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*Pseudo-filosofia e scrittura reticente in Spinoza. A partire da un saggio straussiano*

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This paper investigates the challenging nature of the notion of 'philosopher' and its relationship to truth in Baruch Spinoza's works. Starting with Leo Strauss' essay How to Study Spinoza's 'Theologico-Political Treatise', it aims both at outlining the difference between 'philosophers' and 'pseudo-philosophers' as well as showing how Spinoza made use of particular language and rhetorical devices to partially disguise the most radical points in his discussion. The 'reticent writing' – which is the fundamental element of Strauss' hermeneutics – is linked to the aims and recipients of Spinoza's Treatise, whose fortune and complexity are closely related to its 'ambiguousness'. Finally, it is argued that Spinoza's cautiousness and his use of the ad captum vulgi writing are typical forms of functional dissimulation. This could open up a significant space between truth and falsehood, whose polarity is abandoned in the name of political utility.