

Ubi Inletabilitas Ibi Virtus

Melancholy, Virtue and Self-Consciousness

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ABSTRACT: A 17th Century print by Giovanni Castiglione bears a motto: *Ubi Inletabilitas ibi Virtus*. Its meaning is far from clear. What is *inletabilitas*? What exactly is its relation to virtue? To what broader psychological theory and moral theory does the thought in the motto belong? I draw on a range of resources – from phenomenology, from art history, from the ontology of Renaissance psychiatry – to propose and explore an answer. *Inletabilitas*, I argue, is a distinctive form of melancholic self-consciousness. It is associated closely with grief and mourning, and with other forms of awareness in which one gains a perspective on hermeneutic totalities.