



Gargantua and Pantagruel

François Rabelais

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The Life of Gargantua and of Pantagruel (French: *La vie de Gargantua et de Pantagruel*) is a connected series of five novels written in the 16th century by François Rabelais. It is the story of two giants, a father, Gargantua, (pronounced: [ʒaʁ.ʔʔʔ.ty.a]) and his son Pantagruel ([pʔʔ.ta.ʔʔy.ʔ1]) and their adventures, written in an amusing, extravagant, satirical vein. The text features much crudity, scatological humor, and violence. Lists of explicit or vulgar insults fill several chapters. The censors of the Collège de Sorbonne stigmatized it as obscene, and in a social climate of increasing religious oppression, it was treated with suspicion, and contemporaries avoided mentioning it.[1] According to Rabelais, the philosophy of his giant Pantagruel, "Pantagruelism", is rooted in "a certain gaiety of mind pickled in the scorn of fortuitous things" (French: *une certaine gaîté d'esprit confite dans le mépris des choses fortuites*). Rabelais had studied Ancient Greek, and he applied it in inventing hundreds of new words in the text, some of which became part of the French language.[2] Wordplay and risqué humor abound in his writing. This is the celebrated translation by Burton Raffel [from Wikipedia article]

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