



The possibility of the secret

Fontenelle or Voltaire

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Author: Dagen (Jean)

Abstract: The use of secrecy is a deliberate intellectual strategy, whereas rejecting it is the bedrock of the scientific mindset. From this, a distinction can be inferred between two schools of writer that embody two opposing philosophical approaches. One dismisses the principles of the irrational and resists the temptation of secrecy; the other needs and upholds the idea of both. This article explores this connection through the work of two guiding eighteenth-century figures.

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