

**THE LIFE OF
BENEDICT
DE SPINOSA**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649432387

The Life of Benedict de Spinoso by Johannes Colerus

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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JOHANNES COLERUS

**THE LIFE OF
BENEDICT
DE SPINOSA**

THE
L I F E
O F
BENEDICT
· D E
SPINOSA.

Written by *John Colerus*, Minister
of the Lutheran Church, at the
Hague.

Done out of French.

L O N D O N.

Printed by *D. L.* And Sold by *Benj. Bragg*,
at the *Raven* in *Pater-Noster-Row*, 1706.



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Main body of text, appearing as a list or series of entries, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.

Amsterdam, where he lived upon the Burgwal, in a good House near the Old Portuguese Synagogue. Besides, his civil and handsome behaviour, his Relations, who lived at ease, and what was left to him by his Father and Mother, prove that his Extraction, as well as his Education, was above that of the Common People. Samuel Carceris, a Portuguese Jew, Married the Youngest of his two Sisters. The Name of the Youngest Miriam, whose Son Daniel Carceris, Nephew to Benedict de Spinoza, declared himself one of his Heirs after his Decease: As it appears by an Act past before Libertus Loeff, a Notary, the 30th of March 1677. in the form of a Procuration directed to Henry Vander Spyck, in whose House Spinoza Lodged when he died.

Spinoza's first Studies.

Spinoza shewed from his Childhood, and in his younger years, that Nature had not been unkind to him. His quick fancy,

and his ready and penetrating Wit were easily perceived. Because he had a great Mind to learn the Latin Tongue, they gave him at first a German Master. But afterwards in order to perfect himself in that Language, he made use of the famous Francis Vanden Ende, who taught it then in Amsterdam, and practis'd Physick at the same time. That Man taught with good Success and a great Reputation; so that the Richest Merchants of that City intrusted him with the instruction of their Children, before they had found out that he taught his Scholars something else besides Latin. For it was discovered at last, that he sowed the first Seeds of Atheism in the Minds of those Young Boys. This is a matter of fact, which I cou'd prove, if there was any necessity for it, by the Testimony of several honest Gentlemen, who are still living, and some of whom have been Elders of the Lutheran Church at Amsterdam. Those good Men bless every day the Memory of

their Parents, who took care in due time to remove them from the School of ſo pernicious and ſo impious a Maſter.

Vanden Ende had an only Daughter, who underſtood the Latin Tongue, as well as Muſick, ſo perfectly, that ſhe was able to teach her Fathers Scholars in his abſence. Spinofa having often occaſion to ſee and ſpeak to her, grew in Love with her, and he has often confeſt that he deſign'd to Marry her. She was none of the moſt Beautiful, but ſhe had a great deal of Wit, a great Capacity and a jovial Humour, which wrought upon the Heart of Spinofa, as well as upon another Scholar of Vanden Ende, whoſe Name was Kerkering, a Native of Hamburgh. The latter did ſoon perceive that he had a Rival, and grew Jealous of him. This moved him to redouble his care, and his attendance upon his Miſtreſs; which he did with good ſucceſs: But a Neck-lace of Pearls, of the value of two or three hundred Piſtoles, which

he had before presented to that Young Woman, did without doubt contribute to win her Affection. She therefore promised to Marry him: Which she did faithfully perform, when the Sieur Kerkering had abjured the Lutheran Religion, which he profest, and embraced the Roman Catholick. See the Preface of Kortholt de tribus Impostoribus, of the 2d Edition.

As for Vanden Ende, being too well known in Holland, to find any Employment there, he was obliged to look for it somewhere else. He went into France, where he had a Tragical end, after he had maintained himself for some years with what he got by practising Physick. Some say that he was Condemn'd to be hanged, and Executed, for having attempted upon the Dauphin's Life; but others, who knew him particularly in France, own indeed that he was hanged, but they give another reason for it. They say, that Vanden Ende endeavour'd to cause an Infurrection in