

*Amor, firmesa i porfia: An Allegorical and Pastoral Rendering of the Guerra dels Segadors*

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*Amor, firmesa i porfia* is rooted in the *Guerra dels Segadors* between Castilla and Catalonia. The author, Francesc Fontanella, served in a number of military capacities and wrote the play during the war. On its surface, the piece presents an amorous conflict among shepherds, yet there are countless parallels between Fontanella's story and the revolt raging through Catalonia between 1640 and 1652. Double images, opposites, and love triangles abound, reflecting the confused, disconnected *ambiance* of the war.

Although Fontanella fought in the battle of Montjuïc, his responsibilities went far beyond those of a simple soldier. The dramatist was in charge of establishing a Catalan secular theater suitable for the new Republic. Catalan theater aspired to the power of Castilian drama: Fontanella became the Catalan Calderón de la Barca and *Amor, firmesa i porfia* represented the beginning and end of that effort.

Double and tri-fold images arise in every aspect of the piece, including the setting of the play. The protagonists and shepherds live by the banks of two rivers, the Llobregat and the Besòs, which also demarcate the city of Barcelona. Between the rivers, there is a mountain where two groups of shepherds meet and deliberate. On this same mountain, Montjuïc, the Castilian and Catalan "shepherds" encountered one another during the *Guerra dels Segadors*.