



Ambiguity and Concealment in *La Folie du sage* (1645) by Tristan L'Hermite

Publication type: Journal article

Journal: [Cahiers Tristan L'Hermite](#)
2023, n° XLV. varia

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Abstract: This article suggests that the omnipresent themes of ambiguity and concealment in *La Folie du sage* are comparable to a system of rhetoric that allows us to see the heterodox nature of content that we might not otherwise grasp. It encourages us to consider Tristan as subversive, by showing how dramatic and rhetorical techniques can lead us to seek out a transgressive layer of meaning that the author could not reasonably have made explicit. By dressing Ariste in the guise of folly, Tristan is making numerous allusions not only to radical stoicism and to material epicureanism, but also to the notion of religion as political imposture.

Pages: 575 to 587

Journal: [Journal of Friends of Tristan L'Hermite](#)

CLIL theme: 4027 -- SCIENCES HUMAINES ET SOCIALES, LETTRES -- Lettres et Sciences du langage -- Lettres -- Etudes littéraires générales et thématiques

EAN: 9782406170969

ISBN: 978-2-406-17096-9

ISSN: 2262-2004

DOI: 10.48611/isbn.978-2-406-17096-9.p.0575

Publisher: Classiques Garnier

Online publication: 06-12-2024

Periodicity: Annual

Language: French

Keyword: libertinage, concealment, ambiguity, religion as political imposture, astral determinism, stoicism, epicureanism

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