Manegold of Lautenbach Encyclopedia Article

Manegold of Lautenbach

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Manegold of Lautenbach

c. 1030-1103

Alsatian philosopher who argued that Christian scholars should turn away from studies in physics and should not attempt to understand nature using reason alone. Manegold was almost a textbook case of the worldview that modern people associate with medieval times. In the Investiture Controversy, a church-state struggle that pitted Pope Gregory VII against Holy Roman emperor Henry IV, Manegold proved so biased in his allegiance to the pope and his disdain for the emperor—who he compared to an incompetent swineherd—that even the *Catholic Encyclopedia* refers to him as "the rude, fanatical Manegold of Lautenbach." Some modern political scholars, however, see in his defiance toward the emperor an early form of civil disobedience.