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## Mind and Meditation in Ignatius of Loyola's *Spiritual Exercises* Comparative Study of three Latin versions

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The later saint Ignatius of Loyola was also a college student: He wrote *The Spiritual Exercises* presumably in Latin when he was a student at the University of Paris. I propose to read the text of the meditations as a book of philosophy, by comparing the three



Kanō Naizen (1570-1616), Screen in the genre called Nanban Screen with the Jesuits in black

earliest existing Latin versions. Paradoxically his school Latin, often dismissed as clumsy word-for-word translation, makes him a philosopher, whereas the content of his book visibly aims at a Christian mystic dialogue. With *The Spiritual Exercises*, Loyola is standing in the upstream of modernity before the split occurred between philosophy and religious meditation, represented in seventeenth-century France by René Descartes and Blaise Pascal. As the Latin education outside Europe came with the Jesuits to Japan, the spectrum of Latin written in the Renaissance Society of Jesus marks also the dawn of the global Latin.

Texts proposed for comparison of Latin styles:

*Altera de Renouatione spiritus* (Claudio Aquaviva 1583)

*Commentarii collegii Coninbricensis* (Pedro Fonseca et al. 1592)

*The Spiritual Exercises*, P1 (attr. Saint Ignatius & Ioanne Baptista Viola 1541)

*The Spiritual Exercises*, P2 (Pierre Favre & Alfonso Salmerón 1547)

*The Spiritual Exercises*, V (Andrea des Freux for V 1547)

"Introduction" of *The Spiritual Exercises* (J. Calveras & C. de Dalmases (1969).