

# AMBIGUOUS ANTIDOTES: VIRTUE AS VACCINE FOR VICE IN EARLY MODERN SPAIN

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# Ambiguous Antidotes: Virtue as Vaccine for Vice in Early Modern Spain

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*For my grandmother,  
who tried to teach me  
the way of Virtue*

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Virtue? A fig!

– William Shakespeare

Virtue itself turns vice, being misapplied,  
And vice sometime by action dignified.

– William Shakespeare

All virtues are historical . . .  
Morality is first artifice, then artifact.

– André Comte-Sponville

Nec cessat naufraga virtus.

[Nor does virtue cease, though shipwrecked.]

– Lucan

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