

LEVIATHAN AND THE AIR-PUMP

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LEVIATHAN AND THE AIR-PUMP
HOBBS, BOYLE, AND THE EXPERIMENTAL LIFE

WITH A NEW INTRODUCTION BY THE AUTHORS

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For our Parents

Every afternoon Father Nicanor would sit by the chestnut tree preaching in Latin, but José Arcadio Buendía insisted on rejecting rhetorical tricks and the transmutation of chocolate, and he demanded the daguerreotype of God as the only proof. Father Nicanor then brought him medals and pictures and even a reproduction of the Veronica, but José Arcadio Buendía rejected them as artistic objects without any scientific basis. He was so stubborn that Father Nicanor gave up his attempts at evangelization and continued visiting him out of humanitarian feelings. But then it was José Arcadio Buendía who took the lead and tried to break down the priest's faith with rationalist tricks. On a certain occasion when Father Nicanor brought a checker set to the chestnut tree and invited him to a game, José Arcadio Buendía would not accept, because according to him he could never understand the sense of a contest in which the two adversaries have agreed upon the rules.

GABRIEL GARCÍA MARQUEZ, *One Hundred Years of Solitude*

What a blessing to mankind, in himself and in his writings, was the ingenious, humble, and pious Mr. Boyle; what a common pest to society was the fallacious, proud, and impious Hobbes! Accordingly we find the former bad adieu to this world with the utmost serenity, honour, and hope; while the other went out of it in the dark, with an odium on his name, as well as with terrible apprehensions of an unknown future.

W. DODD, *The Beauties of History; or, Pictures of
Virtue and Vice Drawn from Examples of Men,
Eminent for Their Virtues or Infamous for
Their Vices* (1796)

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