



Cuckolds of the Imagination in Molière

Arguments for an Epicurean Reading of the Dramaturgy of Amorous Spite

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Author: Roche (Bruno)

Abstract: In Molière's plays *Sganarelle ou le Cocu imaginaire* and *Dom Garcie de Navarre*, the dramaturgy of amorous spite proves compatible with an Epicurean phenomenology of perception. Jealous people have great imagination, and the playwright excels in staging the errors and mix-ups caused by the dubious opinions troubling their minds. The Epicurean diagnostic is pertinent, but eventually Molière ends up finding a remedy inspired by Montaigne rather than Lucretius.

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