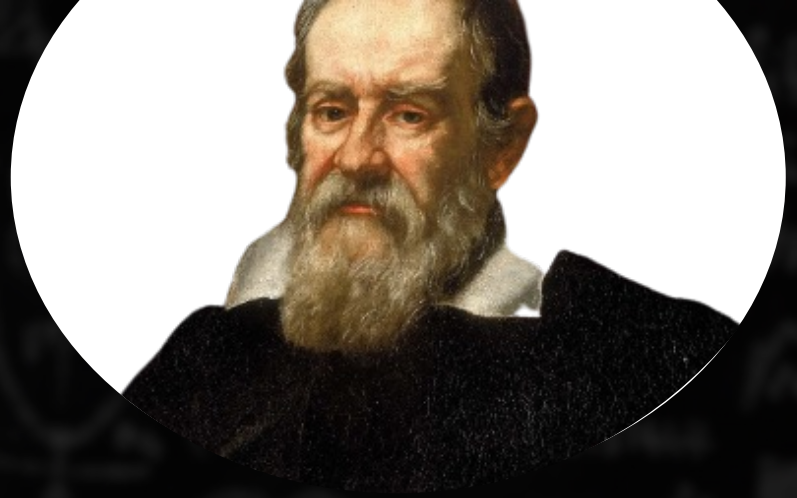




Introductory Lecture on Epistemology n°1 :

The Cartesian Cogito and the Mathesis Universalis

THE GALILEO –CARTESIAN REVOLUTION

SHORT BIOGRAPHY : WHO IS RENE DESCARTES ?

Key dates:

- **1596** : date of birth in La Haye, France
- **1606** : starts his education at the jesuit college of La Fleche
- **1610** : Galileo discovers the moon of Jupiter at La Fleche
- **1618** : finishes his studies and moves to the Netherlands
- **1629** : begins The World
- **1637** : publishes Discourse on Method

- **1641** : publishes his Meditations on First Philosophy
- **1644** : publishes his Principles of Philosophy
- **1650** : Dies in Sweden after having joined the court of Queen Christina

Portrait :



REBUILDING KNOWLEDGE: THE TABULA RASA

« Suppose [a person] had a basket full of apples and, being worried that some of the apples were rotten, wanted to take out the rotten ones to prevent the rot spreading. How would he proceed? Would he not begin by tipping the whole lot out of the basket? And would not the next step be to cast his eye over each apple in turn, and pick up and put back in the basket only those he saw to be sound, leaving the others? In just the same way, those who have never philosophized correctly have various opinions in their minds which they have begun to store up since childhood, and which they therefore have reason to believe may in m any cases be false. They then attempt to separate the false beliefs from the others, so as to prevent their contaminating the rest and making the whole lot uncertain. Now the best way they can accomplish this is to reject all their beliefs together in one go, as if they were all uncertain and false. They can then go over each belief in turn and re-adopt only those which they recognize to be true and indubitable. (Replies 7, AT 7:481, CSM 2:324) »

THE BASKET OF APPLE ANALOGY

DOUBTING OUR SENSES

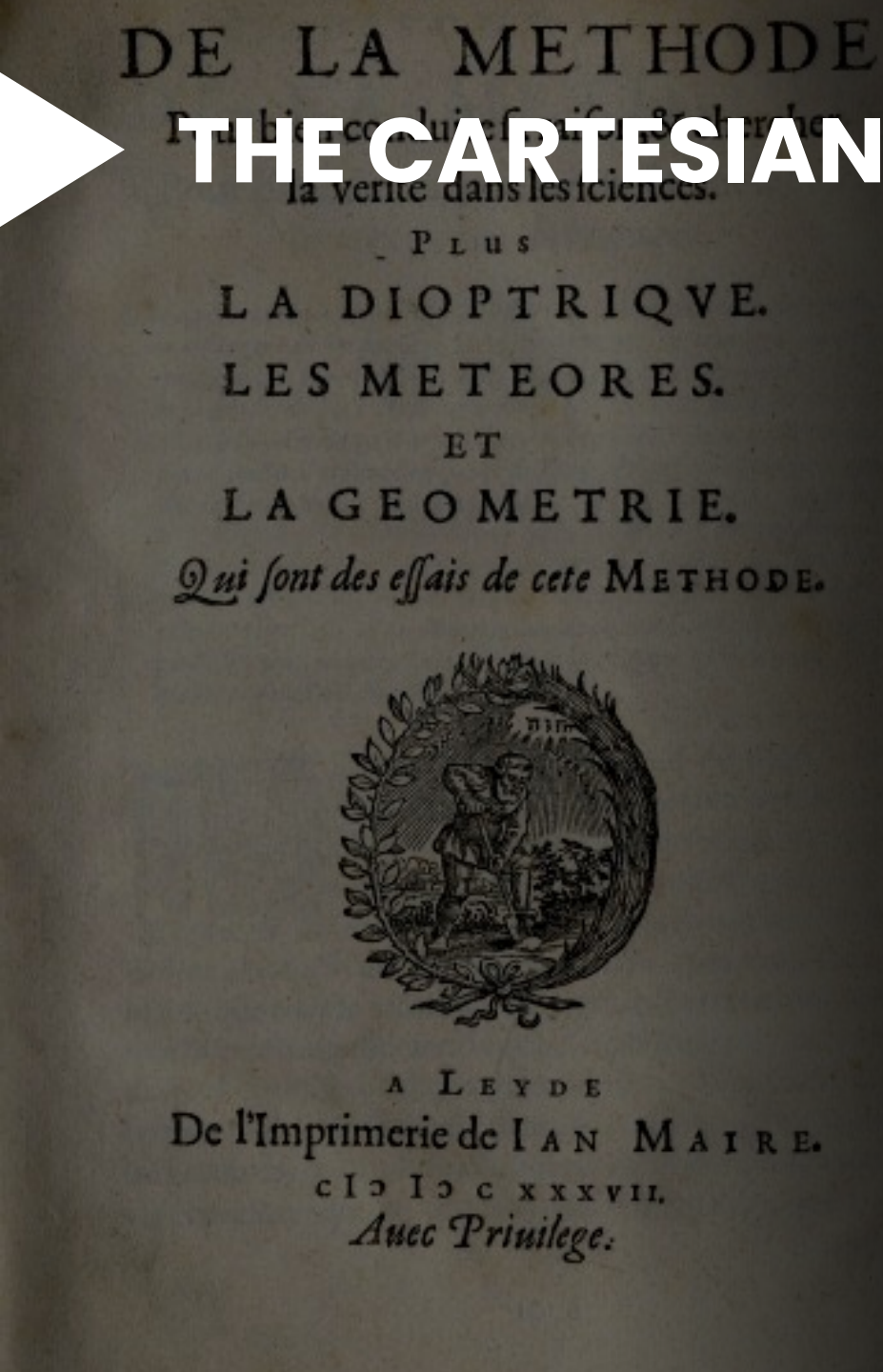
« A soldier returns from battle; during the heat of combat he could have been wounded without being aware of it. But now that he begins to cool off, he feels pain and believes he has been wounded. A surgeon is called, the soldier's armor is removed, and he is examined. In the end, one finds that what he felt was nothing but a buckler or a strap, which was caught under his armor and was pressing on him and making him uncomfortable. If, in causing him to feel this strap, his sense of touch had impressed its image on his thought, there would have been no need of a surgeon to show him what he was feeling. (*Treatise on Light*) »

THE WOUNDED SOLDIER ANALOGY

LAPLACE AND THE HYPERBOLICAL DOUBT

"We may regard the present state of the universe as the effect of its past and the cause of its future. An intellect which at a certain moment would know all forces that set nature in motion, and all positions of all items of which nature is composed, if this intellect were also vast enough to submit these data to analysis, it would embrace in a single formula the movements of the greatest bodies of the universe and those of the tiniest atom; for such an intellect nothing would be uncertain and the future just like the past would be present before its eyes. (*A philosophical Essay on probabilities*) "

THE DEMON OF LAPLACE



THE CARTESIAN COGITO : FIRST EXPRESSION

“

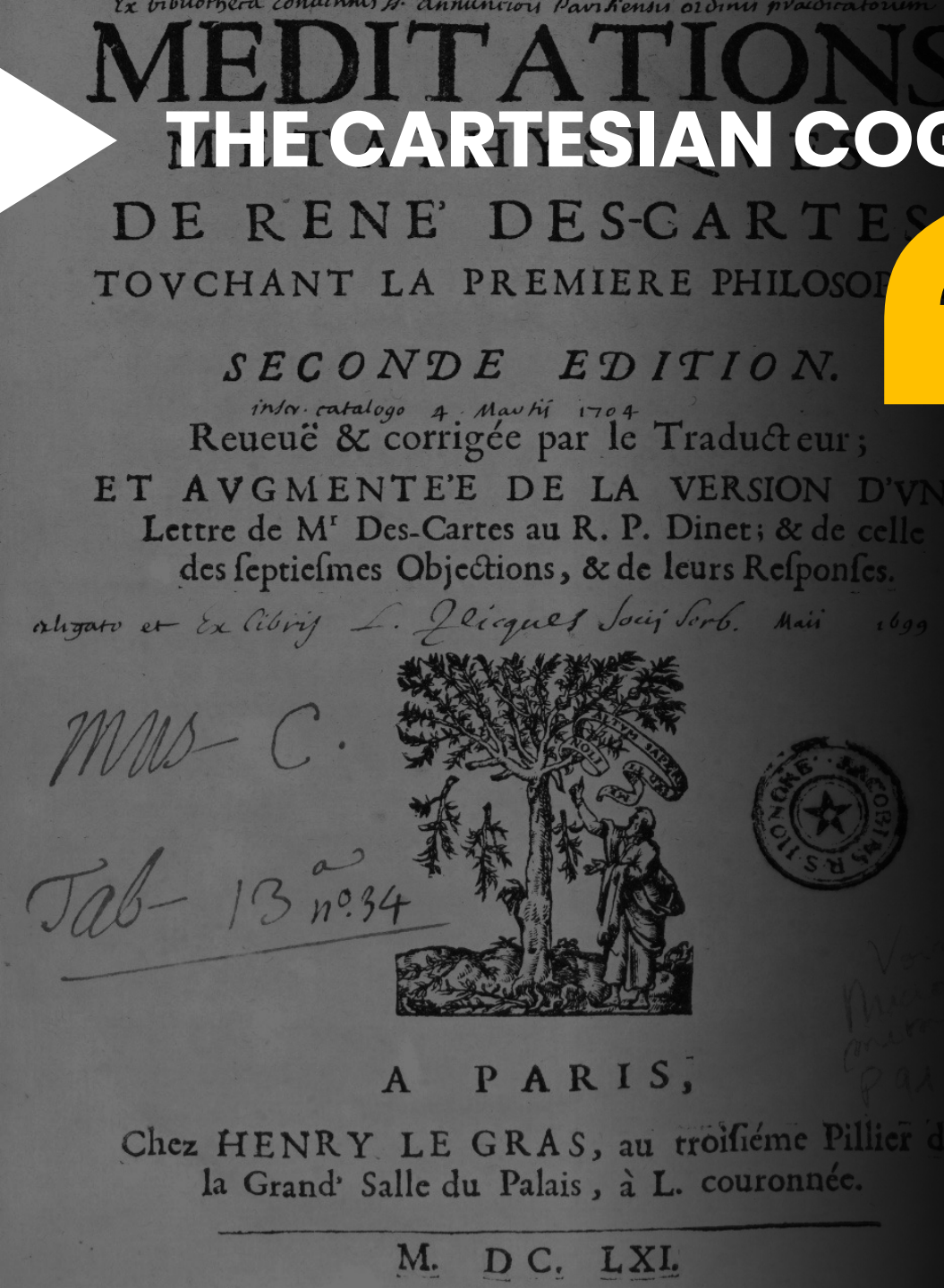
I THINK THEREFORE I AM

”

RENÉ DESCARTES

DISCOURSE ON METHOD

THE CARTESIAN COGITO : SECOND EXPRESSION


MEDITATIONS

DE RENE' DES-CARTES

TOVCHANT LA PREMIERE PHILOSOPHIE.

SECONDE EDITION.

Reueuë & corrigée par le Traducteur;

ET AVGMENTE'E DE LA VERSION D'VNE Lettre de Mr Des-Cartes au R. P. Dinet; & de celle des septiesmes Objections, & de leurs Responses.

A PARIS,

Chez HENRY LE GRAS, au troisiéme Pillier de la Grand' Salle du Palais, à L. couronnée.

M. DC. LXI.

"I AM, I EXIST IS NECESSARILY TRUE EVERYTIME I SAY THIS SENTENCE OR CONCEIVE IT IN MY MIND."

RENÉ DESCARTES

MEDITATIONS ON FIRST PHILOSOPHY

THE CARTESIAN METHOD : SUMMARY

1. THE TABULA RASA : Beginning of the methodical doubt
2. THE HYPERBOLICAL DOUBT : Using the demon of Laplace to push doubt further
3. THE COGITO : The first absolute truth
4. GOD AS A LOGIC TOOL : Replacing oneself in the world
5. THE LUMEN NATURALIS : Creating a world for the mind

THE CARTESIAN METHOD : A PRACTICAL GUIDE

RULE n°1:

“Obey the laws and customs of one’s country” and “to govern one self according to the most moderate and least extreme opinions”

RULE n°2:

“To be as firm and resolute in my actions as I could and to follow no less constantly the most doubtful opinions, than I would have if they had been the most certain ones”

RULE n°3:

“Endeavour always to master myself rather than fortune, change my desires rather than to change the order of the world”

THE THREE MAXIMS

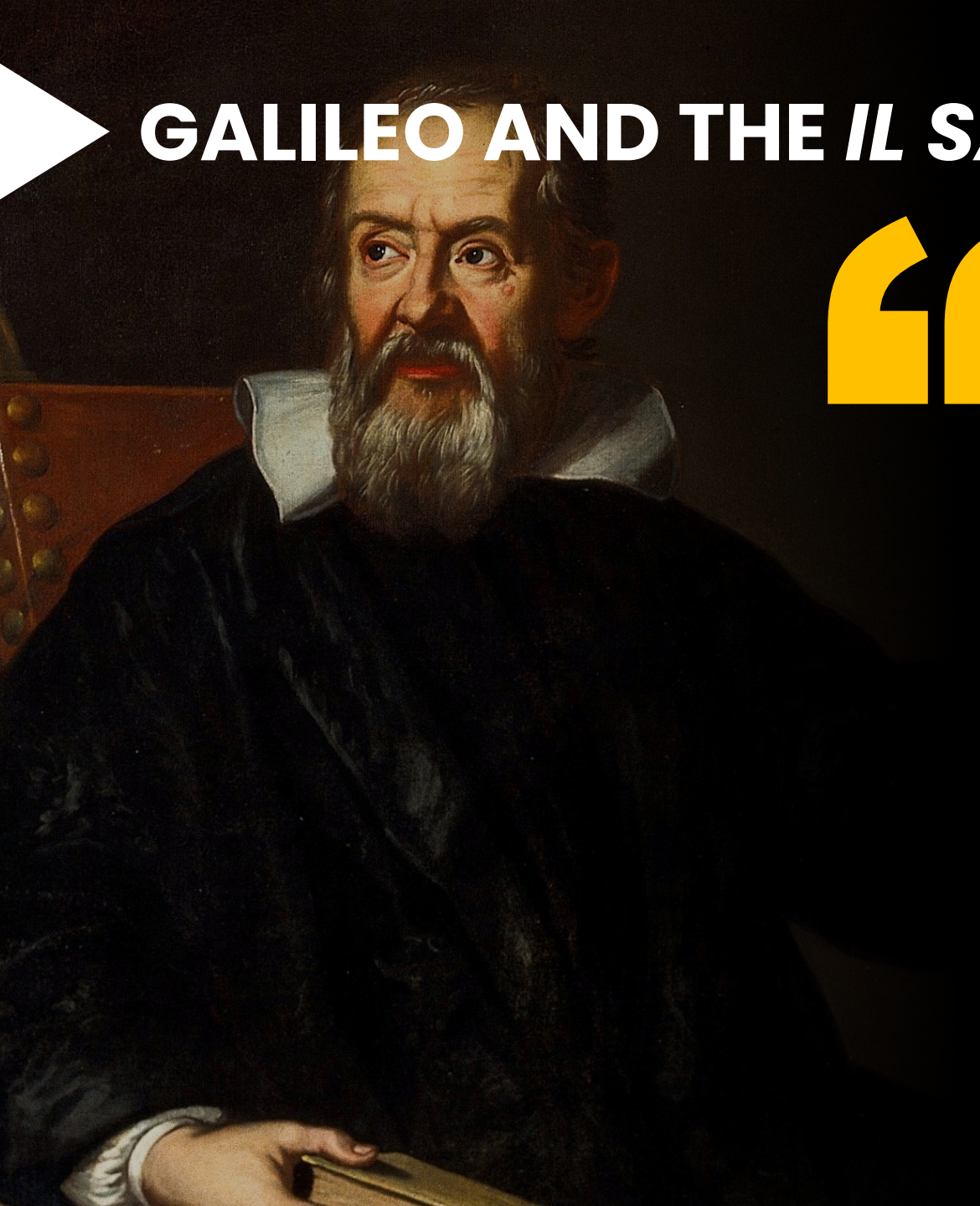
THE LAST AND THE MOST VITAL MAXIM



> To devote one's life to the cultivation of one's reason and make such progress as I could in the knowledge of the truth following the method I had prescribed for myself

RENÉ DESCARTES

DISCOURSE ON METHOD, PART THREE



GALILEO AND THE *IL SAGGIATORE*

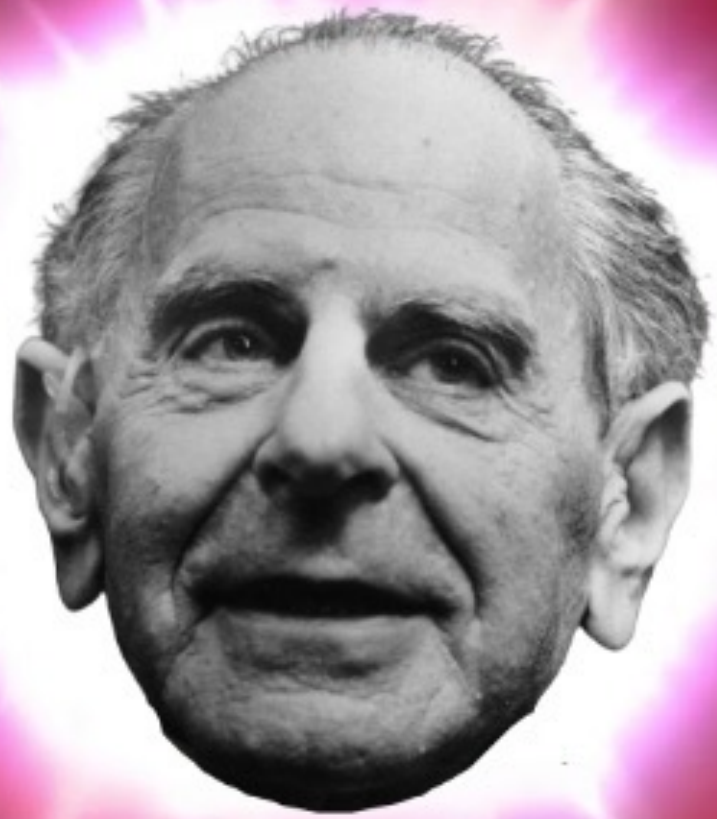
> [The universe] cannot be read until we have learnt the language and become familiar with the characters in which it is written. It is written in mathematical language, and the letters are triangles, circles and other geometrical figures, without which means it is humanly impossible to comprehend a single word.

GALILEO GALILEI

IL SAGGIATORE, OPERE II, P.171

들어주셔서
감사합니다!

A new foe has appeared!



CHALLENGER APPROACHING

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