nation; where there is no human or Divine Law to check or restrain men's corrupt Passions. This I am fully convinced of, that in all regular civil governments where wholesome Laws lay the necessary restraints upon men's turbulent Passions, that the secret Agency of Satan (that Spirit which worketh in the Hearts of the Children of Disobedience) is greatly restrained, and the force of his wicked instigations weakened and counteracted by those Laws. I have dropt the above hints as they struck me at the moment - and shall now go on with my narrative. We continued till very late in the evening, discussing their Ideas of God their Tabooing and various Superstitions under which they suffer many privations. Temun-aranga observed there were too great a number of Priests at New Zealand, that they tabooed and prayed the people to Death. He related Circumstances that happened to himself when he accompanied me to ^{Towrangha} Mercury Bay; that one of the Priests on the Banks of the River Thames had told him, that he had seen his Ghost, and that if he dared to go with me to ^{Towrangha} Mercury Bay, the Atua had revealed to him he would kill him in four days. The Priest intreated him to return. That he was much alarmed, and stated to me what the priest had communicated to him, and that I told him to pay no attention to what the Priest said, for the God of Mercury Bay had no power to hurt him, and in consequence of my assurances he had proceeded with me, and returned safe back, which proved the falsehood of the Priest. Temun-aranga argued very strongly against the Taboo, tho' at the same

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