



Philosophizing with the nymphs

The imagination in Montfaucon de Villars' Comte de Gabalis

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Abstract: In this parody of philosophical dialogue, the count of Gabalis exposes his fantastic theories according to which the world is inhabited by imaginary creatures only seen by philosophers. It enables to conceptualize a hyperbolic imagination both as a critical function and as a matrix of literary construction. Connecting without excluding imagination and its madness with the rational field, this text appropriates itself philosophical and scientific issues and deals with them thanks to imagination.

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