



Voltaire and the French Enlightenment - Will Durant

Voltaire and the French Enlightenment
Will Durant (1885 - 1981)

In this Little Blue Book Number 512, Will Durant describes François-Marie Arouet, the writer, historian, and philosopher known as Voltaire (1694-1778) as "unprepossessing, ugly, vain, flippant, unscrupulous, even at times dishonest" and "tirelessly kind, considerate, ...as sedulous in helping friends as in crushing enemies." "My trade is to say what I think," wrote Voltaire, and he did so in ninety-nine "sparkling and fruitful" volumes. He advocated for freedom of speech, freedom of religion, and for the separation of church and state. In 1791, when his ashes were carried through Paris to be re-entombed in the Panthéon, 100,000 men and women joined the procession, while 600,000 flanked the streets. Written on his funeral car were the words: "He gave the human mind a great impetus; he prepared us for freedom." (Pamela Nagami, M.D.)

Read by Pamela Nagami. 10 Tracks. Total running time: 02:17:43

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Cover image: copy of the portrait of Voltaire executed in 1736, now lost. Copy dated first half of 19th century. Copyright expired in U.S., Canada, EU. and all countries with author's life +70 yrs laws. Cover design by TriciaG. This design is in the public domain.

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