



The “beautiful death” of pagan women

À polemical strategy?

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Abstract: It is surely not by chance that half of the women in Father Le Moyne's *La Galerie des femmes fortes* (1647) are infidels and that seven of them took their own lives or attempted to do so. This article shows that the author sought to take part in the controversy on the virtues of the pagans that pitted Jansenists, Jesuits, and libertines against each other in the 1640s. It also explores the strategies implemented by the Jesuit to “excuse” the voluntary death of his heroines.

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