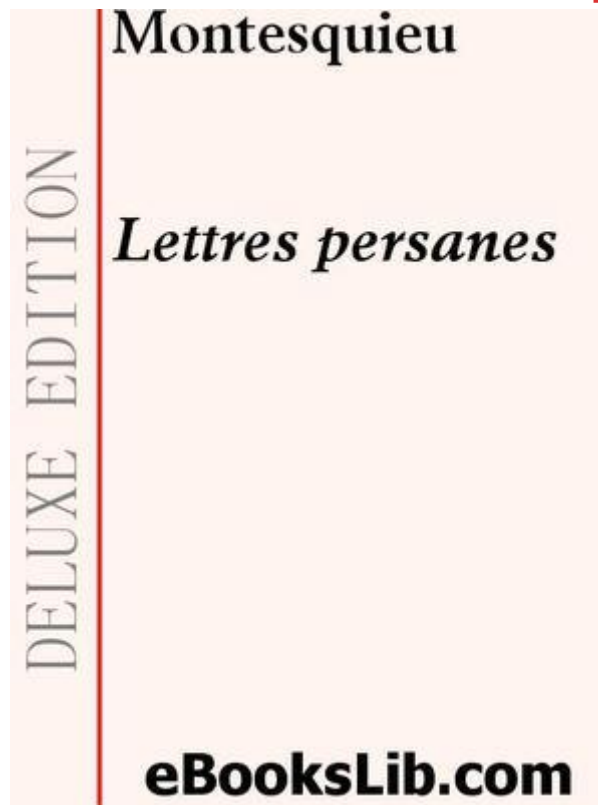


Lettres Persanes - Montesquieu



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Il y a quelques jours qu'un homme de ma connaissance me dit : Je vous ai promis de vous produire dans les bonnes maisons de Paris : je vous mène présentement chez un grand seigneur qui est un des hommes du royaume qui représente le mieux. Que veut dire cela, Monsieur ? Est-ce qu'il est plus poli, plus affable que les autres ? - Non, me dit-il. - Ah ! j'entends ! il fait sentir tous les instants la supériorité qu'il a sur tous ceux qui l'approchent. Si cela est, je n'ai qu'à faire d'y aller : je la lui passe toute entière, et je prends condamnation. Il fallut pourtant marcher, et je vis un petit homme si fier, il prit une prise de tabac avec tant de hauteur, il se moucha si impitoyablement, il cracha avec tant de flegme, il caressa ses chiens d'une manière si offensante pour les hommes, que je ne pouvais me lasser de l'admirer. Ah ! bon Dieu ! dis-je en moi-même, si, lorsque j'étais à la cour de Perse, je représentais ainsi, je représentais un grand sot ! Il aurait fallu, Rica, que nous eussions eu un bien mauvais naturel pour aller faire cent petites insultes à des gens qui venaient tous les jours chez nous nous témoigner leur bienveillance : ils savaient bien que nous étions au-dessus d'eux, et, s'ils l'avaient ignoré, nos bienfaits le leur auraient appris chaque jour. N'ayant rien à faire pour nous faire respecter, nous faisons tout pour

nous rendre aimablesÂ : nous nous communiquions aux plus petits; au milieu des grandeurs, qui
endurcissent toujours, ils nous trouvaient sensibles; ils ne voyaient que notre coeur au-dessus d'euxÂ :
nous descendions jusqu' leurs besoins. Mais, lorsqu'il fallait soutenir la majest du prince dans les
crmonies publiques lorsqu'il fallait faire respecter la nation aux trangers lorsque, enfin, dans les occasions
prilleuses, il fallait animer les soldats, nous remontions cent fois plus haut que nous n'tions descendusÂ :
nous ramenions la fiert sur notre visage, et l'on trouvait quelquefois que nous representations assez
bien.Author: Montesquieu Publisher: EbooksLib Illustration: N Language: FRE Title: Lettres persanes
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