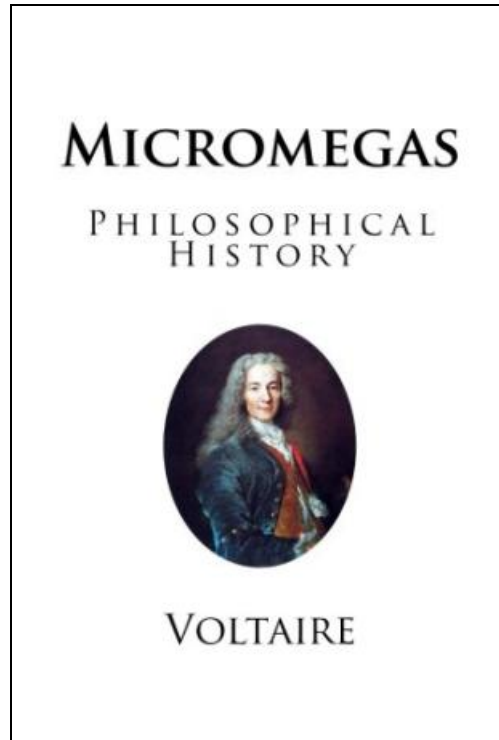


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Createspace Independent Publishing Platform, United States, 2015. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****. VOLTAIRE - Micromegas - Philosophical History - Voltaire - Prefaces, Cautions, Notes etc. By M. Beuchot. Micromegas is a 1752 short story by the French philosopher and satirist Voltaire. Along with his story Plato's Dream, it is a seminal work in the genre of science fiction, and is a significant development in the history of literature. The tale recounts the visit to Earth of a being from a planet circling the star Sirius, and of his companion from the planet Saturn. The technique of using an outsider to comment on aspects of Western culture was popular at this period. Voltaire used it again in Zadig. Montesquieu, too, applied it in Persian Letters, as did Jose Cadalso in Cartas marruecas and Tomas Antonio Gonzaga in Cartas Chilenas. The story is organized into seven brief chapters. The first describes Micromegas (small/large), an inhabitant of one of the planets that orbits Sirius. His home world is 21.6 million times greater in circumference than the Earth. Micromegas stands 120,000 feet (about 23 miles) tall . When he is almost 450 years old, approaching the end of his infancy, Micromegas writes a scientific book examining the insects on his planet, which at 100 feet are too small to be detected by ordinary microscopes. This book is considered heresy, and after a 200-year trial, he is banished from the court for a term of 800 years. Micromegas takes this as an incentive to travel around the Universe in a quest to develop his intellect and his spirit. After extensive celestial travels he arrives on Saturn, where he befriends the secretary of the Academy of Saturn, a man less than a twentieth of his size...



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