



دانشگاه مطالعات جهان

# Orientalism

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# Orientalizing the Oriental

# unshakable abstract maxims about the "civilization"

Proving the validity of these musty "truths" By applying them

Second – handed knowledge

Europe's collective day-dream of the Orient

**Levi Strauss** makes is that mind requires **order**, and order is achieved by discriminating and taking note of everything, placing everything of which the mind is aware in a secure, re-findable place, therefore giving things some role to play in the economy of objects and identities that make up an environment.



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# *Iliad*

The Bacchae

Aeschylus

*Now all Asia's land  
Moans in emptiness.  
Xerxes led forth, oh oh!  
Xerxes destroyed. woe woe!  
Xerxes' plans have all miscarried  
In ships of the sea.  
Why did Darius then  
Bring no harm to his men  
When he led them into battle.  
That beloved leader of men from Susa*

What matters here is that Asia speaks through and by **virtue of the European** imagination, which is depicted as **victorious over Asia**, that **hostile "other"** world beyond the seas. To Asia are given the feelings of **emptiness, loss, and disaster** that seem thereafter to reward Oriental challenges to the West; and also, the lament that in some glorious past Asia fared better, was itself **victorious over Europe**.



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# *The Bacchae*



Dionysus is explicitly connected with his Asian origins and with the strangely threatening excesses of Oriental mysteries

The two aspects of the Orient that set it off from the West in this pair of plays will remain essential motifs of European imaginative geography. A line is drawn between two continents. Europe is powerful and articulate; Asia is defeated and distant.

The Orient was therefore subdivided into realms **previously known, visited, conquered**, by Herodotus and Alexander as well as their epigones. and those realms **not previously known, visited, conquered**.

The Orient and in particular the Near Orient, became known in the West as its great complementary opposite since antiquity.

Bible and the rise of Christianity

Travelers like Marco Polo

Fabulists like Mandeville

The journey, the history, the fable, the stereotype, the polemical confrontation.

These are the lenses through which the Orient is experienced, and they shape the language, perception, and form of the encounter between East and West.

In essence such a category is not so much a way of receiving new information as it is a method of **controlling** what seems to be a threat to some established view of things. If the mind must suddenly deal with what it takes to be a **radically new** form of life-as Islam appeared to Europe in the early Middle Ages-the **response** on the whole is **conservative** and **defensive**. Islam is judged to be a **fraudulent** new version of some **previous experience**, in this case Christianity. The threat is muted, familiar values impose themselves, and in the end the mind reduces the pressure upon it by accommodating things to itself as either "**original**" or "**repetitious**."



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*Fidelock Sculp. C.P.R.*

*Barthelemi d'herbelot*  
*Interprete des Langues Orientales*

# BIBLIOTHEQUE

## ORIENTALE,

ou

## DICTIONNAIRE UNIVERSEL

CONTENANT GENERALEMENT

Tout ce qui regarde la connoissance des Peuples  
de l'Orient.

### LEURS HISTOIRES ET TRADITIONS

VERITABLES OU FABULEUSES.

### LEURS RELIGIONS, SECTES ET POLITIQUE.

Leurs Gouvernement, Loix, Coûtumes, Mœurs, Guerres, & les Révolutions de leurs Empires;

### LEURS SCIENCES, ET LEURS ARTS.

Leurs Théologie, Mythologie, Magie, Physique, Morale, Médecine, Mathématiques,  
Histoire naturelle, Chronologie, Géographie, Observations Astronomiques,  
Grammaire, & Rétorique.

### LES VIES ET ACTIONS REMARQUABLES DE TOUS LEURS SAINTS,

Docteurs, Philosophes, Historiens, Poètes, Capitaines, & de tous ceux qui se sont rendus  
illustres parmi eux, par leur Vertu, ou par leur Savoir.

### DES JUGEMENS CRITIQUES, ET DES EXTRAITS DE TOUS LEURS OUVRAGES,

De leurs Traitez, Traductions, Commentaires, Abregez, Recueils de Fables, de Sentences,  
de Maximes, de Proverbes, de Contes, de bons Mots, & de tous leurs Livres écrits en Arabe, en  
Persan, ou en Turc, sur toutes sortes de Sciences, d'Arts, & de Professions.

Par Monsieur **D'HERBELOT.**



**A PARIS;**

Par la Compagnie des **LIBRAIRES.**

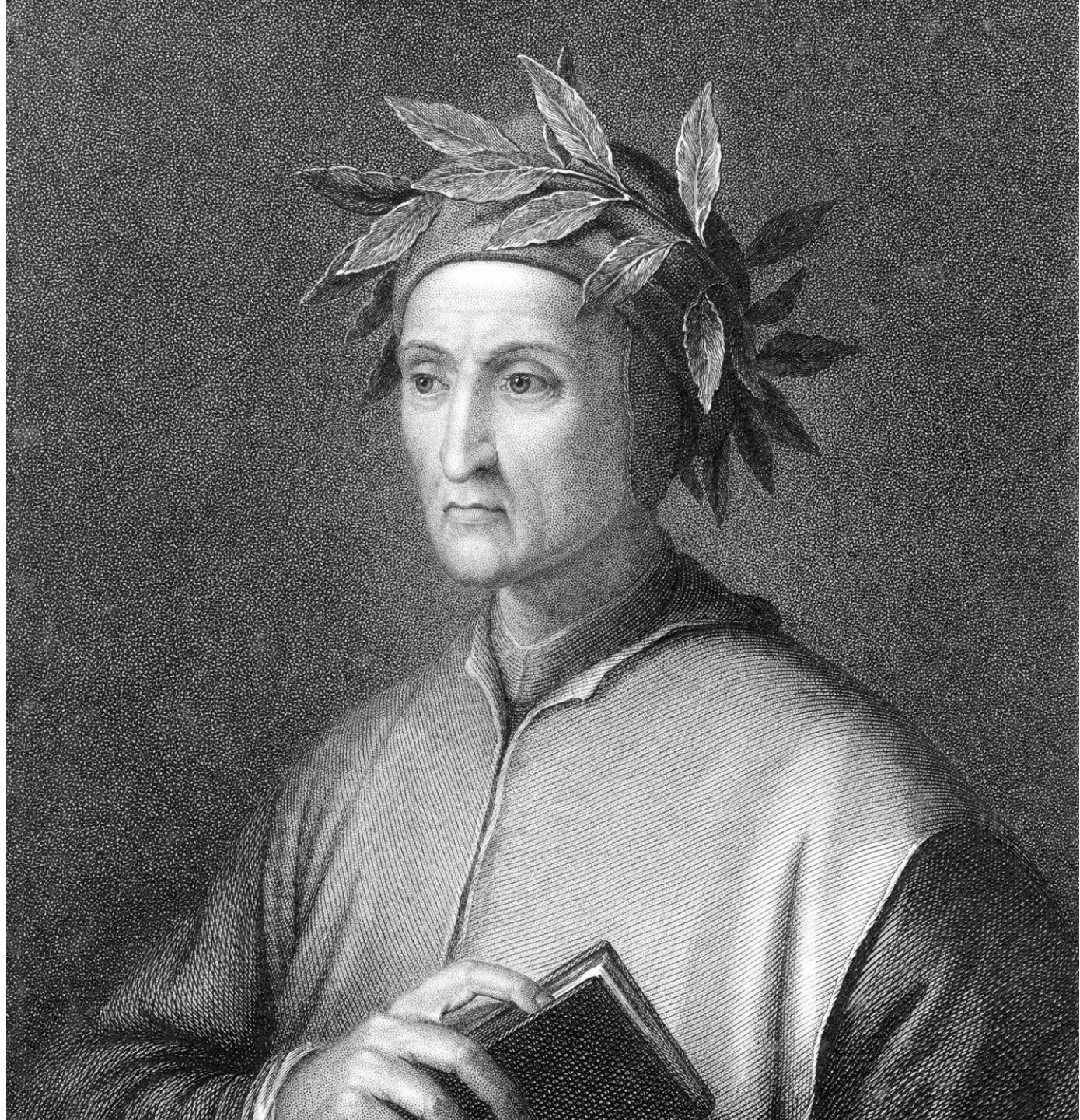
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Moammeto

Dante Alighieri



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Thanks.