



## **A History of Religions in the *Theophrastus redivivus***

Between Eternal Return, Decline, and Progress of Man

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Abstract: In the atheist tract *Theophrastus redivivus* (1659), time is cyclical and the world eternal and non-providential. Within it, however, one also finds a history of religions that corresponds to a degradation of knowledge: rather than a factual history, it is a 'genealogy' of error that takes the form of a progressive removal from an original nature. This also renders the reverse movement possible, i.e. that of a progress of "natural reason," conceived as both sensible and individual.

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