



Leonardo da Vinci

(1452 – 1519)

Exploring Theological Insights Revealed in *The Virgin of the Rocks*

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Slides are available at www.thechristianmysteries.org

Virgin (or Madonna) of the Rocks

Why are there two paintings?

What was Leonardo portraying?



Yes, Two *Virgin of the Rocks*!



National Gallery

- As it was displayed until 2010





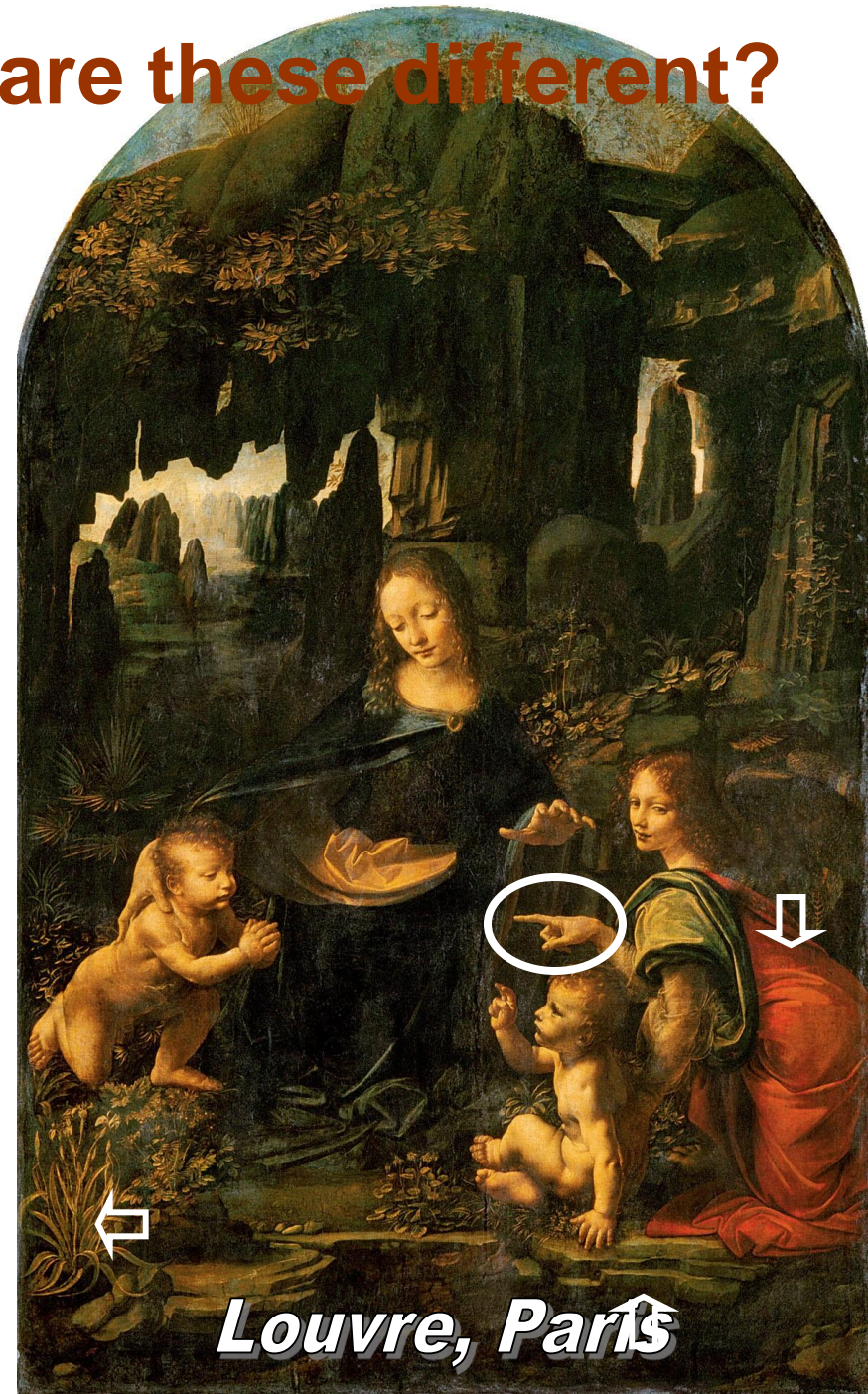
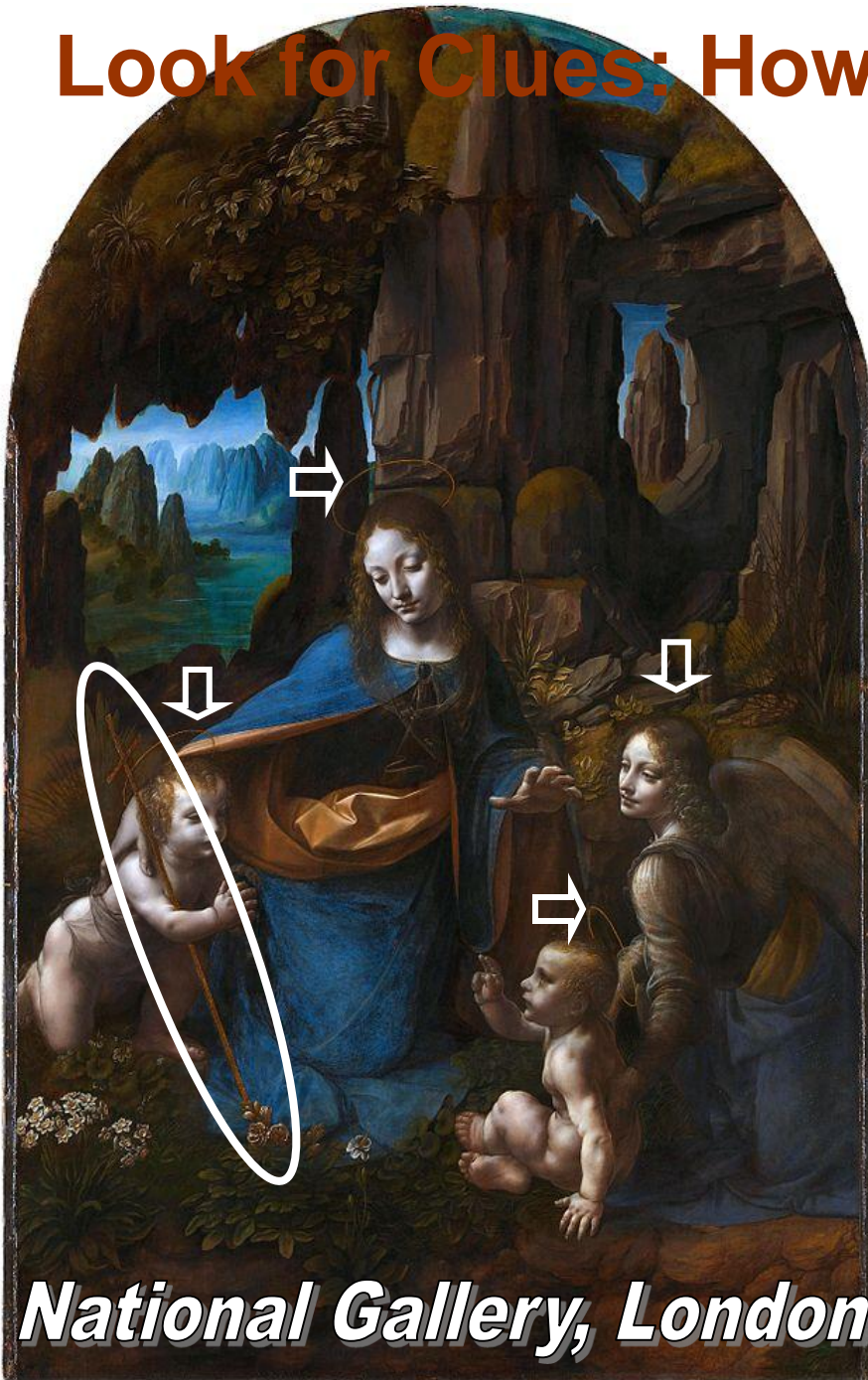
Refurbished in 2010



- “The paintings are both nearly 2 meters (over 6 feet) high and are painted in oils. Both were painted on wooden panel; the Louvre’s has been transferred to canvas
- Both paintings show the Madonna and Child Jesus **with the infant John the Baptist and an angel**, in a rocky setting which gives the paintings their usual name
- The version generally considered the earlier of the two, hangs in The Louvre in Paris and the other in the National Gallery, London
- The complete histories of the two paintings are **unknown, and lead to speculation about which of the two is earlier**” --

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Virgin_of_the_Rocks

Look for Clues: How are these different?





Known History of Leonardo and of his Paintings

Let's Investigate
his background
and the historical
situation!



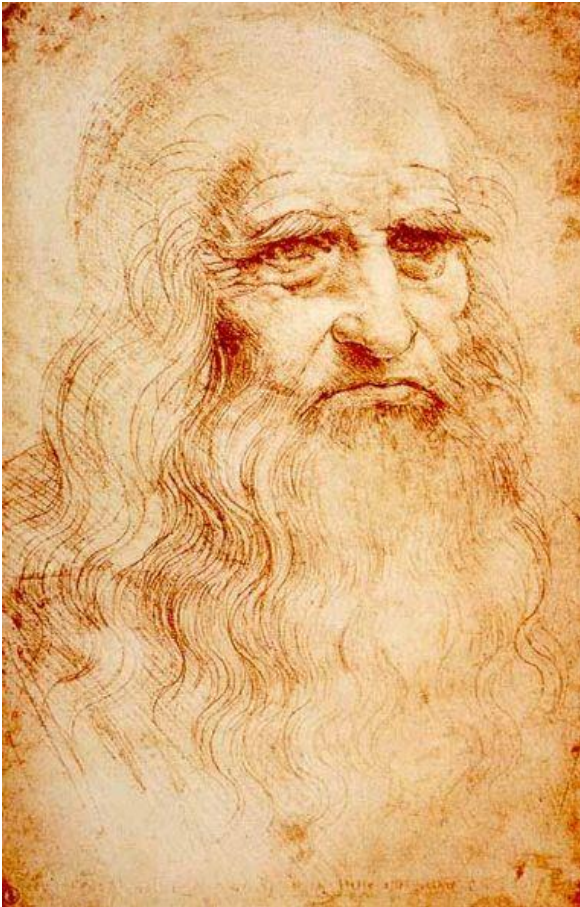
The Historical Situation: 1400 CE

- The Ancient Mysteries had vanished – or gone underground
 - Aristotle & Alexander (323 BCE), Constantine (306–337 CE), Theodosius (379-395 CE) & Justinian (527-565 CE)
 - 15th century: now entering Europe were Greek philosophers
 - Had helped to ignite the cultural supremacy of the Islamic states in 10th C
- Rome had long since faded away
 - Even the barbarians had become civilized since Charlemagne
 - Rome & Constantinople were split for over 400 years
- By end 1300s, gone: School at Chartres, Cathars, & Templars
 - “Heretics” wiped out by Crusade followed by Inquisition
- Period of Pilgrimages (10th – 14th C): done
- Bubonic plague: 70% of the population of Europe removed
- Papacy in crisis, theology in the abyss, discontent

Situation Within the RC Church

- Because of the Black Death in the 2nd half of 14th century
 - Relevance of Church damaged (why would God allow so many to die?)
 - Church receives blame for torture and extermination of Knights Templar
- At the end of the 14th century: rival Popes!
 - Schism in the West: French Pope (Avignon) vs Italian Pope (Rome)
 - Each had different political allies
 - 1409: a third Pope installed
 - 1417: Finally one Pope! Papacy restored to the “Papal States”
- Rise of Humanism versus blind faith – undermined Church authority
- However, being declared a heretic still meant death
 - Hatred for the Inquisitors persisted well into 15th century
 - Giordano Bruno: Dominican friar, philosopher, mathematician, poet, astrologer and astronomer burned at the stake 17Feb1600
 - Proposed the Sun was just another star moving in space; universe contains an infinite number of inhabited worlds populated by other intelligent beings
- All tithing flowed to the Papal bankers in Florence

Who Was Leonardo da Vinci? Renaissance Man



- **1452 – 1519**
- **Inventions:** helicopter, a tank, concentrated solar power, a calculator, automated bobbin winder, a machine for testing the tensile strength of wire, the double hull ships, and outlining a rudimentary theory of plate tectonics
- **Artist:** paintings, sculpture
- **Scientist:** greatly advanced the state of knowledge in the fields of optics, anatomy, civil engineering, and hydrodynamics
- **How did he know what he knew?**
 - Kept his private life private
 - **Theologian? Mystic?**
 - **R.Steiner: Able to see into**
 - **past & future**



Leonardo da Vinci and Ancient Wisdom

“He alone uses each thing well who has learned of his own power and that of others, from wisdom” -- Ficino

- Born 15 April **1452** near Florence, Italy, illegitimate son of a notary
- Education
 - Age of 8, father takes him to Florence to commence his studies
 - Age of 12, Leonardo is enrolled in Florence's best artistic workshop: Andrea del Verrocchio
 - Other apprentices include Botticelli, Ghirlandaio, Perugino, Lorenzo di Credi
 - Michaelangelo and Raphael in the next generation
 - Age of 28, part of de Medici (Lorenzo the Magnificent) household
 - Member of the Garden of San Marcos
 - “The Medici made me and the Medici destroyed me” – journal entry
 - Marsilio Ficino, Plato Academy at Careggi 1462
 - John Argyropoulos from Constantinople, Aristotelian
 - Philosopher Pico della Mirandola
 - Secret schools – Leonardo kept his private life secret

What did young Leonardo learn from these men? Ancient Mysteries?

Leonardo knew Ficino well – he painted him!

[Source: Ficino](#)



Renaissance: Rebirth of Greek Philosophy

- Why would Leonardo be so secret about this?
 - Death to the Heretics
 - Ancient Mysteries, even Plato, were considered heresies
 - Divulging Mystery Center's secrets meant death
- Several groups carried Greek Mystery knowledge to Europe
 - Charlemagne from Harun al-Rashid (via Gondhishapur)
 - Kabbalists
 - Knights Templars: exterminated 1314
 - Cathars: Genocide via Albigensian Crusade and Inquisition 1244
 - Rosicrucians: wisely chose to be very secretive
 - Alchemists and Hermeticists
- Florentine art revives neo-platonism: Christian + Greek
 - Greek statues excavated from underground
- Leonardo likely knew a lot about Plato, Aristotle, and other Greek philosophers – did he also learn about the Mysteries?

Manuel Chrysolorus (1355-1415)

- 1391: envoy to West from Constantinople
- Sought Western military help
- Gave lectures on Greek philosophers
- Taught Roberto de' Rossi, Cosimo de' Medici's tutor
 - **Preparer of the Renaissance**
- 1396: Invited to teach at Univ. of Florence
- 1400: Goes on to teach at Bologna, Venice, and Rome
- Florentine missions to save ancient texts for the East
- 1423: Giovanni Aurispa returns with 238 texts
 - Plato, Plotinus, Proclus, Sophocles, Aeschylus, more
- 1469: Basilios Bessarion gave to Venice's Library of San Marcos more than 800 volumes from the East
 - Sources: D'Eprio, Peter, *The Book of Firsts*, pg 337-338
 - And Liebrechts, Peter, *Ezra Pound and Neoplatonism*,



G. Gemistus Plethon (1355 – 1452)

- Constantinople 1355 – Mistra (outside Sparta) 1452
- 1428: Byzntn Emperor John VIII asks Gemistus
 - How can the split churches be unified?
- 1438 - 39 Council of Florence
 - Attempt to reconcile the East-West schism
 - Accompanies John VIII because of his renowned wisdom and morality
 - Byzantine Empire was asking for European help against the Ottomans
- Becomes the Catalyst for the Renaissance
 - Invited to set up a temporary school
 - Lectures on the differences between Plato and Aristotle
 - Cosimo de' Medici attended these lectures – very excited
 - Inspired, he founds the Accademia Platonica with Ficino as its head
 - Students of Plethon continued to teach well after the council ended
 - Lectures summarized in book *On the Differences of Aristotle from Plato*
 - Inspired Renaissance paintings on Greek mythology



For more see [paper](#) by Shawn Gray

Who Was Plethon?

- A “Prince Among the Philosophers”
- Well versed in Plato, Aristotle, Zoroaster/Zarathustra
- Marsilio Ficino called him '**the second Plato**' while Cardinal Bessarion speculated as to whether Plato's soul occupied his body
- Plethon's books included Hermes Trismegistus
 - Likely source for Ficino's Orphic system of natural magic
 - Believed West was influenced by Arabic (materialistic) interpretations of Plato & Aristotle
 - Practiced ancient Greek paganism as prelude to Christianity
- Trunk full of books – allowed de' Medici team to translate
 - Doctrines of Zoroaster, Plato, Plotinus, Hermes Trismegistus and others
 - Byzantines had wisdom and many documents the West had not seen
- 1440: Returned to Greece to found a **mystery center** in Mistra

Resistance to the Renaissance

- **1452–1498:** Girolamo Savonarola, Dominican friar and preacher
- **1482:** Called for **Christian renewal** denouncing clerical corruption, despotic rule, and the exploitation of the poor
 - Inspired the Florentines to expel the ruling Medici and establish a popular republic, declaring **Florence as the New Jerusalem**
 - Instituted a puritanical campaign, enlisting the active help of Florentine youth to destroy art “intended for the vain”
 - Leonardo leaves for Milan
- **1492: Lorenzo di Medici dies (Moors out of Spain, Columbus to America), “plundering” of Florentine artists → High Renaissance**
- **1495:** the Pope excommunicated Savonarola
 - Refused to have Florence join a war against France
 - Popular opinion turned against him
 - Under torture, Savonarola confessed that he had invented his visions and prophecies so in 1498 he was **burned** in Florence
 - The Medici, restored to power with the help of the papacy and eventually broke the movement



Leonardo da Vinci after Florence

- 1482: not surprisingly, Leonardo da Vinci leaves Florence
 - Accepts post as court artist offered by the Duke of Milan – a muslim
 - Travels *with his paintings* to keep them safe from Savonarola mobs
- 1499: Flees Milan at the start of the Second Italian War
 - French troops used his Horse for target practice (and 'fun')
- **1506: Returns to Milan/Florence**
- 1515: Moves to Rome
- 1516: Accepts a commission from the King Francois I of France
 - Chief painter, engineer, and architect to the King
 - Dies at Clos Lucé, France, on May 2, 1519 at age 67

History of *The Virgin of the Rocks*

- Late 1482: DaVinci arrives in Milan as a Master Florentine painter
- Early 1483: responds to Confraternity of the Immaculate Conception
 - 1480: Giacomo del Maino commissioned for three paintings: a central Virgin and Child with angels and two side panels also with musical angels
 - All the work was to be completed by the Feast of the Conception 12/8/83
 - Early 1483: Giacomo withdraws – unable to complete in time
 - Leonardo possibly offers VoR, the original that was begun in Florence
 - Apparently “accepted” but only after changes made → new version
 - 2nd version painted mostly by students: de Predis brothers
- 1499: 2nd Italian War breaks out; Leonardo flees Milan
 - 1499: Legal dispute (after 16 years) a de Predis brother, Ambrogio, who claimed to have completed the work, wanted payment
 - **1506**: Dispute settled on April 27th with the requirement that Leonardo would return to Milan within two years “*to complete*” the painting
 - 1507: Leonardo paid (for putting the finishing touches on the work)
 - 1508: Installed in the Confraternity
 - Original not mentioned until it shows up in the French Royal collection

Could there be a “heretical” Mystery portrayed?

Plethon inspired
mystery?

If so, then it could

- explain secrecy
- explain rejection
by Confraternity



Nag Hammadi & Dead Sea Scrolls (DSS)

- Nag Hammadi, Egypt in the 1945 Gnostic texts inside earthen jar
- DSS discovered 1947, more found through 1979 in eleven caves
 - Essene settlement called Qumran
 - 872 scrolls were written in Hebrew and Aramaic by their initiates
 - Written from 150 BCE until 70 CE when Roman army dispersed Jews
 - Herod's Great Temple in Jerusalem was destroyed by the Roman army in 70 CE and the Jews, including Essenes, scattered
- The DSSs reveal that **two messiahs** were expected
 - One of a **priestly** lineage and one **kingly**
 - “Its members [Essenes of Qumran] were looking forward to a '**Messiah of Israel**' and a '**Messiah of David**' who resemble the **priestly** and **kingly** descendants.” http://www.livius.org/men-mh/messiah/messiah_14.html
 - “the Qumranites expected the coming of not one, but two Messiahs”
 - Key text from the Damascus Document: "The Messiah, which is the Son of Joseph **will be made one** with the Son of David, but he will be killed..."
 - *Testaments of the twelve patriarchs* (version translated 13th C by Robert Grosseteste)
 - “For the Lord will raise up from Levi someone as a high-priest and from Judah someone as king. He will save all the gentiles and the tribe of Israel.” *Testament of Simeon 7.1-2*

Pistis Sophia (Gnostic) Chapter 59

- Gnostic text discovered in 1773
- Refers to Twin Messiahs and two families!
- And Jesus answered and said: "Thou also, Mary, hast received form which is in Barbēlō, according to matter, and hast received likeness which is in the Virgin of Light, according to light, **thou and the other Mary**, the blessed one; and on thy account the darkness hath arisen, and moreover out of thee did come forth the **material body** in which I am, **which I have purified and refined**,--now, therefore, I bid thee proclaim the solution of the words which Pistis Sophia hath uttered."
- <http://gnosis.org/library/pistis-sophia/ps063.htm>

Pistis Sophia Chapter 62

- The **other** Mary came forward and said: "My Lord, bear with me and be not wroth with me. Yea, from the moment when thy mother spake with thee concerning the solution of these words, my power disquieted me to come forward and like-wise to speak the solution of these words."

Pistis Sophia: Jesus “Twins” Chptr 61

“Truth has sprouted from the earth and righteousness has looked forth from heaven.’ Thy power once prophesied in these words about thee.

When thou wast small, before the Spirit came upon thee, while thou wast in a vineyard with Joseph, the Spirit came forth from the height, he came to me into my house, he resembled thee. And I did not recognize him and I thought that he was thou. And the Spirit said to me : ‘Where is Jesus, my brother, that I meet him ?’ And when he said these things to me, I was confused and I thought that he was a phantom to tempt me. But I took him, I bound him to the leg of the bed in my house, until I came out to you in the field, thou and Joseph, and I found you in the vineyard, as Joseph was hedging the vineyard with reeds.

Now it happened, when thou didst hear me speaking the word to Joseph, thou didst understand the word and thou didst rejoice. And thou didst say : ‘Where is he that I may see him? Or else I await him in this place’. But it happened when Joseph heard thee saying these words, he was agitated and we came up at the same time, we went into the house. We found the Spirit bound to the bed. And we looked at thee with him, we found thee like him. And he that was bound to the bed was released, he embraced thee, he kissed thee. And thou also, thou didst kiss him and you became one.”

http://www.pseudepigrapha.com/PistisSophia/pistisSophia_Book1.html

Expectations of Two Anointed Ones

- Dead Sea Scrolls (Essene)

- **Jubilees:** Eden is the Holy of Holies where Adam was serving as the high priest
 - van Ruiten, 'Eden and the Temple' in *Paradise Interpreted: Representations of Paradise*
- **Damascus Document:** Two Messiah children: from Aaron (priest) and from Israel (king); Importance of baptism: the beginning of “the Word became flesh”

- Kabbalistic Roots: **Zohar**

*"Another Messiah, the son of Joseph, will **unite** himself with the Messiah, the son of David. But the son of Joseph will not remain in life, he will be killed and will become alive again, when the little hill receives life upon the great hill."*

- “Old Testament”: **Zechariah 4:14, Numbers 24:17, Ezekiel 37:15-17,**

1. *“These are the two anointed ones, that stand by the Lord of the whole earth”*
2. *“There shall come a star out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel”*
3. *“They [sticks of Judah and Joseph] **shall become one** in thine hand”*

- **Summary:** Expected two births (messiahs), a later merging, and a baptism where Holy Spirit *settles* upon the body

Cain & Abel Mysteries from Freemasonry

Kingly Lineage

- Cain
- Masculine
- Transform (spiritualize) the Earth

Abraham
&
Melchizedek

Priestly Lineage

- Abel (then Seth)
 - 3 seeds from Eden
- Feminine
- Live contentedly within the abundance God has given us



6th Century Byzantine Art – Why Two?



The Bohdan And Varvara Khanenko Museum Of Arts, Kiev

Questions

- Was Leonardo portraying two separate groups of Mother and Child?
 - Any justification to theory?
 - Different Christmas stories
 - No, rightmost is arch-angel
 - National Gallery claims Uriel
- Might ancient texts help?
 - Destroyed by heresy hunters
 - But some found since 19th C
 - Was Leonardo aware of Plethon's texts? (they later disappear)



Clues in Christian Theology?

What Books of NT
Describe the
Birth?

Where do each of
the four gospels
begin?



Two Christmas Stories: Luke & Matthew

- Historical perspective:
 - Historians place King Herod's death between 4 – 1 BC
 - Matthew story: slaughter of the innocents carried out by Herod
 - Thus Jesus born in 1BC (or back to 4BC)
 - Luke story: no slaughter of innocents
 - No mention of Herod
 - Thus it must take place after Herod's death
 - Jesus Christ died in April 33 CE at the age of 33,
 - Luke-Jesus must have been born in year 0 (and after Matthew Jesus in ~1BC)
- Could there have been Two Messiahs?
 - Same first names but different families, different stories?

Mysteries of Christmas

*Mark and John start at the **Baptism***

Matthew 1:1-25

- From Abraham,..., David, **King Solomon** (father ...)
- Angel to Joseph
- Middle-aged, royal lineage
- Live in Bethlehem
- Comfortable setting
- Magi from the East
- *Kingly and wise*
- Family flees to Egypt – returns to Nazareth after Herod dies.
- Brothers and sisters
- Begins “The book of the genealogy of Jesus-Christ

Luke 3:23-38

- **Priest Nathan** (son of ...), David ,..., Abraham,..., Adam
- Angel to Mary
- Young and poor
- Live in Nazareth
- In a stable in Bethlehem
- Shepherds
- *Pure and loving*
- No threat. Jesus grows up in Nazareth.
- Only child
- Genealogy described at baptism
“as was supposed” of Joseph

Associations

Kingly

- Solomon
- Cain stream
- Perfection of “the 3 loaves” from Abraham* (14x3)
 1. Physical
 2. Etheric (life)
 3. Astral (emotions/sensations)

Tree of Knowledge

- Magi suggests Zoroaster aka Zarathustra

Priestly

- Nathan
- Abel stream
- No karma, redemption to find way back to **Tree of Life**
- Heavenly hosts surrounding

** For more see E. R. Smith's The Burning Bush, pg. 411*

What About Leonardo's Students? Aware?

If so, do they participate in this?

- Bernardino Luini
- Bernardino de' Conti
- Bernardino di Betto
- Ambrogio Bergognone
- Martino Spanzotti



Bernardino Luini

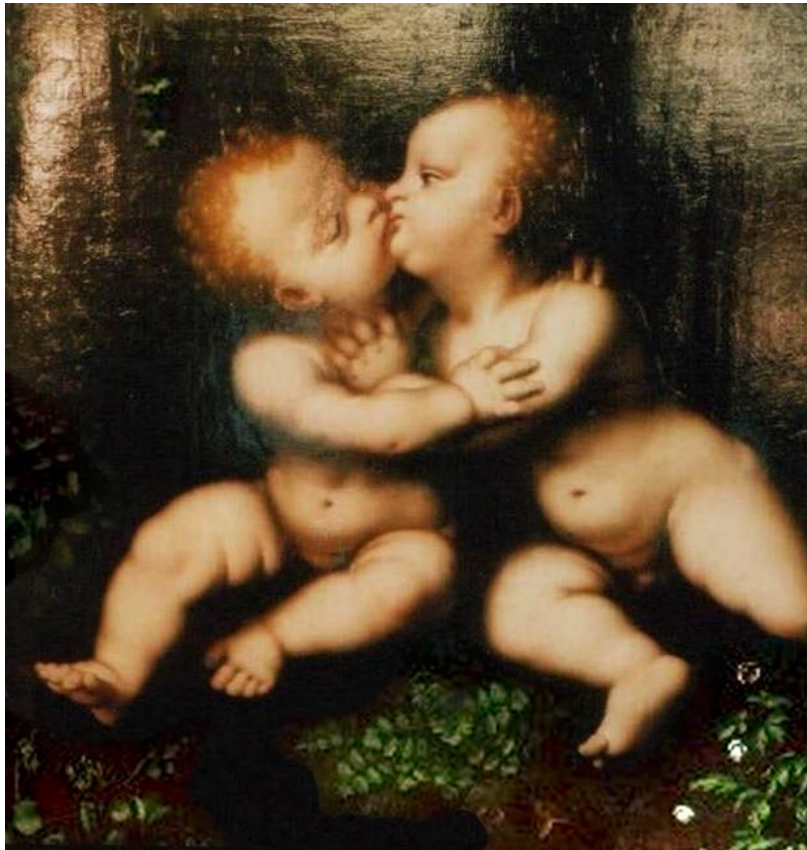
- 1480 - 1532
- *Holy Family*
- Pupil of Ambrogio Bergognone
- Also student of Leonardo
- Note female's hand gestures





The Holy Infants

- Kissing Babes
- Attributed to LdV
- Over 30 versions



Three Children by Bernardino de' Conti

- 1470-1523, Milan
- Bernardino was a student of Leonardo
- He was also a friend and associate of Ambrogio di Predis
- Who are these three?
- Note exact VoR poses
- Note the halo of the Nathan-Jesus
- Why John? Baptism!
Note the “transfer”



Three Children by Bernardino de' Conti



First Conclusion:

If two Jesus children,

- Luke: Nathan
- Matthew: Solomon

then why is there just one Jesus later in his life?



Merging of the Two Messiahs

- If the Dead Sea Scrolls were right, then we must find the point where these **two Jesus children are united**
- Luke: story of Jesus at age 12 in the Temple
 - Not mentioned in Matthew: Jesus at ~14
 - According to hand gestures, Luke-Jesus receives 3 “members” from Matthew-Jesus
 - For more, see R. Steiner:
 - *Gospel According to Luke*
 - *Gospel According to Matthew*

Perhaps Answers the Gnostic Question?

- How could a God become Man?
 - Spirit is immortal, non-physical
 - Flesh is “fallen”: impossible for a God to be born into flesh
- Could a God to take the place of a Man’s spirit?
 - Man would need to sacrifice
 - Prior to this, the life and physical bodies would need to be sacrificed
- A Great Christian Mystery Revealed?
 - Merging of streams: Cain & Abel, Alpha & Omega
 - King: Solomon (Matthew) & Priest: Nathan (Luke)
 - Three Magi & Simple Shepherds
 - Jan. 6th/7th & Dec. 25th (Julian – Gregorian calendar)
 - Two Jesus children “combine” at age 12 (at Temple in Jerusalem)
 - Human act precedes Godly act
 - Jesus of Nazareth sacrifices body and soul to Christ/Logos at baptism
 - First Adam and Second Adam

Do the Pupils further corroborate the story?

Let's investigate!



Ambrogio da Fossano Bergognone

- Student of Leonardo in Milan
- Alterpiece at Milan's St. Ambrogio Basilica, 1509 fresco
- Leonardo returned to Milan in 1506 to complete 2nd version of Madonna of the Rocks
 - Bergognone is with Leonardo, studying under him

Bergognone's Christ Among the Doctors



Ambrogio da Fossano Bergognone



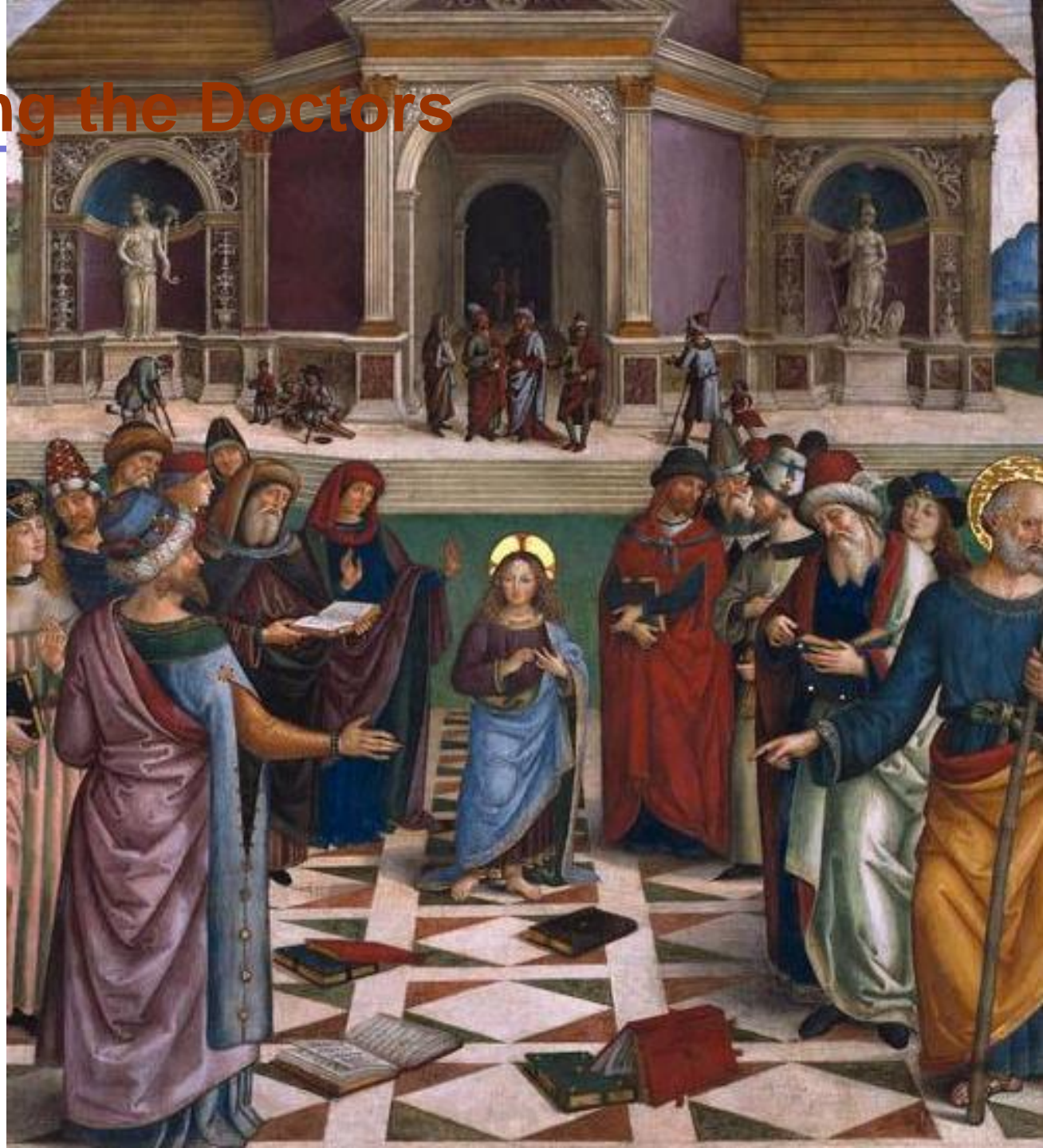
Christ Among the Doctors

- Bernardino di Betto
(**Pinturicchio**) c.
1452-1513
- Studied under
Bergognone and
DaVinci
- Fresco, Bagloioni
Chapel, Santa
Maria Maggiore,
Spello, Italy
- Painted this 1501



Christ Among the Doctors

- Pinturicchio
 - little painter
- Notice hands
- <http://encyclopedia.farlex.com/Bernardino+Luini>



Christ Among the Doctors

- Colors, socks, clothes



Bernardino Luini

- Student of both Leonardo and Bergognone
- *Christ Among the Doctors*, painted 1515
- Leonardo's signature appears 3 times on the back



Martino Spanzotti (1455 – 1528)



Greek Philosophy (Theology) Help Us Understand?



Soma
Psyche
Pneuma



Greek Concept of the Human

Spirit

- Atman
- Buddhi *(Sanskrit terms)*
- Manas

Soul

- Consciousness – Dianoetikon
- Intellectual – Kinetikon
- Sentient – Orektikon

Ego

fire/warmth

Body

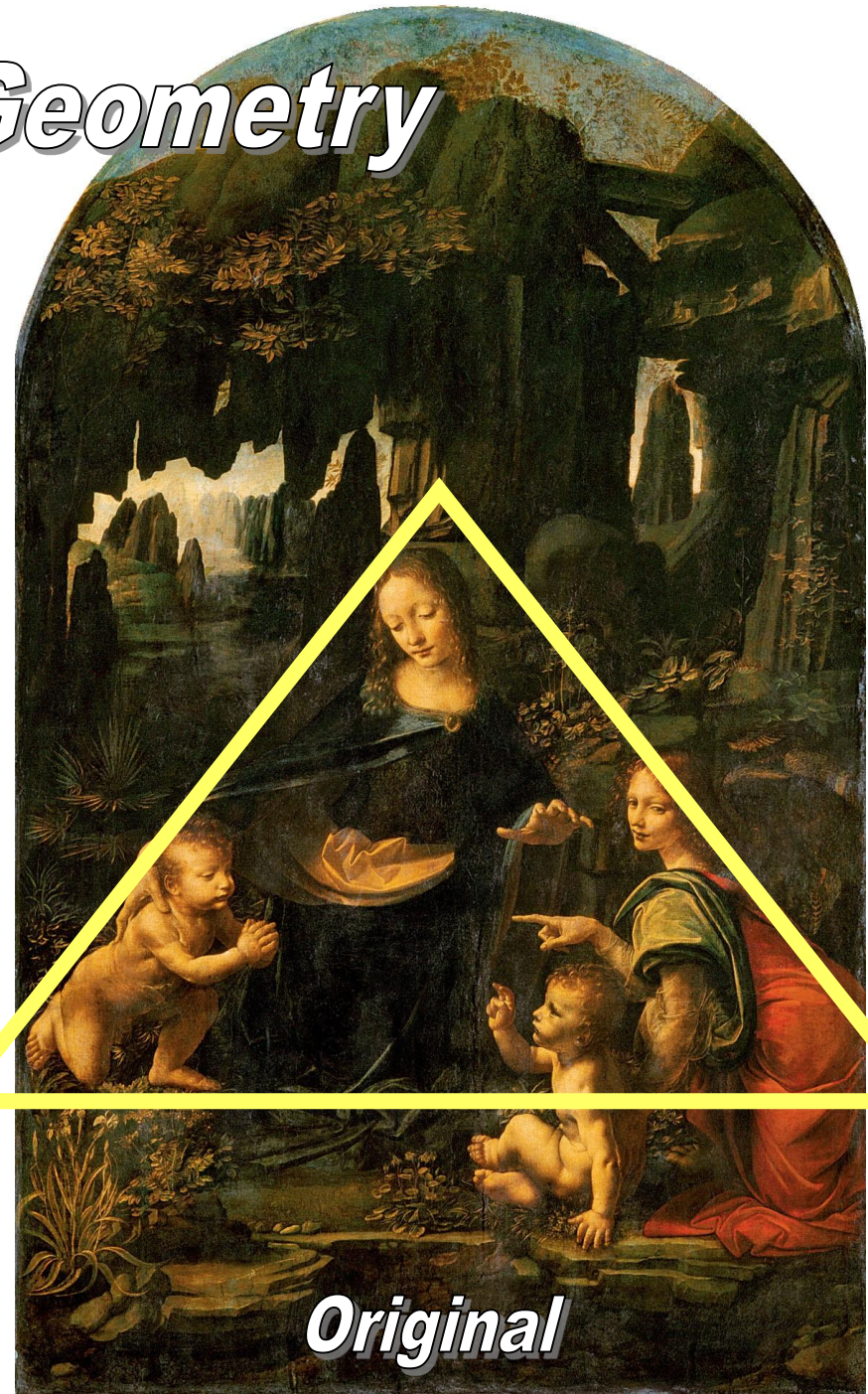
- | | | |
|------------------------|----------|------------|
| • Astral – Aisthetikon | wisdom | air/light |
| • Etheric – Threptikon | beauty | water/chem |
| • Physical – Gaia | strength | earth/life |

Reflects the 9 (3x3) Hierarchies

Sacred Geometry

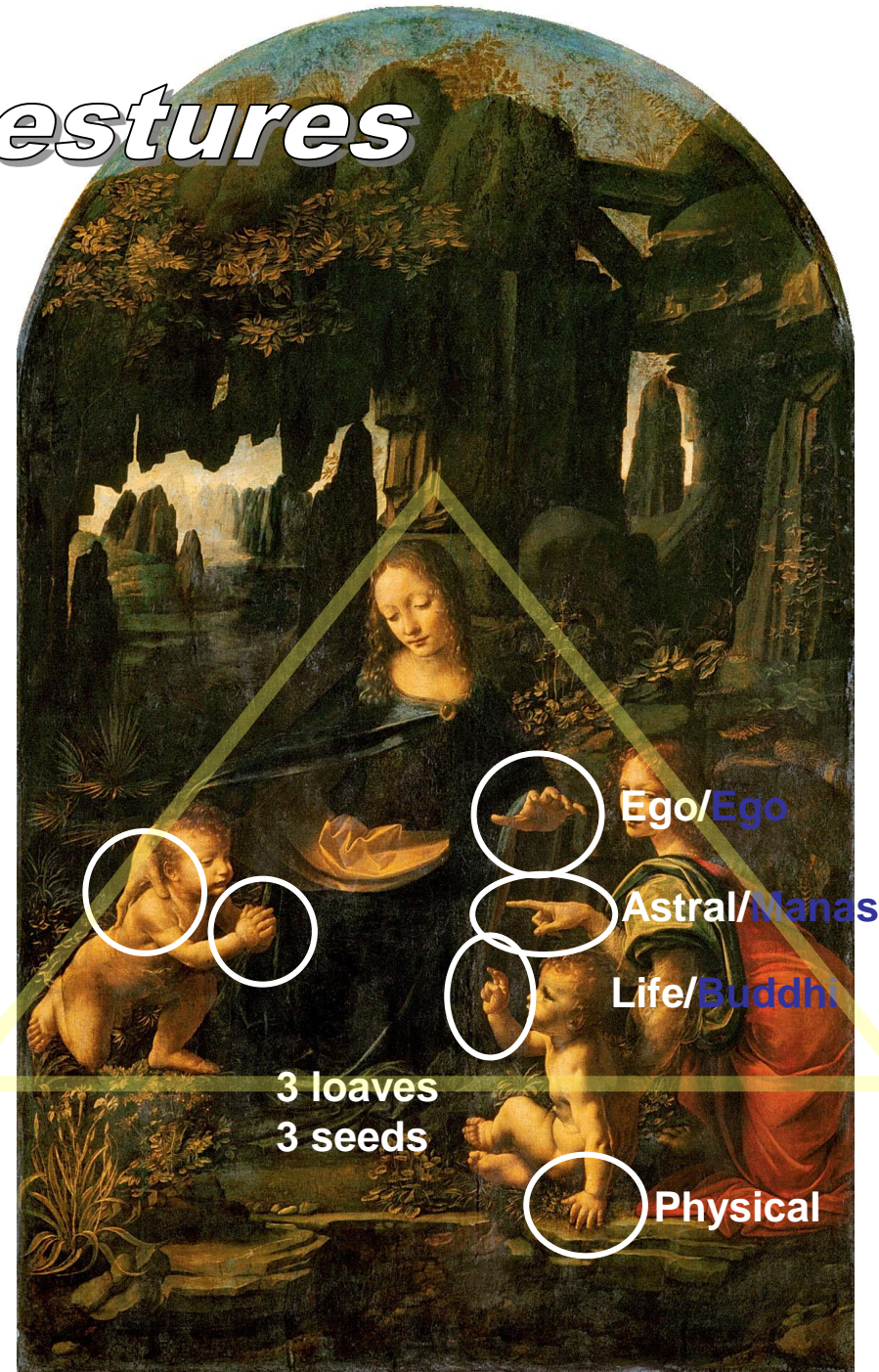


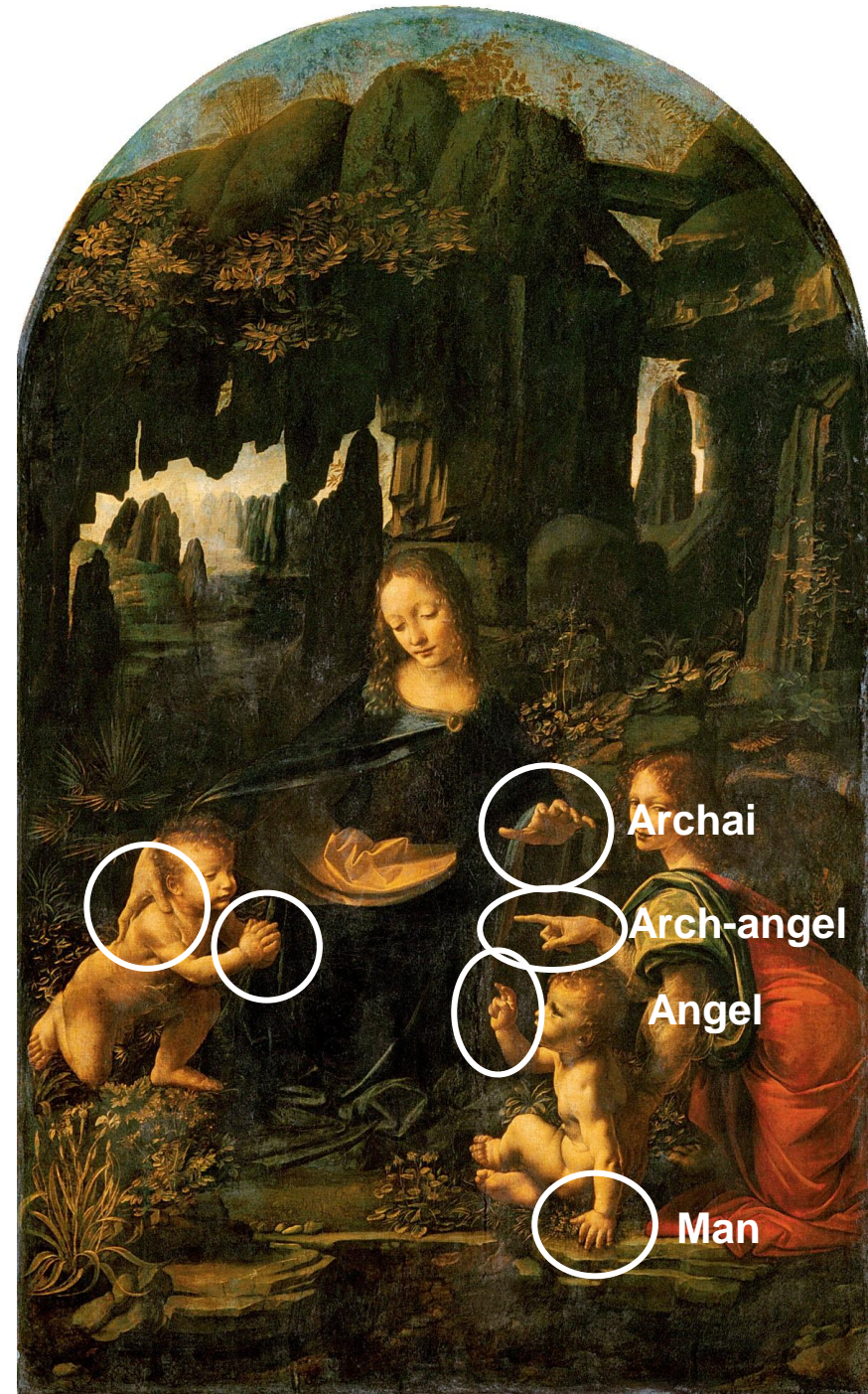
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Original

Hand Gestures





The Colors

- Gold skin tones
- Central figure is cosmic blue with gold middle
 - Sophia
 - More than Mary
 - Blue—Cosmos
 - Gold—Sun
- Arch-angel is red and green
 - Psyche / Astral (her right hand signifies) is red
 - Portrays role 3rd hierarchy plays
- Life / Etheric is green (child's place w/ plants)

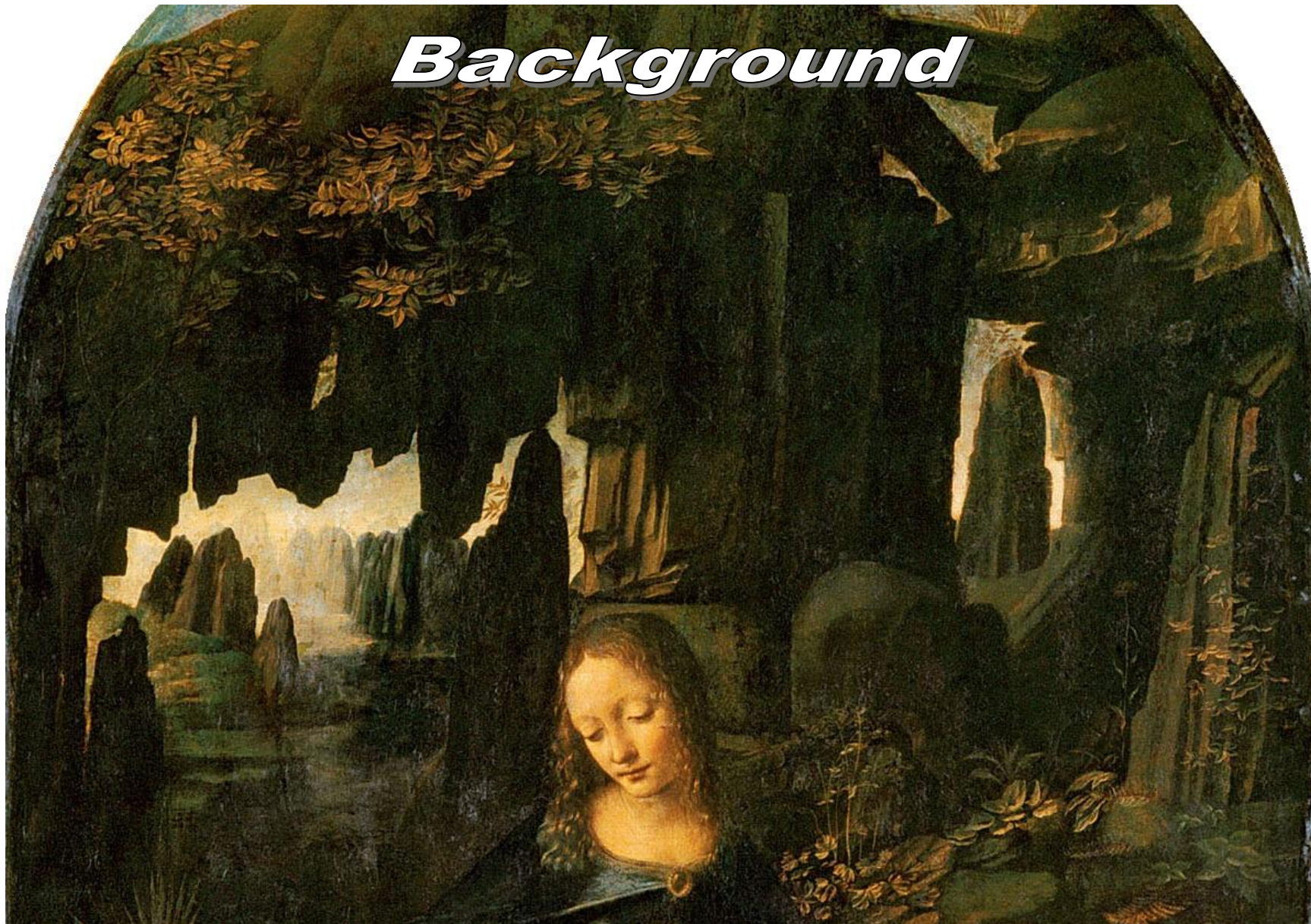


Secrets of the Background

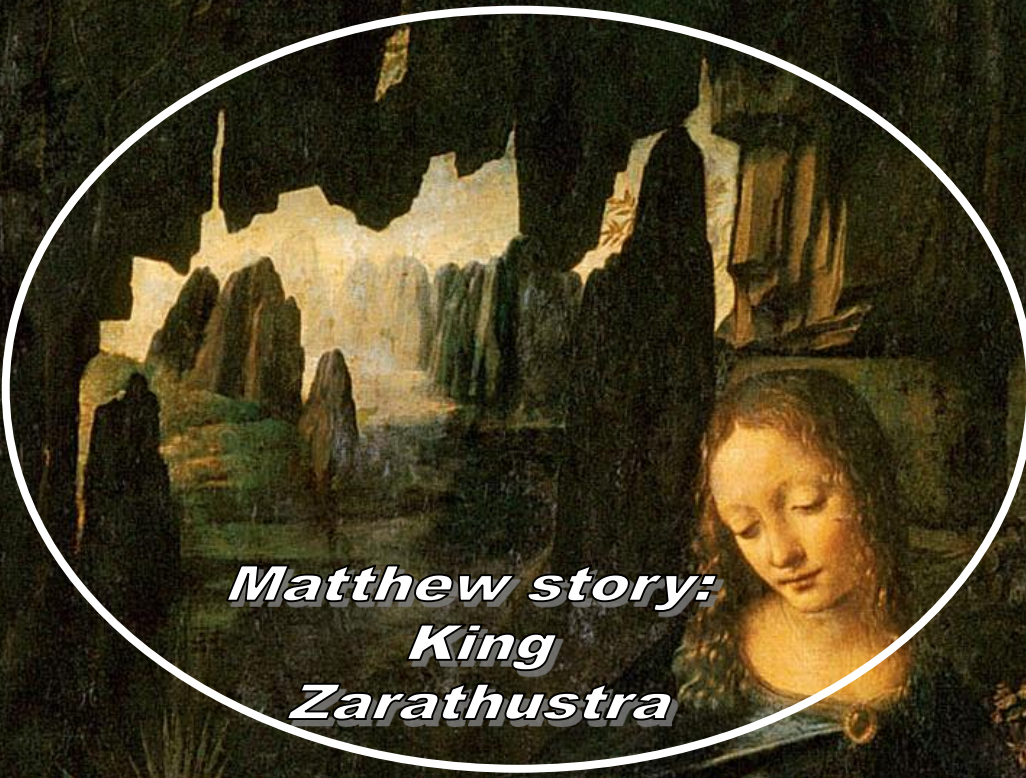
- Window through the rocks (earth)
- Each child has their own – their past lives!
- Left child has had many
- Right child only one → Adam!
 - Adam Kadmon



Background



Background



Matthew story:
King
Zarathustra



Luke story:
Priest
Adam-Kadmon
Krishna

Tying Things Up Remaining Questions

Arch-angel?



Comparing DaVinci's Archangels

Arch-angel Gabriel

is this Arch-angel Uriel?



Note kneeling posture, hand gestures, gaze, and what left hand does

Note similar colors & wings.

Role was annunciation.

What role here?

Comparing DaVinci's Archangels

Gabriel



Michael? Oraphiel?



Unanswered mystery: What relationship does she have to the child on the right to be supporting him from behind?

Note she gazes into the reflecting pool and not into the physical.

Conclusion: Ancient Mystery Revealed!



2 Messiahs

Kingly Jesus:

- I honor you as our archetype

Center figure:

- I will draw with my right hand and bestow with my left

Arch-angel:

- 3 members of him shall be replanted in you

Priestly Jesus:

- Your wisdom, my purity, God's will be done



Does this Violate Christian Theology?

- Early Christianity was about Easter and the Mystery of Golgotha – not Christmas
- Most “heretics” held belief that Christ did not enter the body of Jesus *until the baptism*
 - “Mine hour has not yet come” referred to the process of becoming fully Man
 - Once this had been accomplished, then Christ could go through the experience of death and become united with the Earth
 - Knowledge of the Mystery of Golgotha lost with the loss of knowledge of the human spirit, soul, and body (pnuema, psyche, and soma) – loss also of transmigration of soul, of spirit
- Today, association of reality only with body, most believe birth of Jesus = birth of Christ but not so before 333 CE

Arian Baptistry in Ravenna, Italy 5th Century



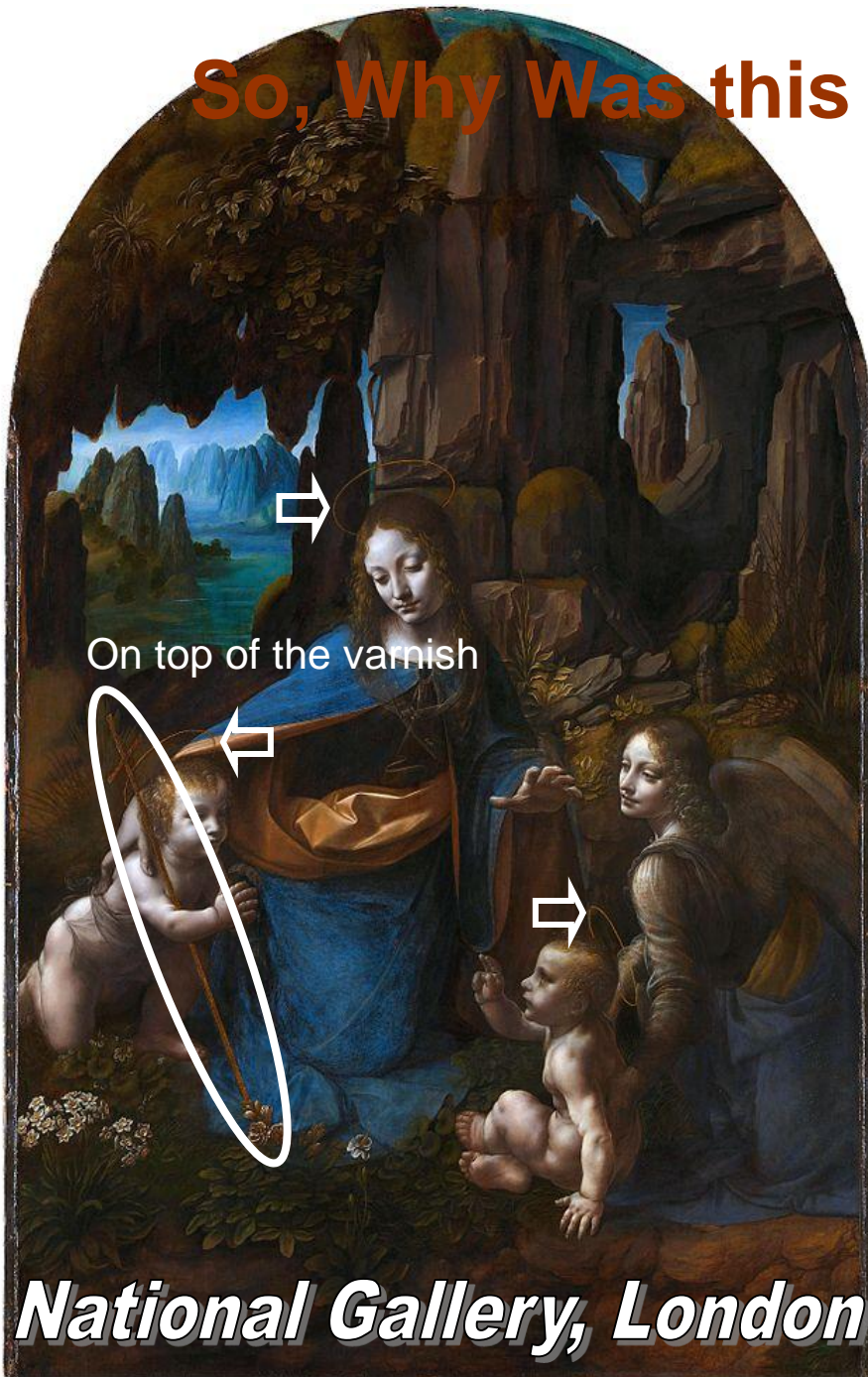
Right to left:

- John the Baptist
- Jesus receiving the Spirit (Dove)
- God of the Jordan River
- = Man + God

Circled by 12 Apostles

Built by Ostrogoth King Theodoric the Great, Arian Christian

So, Why Was this 2nd Painting Made?



- Confraternity rejected the original painting but accepted a new similar copy
- By February 1485 payments for the copy had reached the agreed 800 lire
- Ambrogio and Leonardo wrote in 1490 to the Confraternity asking for 1,200 more Lire
- The Confraternity offered 100 Lire more
- Leonardo and Ambrogio then requested Duke Sforza to intervene
- On March 9, 1503, Louis XII of France, who had invaded Lombardy in 1499, intervened
- On June 23, 1503, the Confraternity contested the request for expert evaluation or return of the painting
- On April 27, 1506 it was judged that the work was still incomplete and Leonardo was requested to finish
- They rejected the copy until Leonardo came and performed some touch-ups
- On August 18, 1508, the painting was delivered and put into place

Why his Paintings Are at Louvre?

- DaVinci carried with him major works
 - Virgin of the Rocks
 - Mona Lisa
- French Kings had intervened
- 1516: was given use of the manor house Clos Lucé near the king's residence at the royal Château d'Amboise
- Here he spent the last 3 years of his life, accompanied by his pupil Francesco Melzi
- After Leonardo died, his paintings became the property of the royal house
- Eventually the his works are donated to the Louvre



Summary

Why are there two paintings?

- The ‘mystery’ in the first one was rejected by the confraternity
- A copy was made for their commission
- Copy deemed theologically in error till touch-ups over varnish

Christmas “mystery” revealed in first VoR

- DaVinci was portraying the Mystery of the Two Messiahs
- Where is there theological proof of Two Messiahs?
 - Old Testament (Kingly and Priestly lineages predicted)
 - New Testament (Matthew and Luke)
 - Kabbalistic traditions
 - Dead Sea scrolls
- How did DaVinci know about this?
 - Various schools in Florence, Plethon
 - Heretics, Grail knights, Templar knights, Rosicrucians, Freemasons
- Did Leonardo offer further proof? Yes, with his own students!

The Two Christmas Stories Summary

	Matthew	Luke
Theme	Kings, Magi - Star	Poor Shepherds, Heavenly hosts
Lineage	Through King Solomon	Through Priest Nathan
Generations	42 (14x3) from Abraham	77 (7x11) from Adam
Angel speaks to	Joseph	Mary
Original home	Bethlehem	Nazareth
Slaughter of the innocents	Yes	Not mentioned
Escape to Egypt	Yes	No
John the Baptist's birth	Not mentioned	Mary visits Elizabeth
History at birth	Many lives, wisdom - Zarathustra	Purity, no karma – Adam Kadmon

John the Baptist

- Gospels of Mark and John begin with baptism
 - Jesus of Nazareth becomes Jesus-Christ
- Notice finger gestures
 - Right hand
 - Left hand
- Notice staff and fingers
- Notice smirk
 - Was DaVinci mocking the Church?
 - Did he understand how Christianity fulfilled the Mysteries?



Take-Aways from This Lecture

- **Key Historical Points:**

1. Early Spread of Christianity via Mystery Centers
2. Early Roman Christianity sought to free itself of this past
 - By 6th Century the Mystery Centers were destroyed
3. Mysteries continue, underground, rising up from time to time – flowerings, but brutally crushed each time
 - Florentine Art School permeated by the Mysteries
 - Leonardo (and others) depicted Mystery knowledge in paintings

- **New Mysteries**

1. Human act: joining of two allows for Christ's entry at the baptism
2. Christ Impulse asks for human fusion – community building

- **Leading Questions**

1. Where today is the temple?
2. Can/should the Mysteries be renewed?

Discussion Time

What Questions Arise for You?
Why might Leonardo risk this?

Slides are available at www.thechristianmysteries.org

More on Theme of Two Jesus Children in Florentine Art

Gratitude to David Ovason from *The Two Children*

Did other painters reveal this?

If so, were they connected with Leonardo?

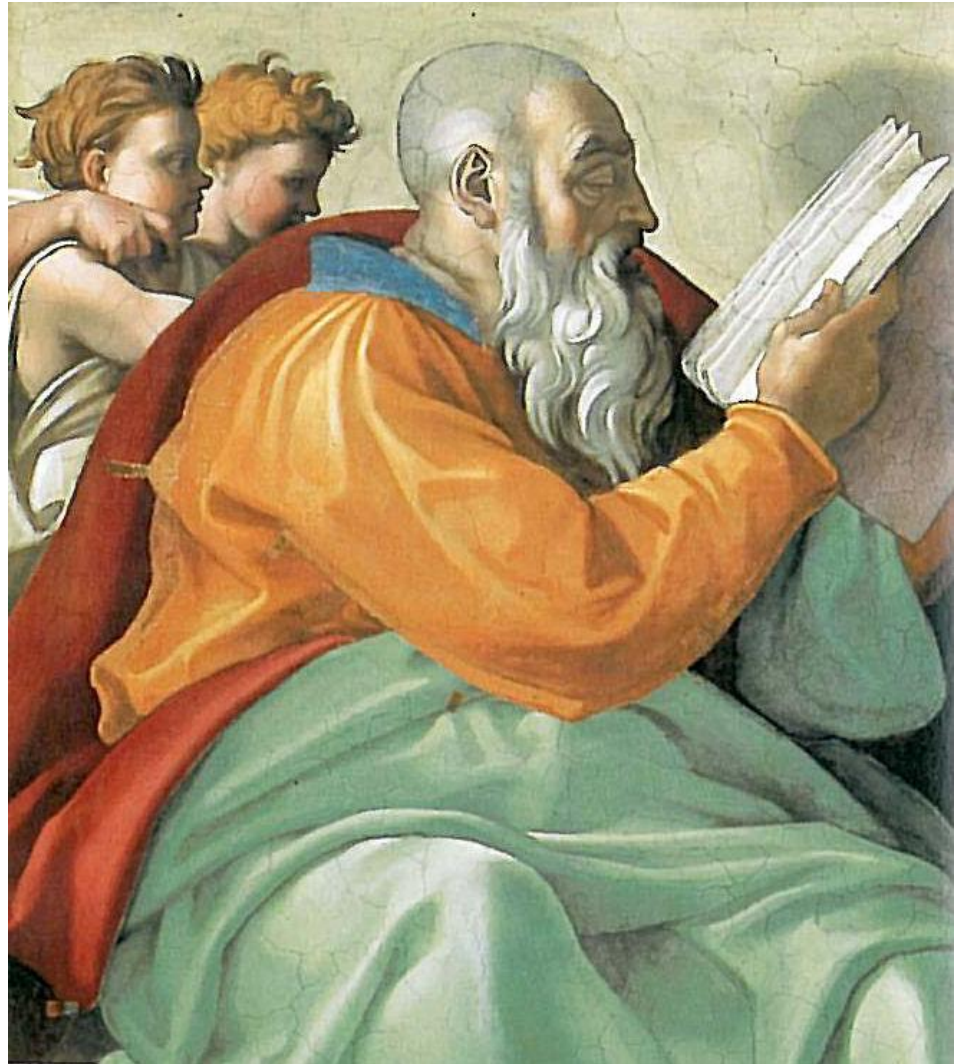
With Florentine Art/Philosophy Schools?

Slides are available at www.thechristianmysteries.org

Michaelangelo, Sistine Chapel

Zechariah (Zacharias)

Note Two Anointed Ones
foretold

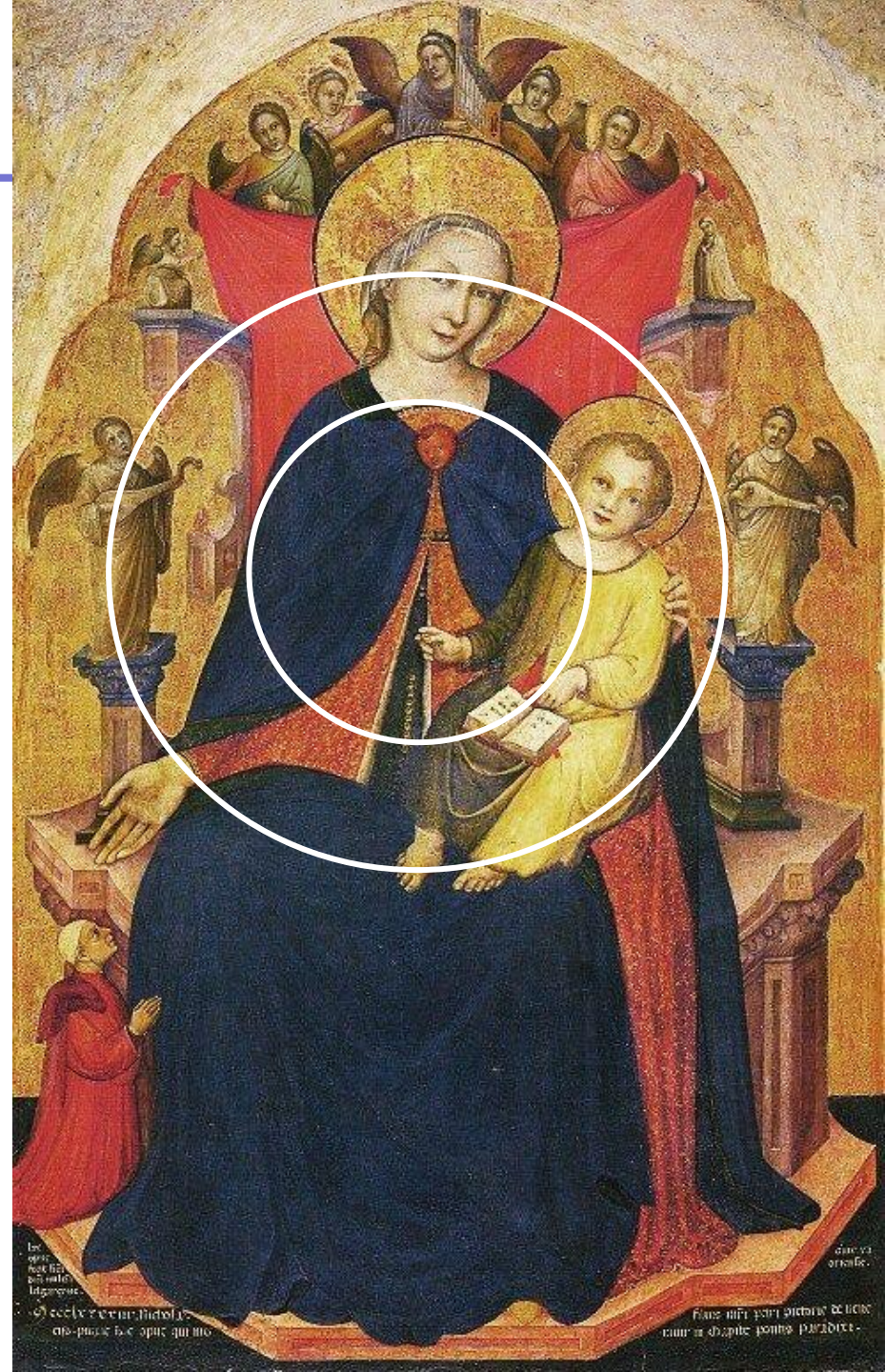


Nicolo di Pietro (1350)

Virgin and Child aka Madonna Enthroned, 1394

Note broach with red color – indicates child who is in spiritual world – not yet born

Follow halo – what's enclosed?



Riemenschneider

14xx – 15xx

Rosenkranz Madonna

Painting ~15xx

- Note Sun rays behind
- Matthew story on left
 - Matthew bottom left
 - Magi
- Luke story on right
 - Luke bottom right
 - Shepherds

Photo from http://konservierung-restaurierung.de/html/body_skulpturen_riemenschneider.html



Bramantino (aka Bartolomeo Suardi)

*(Not about two children
rather the Mystery of
Golgotha)*

Crucifixion

Painting ~1510

- Note Sun and Moon
- Note arch-angels
- Note Adam's skull
- Note inscription
- Note who is present

Bramantino: 1455–1536

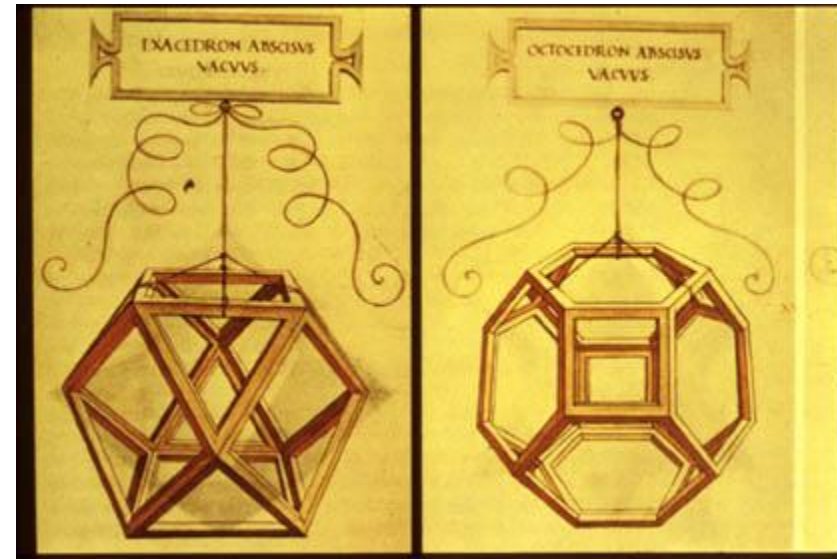


Leonardo and Geometry

<http://www.dartmouth.edu/~matc/math5.geometry/unit14/unit14.html>

“Let no one enter who is lacking in geometry”

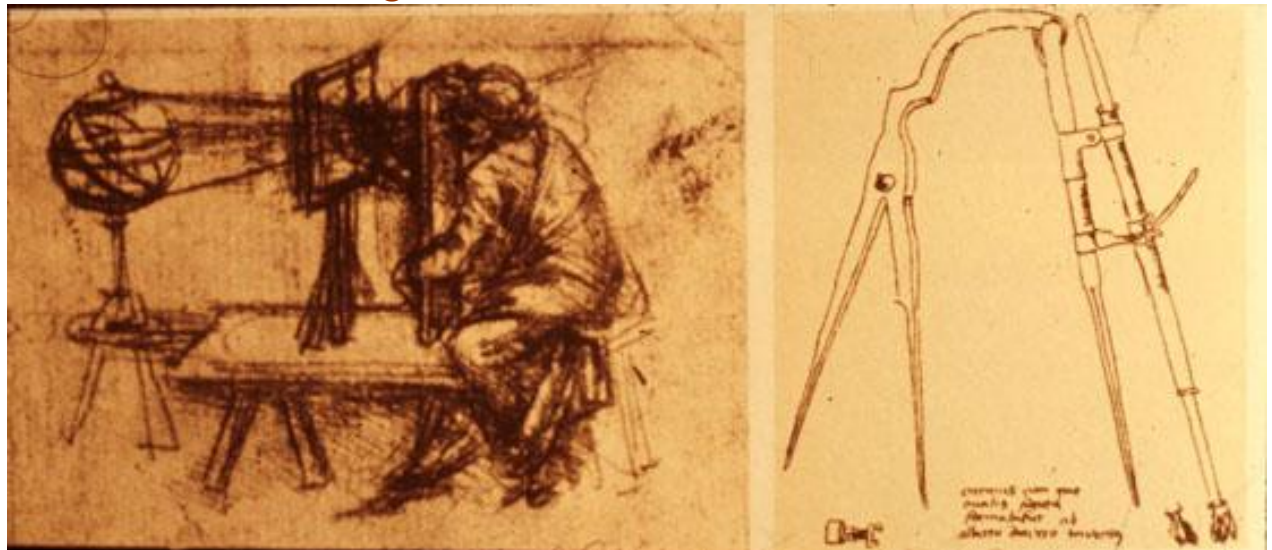
- Leonardo studied Luca Pacioli's Summa especially its tables of proportions
 - 1496: Luca comes to Milan where they collaborated on Pacioli's Divina Proportione (1509)
- Pacioli devoted the entire second part of Divina Proportione to the Platonic solids, relating the Platonic solids to the golden ratio like this:
 - "As God brought into being the celestial virtue, the fifth essence, and through it created the four solids ... earth, air, water, and fire ... so our sacred proportion gave shape to heaven itself, in assigning to it the dodecahedron ... the solid of twelve pentagons, which cannot be constructed without our sacred proportion. As the aged Plato described in his Timaeus"
 - This section of the book has little relation to the earlier part and apparently was plagiarized from Piero and tacked on, without credit giving Vasari (1550) rights for harsh criticism of the good friar
 - The illustrations in the book were done by Leonardo



Leonardo and Geometry

"Let no one read me who is not a mathematician"

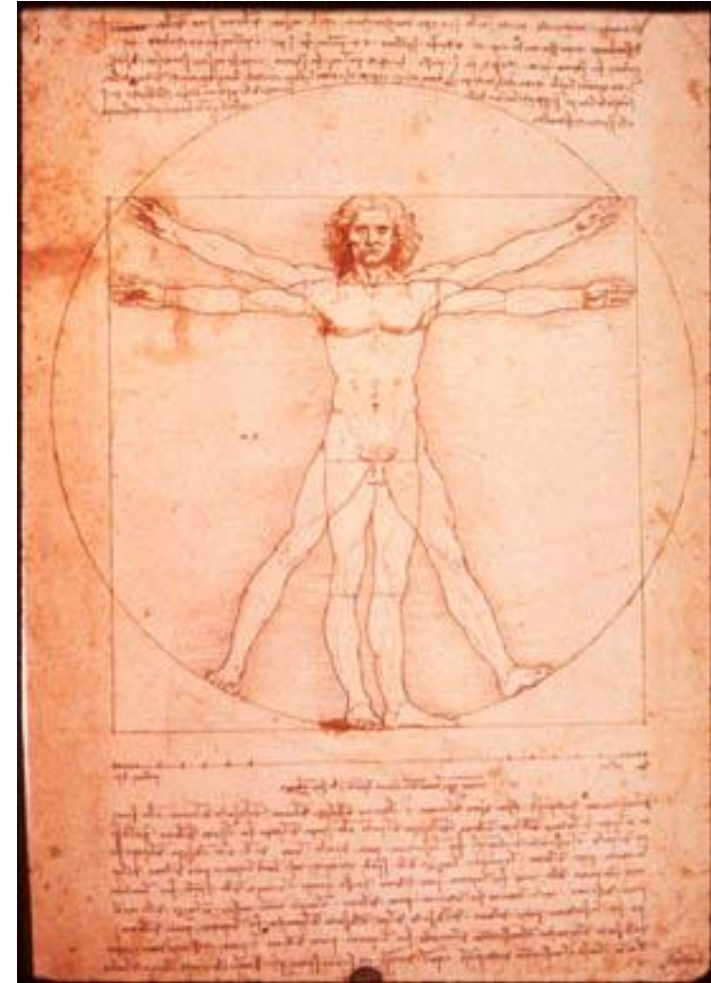
- "the most excellent painter in perspective, architect, musician, and man de tutte vertu doctato, Leonardo da Vinci, who deduced and elaborated a series of diagrams of regular solids"
- Leonardo had an ongoing program of self-study in language and mathematics, studying Pacioli's Summa, and Euclid as well
- He designed a proportional compass that would form a figure similar to, and in a given proportion to another figure



- <http://www.dartmouth.edu/~matc/math5.geometry/unit14/unit14.html>

Vitruvian Man

- Vitruvius wrote:
- "...in the human body the central point is naturally the navel. For if a man be placed flat on his back, with his hands and feet extended, and a pair of compasses centered at his navel, the fingers and toes of his two hands and feet will touch the circumference of a circle described therefrom. And just as the human body yields a circular outline, so too a square figure may be found from it. For if we measure the distance from the soles of the feet to the top of the head, and then apply that measure to the outstretched arms, the breadth will be found to be the same as the height ..."



Historical Perspective: Dangerous Times

- 752: Lombards conquer Ravenna, Pope requests aid from Pepin using a forgery: *The Donation of Constantine*
- 800: Charlemagne becomes Augustus of Holy Roman Empire
 - Visits Harun al Rashid near Baghdad
- 869: 8th Ecumenical Council labels spirit-in-human a heresy
- 1054: Final split between Rome and Constantinople
- **1096-1314: Crusades, Templars, and Cathars**
 - 1182-1226: St. Francis attempts to rebuild the Church
 - Shame of 1204: Sack of Constantinople and Hagia Sophia
 - 1208 – 1244 Genocide of Cathars in France/Italy
 - 1314: Extermination of the Knights Templars (**700 years ago!**)
- 1314-1317: Great Famine of Europe
- 1347-1351: Black Plague ~70% of Europe dies
- 1413: Sun moves from Aries to Pisces
- 1434: Rise of Florence as birthplace of the Renaissance
- 1438: Plethon arrives in Florence, Plato Academy begins
- 1452: Leonardo da Vinci born
- 1492: Moors pushed out of Spain, Columbus sails to America
- 1600: Giordano Bruno burned at the stake for “heretical” science

More on Dead Sea Scrolls

- In these scrolls, the term “Messiah” can change from plural to singular further suggesting that two will be united into one
- List of where in these scrolls **two messiahs** (Messiahs of Aaron and Israel) are mentioned:
 - Rules of Community 9:11-14 p.13
 - Damascus 19:11 p.45
 - Damascus 22:1 p.46
 - Q266 frag. 18 col.13 line 12
- Importance of the Baptism
 - We also find in Manuscript A, Fragment 3: “the Holy Spirit *settling upon* His Messiah”
 - This passage compares itself to Isaiah 11:2 “The Spirit of the Lord would **settle on** Him”
 - Penetration by the Holy Spirit *commences*

Old Testament

- **Ezekiel 37:15-17:** “The word of the Lord came again unto me, saying, moreover, thou Son of Man, take thee **one stick**, and write upon it, for Judah, and for the children of Israel his companions. Then take **another stick**, and write upon it, for Joseph, the stick of Ephraim and for all the house of Israel his companions. **And join them one to another into one stick; and they shall become one in thine hand.**”
 - This passage implies that two bodies (sticks) will become one in the Messiah
- **Numbers 24:17:** Balaam’s prophecy: "I see Him, but not now; I behold Him, but not near. There shall come **a star** out of Jacob, and **a scepter** shall rise out of Israel“
 - Many interpret as indicating **Two Messiahs**, one as a star, that is of the heavens, and one as a scepter, that is of the earth.
 - This passage suggests that the Messiah would have sources from the pure beginnings of Man (the star out of Jacob) and from the heights of what Man had accomplished, that is, from the kingly side (the scepter out of Israel)
 - Jacob changes his name after struggling with his spiritual being. This name change is suggestive of the name change after initiation which was performed by the Hierophant or high priest within the Holy of the Holies in the Temple.

Kabbalistic Roots: The Zohar Books

- The Zohar books first appeared in Spain in the 13th century and within fifty years it was being quoted by many Kabbalists, including the early 14th Century Italian writer Menahem Recanati whose mystical work includes Perush 'Al ha-Torah (published Venice 1523)
 - “**Another Messiah**, the son of Joseph, will **unite** himself with the Messiah, the son of David.
 - But the son of Joseph will not remain in life, **he will be killed and will become alive again**, when the little hill receives life upon the great hill.”

Hand Gestures

In Other da Vinci Works

Virgin and Child with St Anne and St John the Baptist (1510)

- http://www.artchive.com/artchive/leonardo/leonardo_stanne_cartoon.jpg
- National Gallery, London
- Anne is an elderly woman when she has Mary
- Elizabeth, cousin to Mary is also elderly when she has John



Compare Hand Gestures



Additional Material

VOR Side Panels (enlarged, not to scale)



Mark's Secret Gospel

- “As for Mark, then, during Peter's stay in Rome he wrote an account of the Lord's doings, not, however, declaring all of them, nor yet **hinting at the secret ones**, but selecting what he thought most useful for increasing the faith of those who were being instructed. But when Peter died a martyr, Mark came over to Alexandria, bringing both his own notes and those of Peter, from which he transferred to his former book the things suitable to whatever makes for progress toward knowledge.
- Thus he ***composed a more spiritual Gospel*** for the use of those ***who were being perfected***. Nevertheless, he yet did not divulge the things not to be uttered, nor did he write down the ***hierophantic teaching*** of the Lord, but to the stories already written he added yet others and, moreover, brought in certain sayings of which he knew the interpretation would, as a mystagogue, lead the hearers into the innermost sanctuary of that ***Truth hidden by seven veils***.
- Thus, in sum, he prepared matters, neither grudgingly nor incautiously, in my opinion, and, dying, he left his composition to the church in Alexandria, where it even yet is most carefully guarded, being read ***only to those who are being initiated into the great mysteries***.”

– Clement of Alexandria

Mystery Streams in Northern Italy

- **Cathars** <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monts%C3%A9gur>
 - Existed France & Italy from 11th C up to 200 years before Da Vinci's birth
 - Because their views, such as reincarnation, were deemed to be heretical
 - “Be Perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect” – Matthew 5:48
- **Knights Templar**
 - Founder, Hugues de Payens, had been sent by Pope Urban II to find the Ark of the Covenant, in 12 years they begin to transform Europe
 - Sudden ability to locate site, architect, and build 150 Gothic Cathedrals
 - Initiations thought to elevate individual to knowledge of the spirit
 - Was their mysticism abruptly lost when Jacques de Molay and other Knights were burned at the stake? Did the schools of Florence retain some of it?
 - **Scottish Masonic Order** may have roots with Knights Templar
- **Rosicrucians:** knowledge kept secret!

Was Leonardo A Mystic?

“Little is known about his personal life and he appears to have been **secretive** about his most intimate relationships. However, much research and speculation has been invested in these aspects of his life, because of the fascination exerted by his artistic and scientific genius, and his apparent personal magnetism”

<http://www.answers.com/topic/leonardo-da-vinci-s-personal-life>

The Renaissance Man: how did he practice

- Science?
- Art?
- Religion?

Immaculate Conception

- RSArchive.org, Steiner, Gospel of Matthew, GA123, 4Sept1909
- Genesis: B'raschit bara Elohim eth haschamajim v'eth h'areths
 - “In everything that came over from the Saturn, Sun and Moon evolutions, the thought of the Elohim brooded in cosmic activity; in all that manifested outwardly, as in all that stirred inwardly. Darkness reigned over all this. But permeating it and brooding over it, filling it with warmth, as a hen broods over its eggs, was the Creative Spirit of the Elohim, Ruach.”
- ‘The Conception out of the Holy Spirit of the Universe’
 - It lies at the root of the saying, ‘She who gave birth to this Being was filled with the power of the Spirit of the Universe!’
 - We need but sense the full greatness of such Mystery to know that the fact presents something infinitely higher than the exoteric idea of the ‘immaculate conception’
- Matthew: blood of Abraham is passed down to Joseph
 - What sense would there be in saying that this blood had no connection with the blood of Jesus of Nazareth?
- ‘Ruach-Elohim,’ who, in the Bible, is called the ‘Holy Spirit’ is of the feminine gender in the Hebrew language

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