

Questions: please hold till end

Exploring *The Virgin of the Rocks* Leonardo da Vinci (1452 – 1519)

Helen Gardner, art historian: "his mind and personality seem to us superhuman, while the man himself mysterious and remote"

Giorgio Vasari: "his every action is so divine, that, surpassing all other men, it makes itself clearly known as a thing bestowed by God (as it is), and not acquired by human art" 1568

Slides: www.thechristianmysteries.com

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Why 2?



National Gallery, London



Louvre, Paris

Dec 3, 2015

Virgin of the Rocks Revealed

Who Has the Original?

Dueling (French and English) Museums

2011: Both paintings at exhibition at the National Gallery, London

- “The National Gallery's *Virgin of the Rocks* was painted for the confraternity as a replacement for the Louvre version, which had probably been sold during the earlier dispute.”
- “In order to support the theory that the Louvre painting is the earlier, an **elaborate hypothesis** has been formed involving Leonardo delivering the Confraternity's painting, then removing it, selling it to a private client and painting the London version as a substitute -- **none of this is supported by documentary evidence.**
- “The **fabrication** that Leonardo sold the original painting in a pique of annoyance over the small size of the bonus awarded him has been seized by almost every ardent member of the media who has done a story on the exhibition. **The hypothesis is simply accepted as fact.**” -- <http://leonardovirginoftherocks.blogspot.com/>

Brief History of *The Virgin of the Rocks* (VoR)

Late 1482: DaVinci arrives in Milan from Florence

- New Chapel at Confraternity of the Immaculate Conception
 - 1477: Doctrine of Immaculate Conception recognized by Pope Sixtus IV
- 1480: Giacomo del Maino had been commissioned
 - Withdraws on August 7, 1482, before due date, reopening the bid
- April 25, 1483: Leonardo, possibly offering original VoR, wins bid
 - Apparently “accepted” but with changes → new version
 - Contract specified characters and colors, side panels
 - Was to finish by the Feast of the Conception 12/8/83
- Commission documents states Leonardo as the “master”
 - Under Leonardo’s skillful and watchful supervision, 2nd version painted largely by student(s) Ambrogio de Predis (and Bernardino Luini?)
 - Several sections, e.g. curls, are likely done by Leonardo
 - Evangelista de Predis mentioned – likely the gilder & paint maker

Confraternity Requested

- Virgin and Child in a crib
 - Prophets looking on
- Brightly colored background
 - Rocks and landscape
- Above: God the Father
 - Robe of gold & ultramarine blue
- Virgin Mary's garment specs
 - Crimson and gold brocade and cloak of ultramarine
 - Decorated "in the Byzantine manner"
- Side panels:
 - Four angels playing instruments and singing

Leonardo abandoned the conservative and doctrinally based subject matter prescribed by the Confraternity -- [Tamsyn Taylor](#)



Albani Torlonia Altarpiece Perugino c. 1490

***example of
desired***

The Contract

- An initial payment of 100 Lire made on May 1, 1483
 - Thereafter payments of 40 Lire/month up to 800 Lire
- Another sum of money was to be negotiated upon completion
- Seven years later ...
- 1490-95: Ambrogio and Leonardo petition the Confraternity stating that they have completed part of the contracted work and that the center piece alone cost 800 Lire thus they ask for a further 1200 Lire
 - Painting may be in possession of the Confraternity 1490-95
 - Confraternity offers only 100 Lire more setting up legal battle
 - 1495: Leonardo “completes” the Last Supper
 - Leonardo and Ambrogio then request Ludovico Sforza, the Duke of Milan, to intervene or else appoint two experts to represent the various parties to evaluate the paintings
 - If agreement over the payment cannot be met, Ambrogio and Leonardo request permission to withdraw the work from the chapel

Historical Records

16 years after winning the bid ... (*true to Leonardo's style*)

“it seemed to him that the hand was not able to attain to the perfection of art in carrying out the things which he imagined” -- Vasari

- 1499: 2nd Italian War; Leonardo flees Milan
 - 1499-1506: Legal dispute: Confraternity still would not accept it
 - 1503-1505: Leonardo works on the *Mona Lisa*
- April 27, 1506: Dispute settled
 - Required Leonardo to return to Milan within two years “*to complete*” the work
 - 1507: Confraternity pays 100 lire for completing the work
 - October 23, 1508: Ambrogio receives final 100 lire payment
 - Leonardo foregoes his share in favor of Ambrogio
 - 1508: Installed in Giacomo del Maino's frame at the Confraternity
 - Original not mentioned, turns up 1625 in French Royal collection

Why 2?

1495-1507?



1483-90?



Dec 3, 2015

Virgin of the Rocks Revealed

Which Is the Original? Debate Continues!

National Gallery

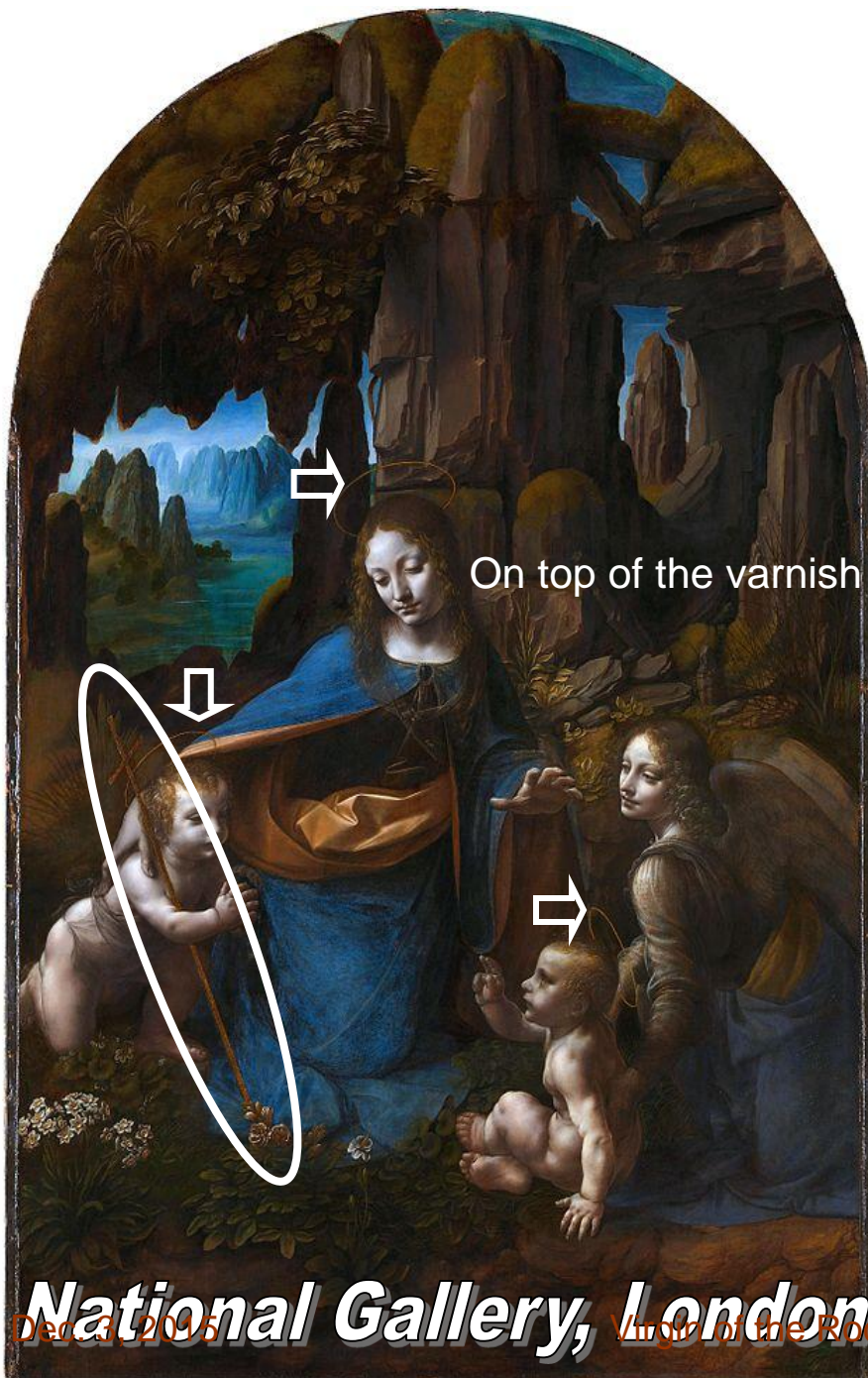
- Ottino della Chiesa notes similarity of dimensions, why would L *VoR* fit Maino frame?
- Tamsyn Taylor notes progressive use of chiaroscuro to define form: NG *VoR* fits this progression exactly, L *VoR* does not, NG figures are more solid, earthy

Louvre

- Martin Davies, director of NG1967-73: L *VoR* is an early work painted in Florence and taken by Leonardo to Milan in 1481
- Kenneth Clark, Director of NG, 1933-45: NG *VoR* was begun in 1483 to fulfill the commission
- NG *VoR* inaccurate flowers not by Leonardo

Side Panels Artistically a Mismatch





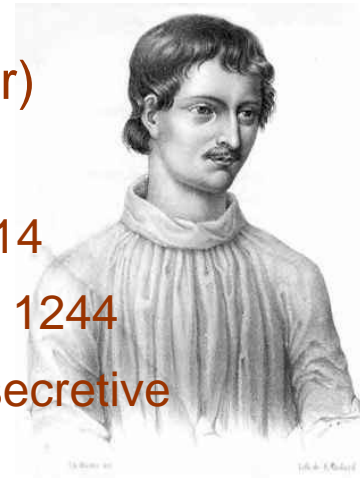
Historical Situation: 1452 – 1519

- The Ancient Mysteries had vanished
 - Alexander (323 BCE) & Constantine (337 CE)
 - Julian (363), Theodosius (395), & Justinian (565)
 - Greek philosophers flee east to safety
 - Ignited the cultural supremacy of the Islamic states in 10th C
- Rome had long since faded away
 - Barbarians had become “civilized” since Charlemagne
 - Rome & Constantinople were split for over 400 years
 - Constantinople falls to Ottoman Empire 1453
- Gone: Chartres, Cathars, & Templars
 - “Heretics” killed by Crusade & still hunted by Inquisition
- Era of Pilgrimages (10th – 14th C): over
- Bubonic plague: 70% of Europe’s population removed
- Papacy and theology in crisis, immorality → humanism



Mystics, Platonists, and Secrecy

- Why might Leonardo be so secret?
 - Ancient Mysteries, even Plato = heresy
 - Divulging Mystery Center's secrets meant death
 - Burn Mystics & Heretics, Giordano Bruno 1600
- Paths of Mystery knowledge to Europe
 - Charlemagne from Harun al-Rashid (via Gondhishapur)
 - Kabbalists
 - Knights Templars: extermination began Friday the 13th 1314
 - Cathars: Genocide via Albigensian Crusade and Inquisition 1244
 - Rosicrucians: arose 14th century, wisely chose to be very secretive
 - Alchemists and Hermeticists



Manuel Chrysolorus (1355-1415)

- 1391: envoy to West from Constantinople
 - Sought Western military help
 - Battle for Constantinople begins on Leonardo's BD
- 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
- Inspired Florentine missions to save ancient texts in 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)

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

- 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, Cosimo founds the Accademia Platonica, appoints Ficino 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



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
 - Where are these books today?
- 1440: Returned to Greece to found a **mystery center** in Mistra

Renaissance: Rebirth of Greek Philosophy

- Florentine art revives neo-platonism: Christian + Greek
 - Greek statues excavated from underground
- Leonardo likely knew much about Plato, Aristotle, and other Greek philosophers
- Did he also learn about the Ancient Mysteries?



Florence and the de Medici Family



Cosimo de Medici (1389-1464)

- Worked to create peace in Northern Italy
- Balance: Florence, Naples, Venice, & Milan
 - Discouraged outside powers
 - French & Holy Roman Empire
- Noted for his **patronage of the arts**
 - Patron and confidante of Fra Angelico, Fra Filippo Lippi, Donatello, and Brunelleschi

- Lorenzo de Medici (1449-1492)
 - Patron to Michelangelo & Leonardo da Vinci
 - 1478: Florence (all citizens) excommunicated
 - Growth of Humanism



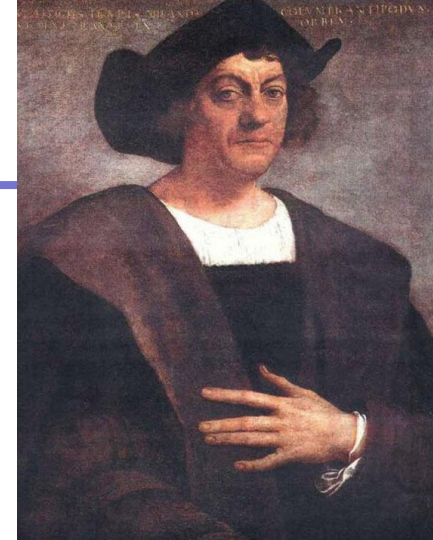
Resistance to the Renaissance



- 1452–1498: Girolamo Savonarola
 - Dominican friar and preacher
- 1482: Called for a Christian renewal
 - Denounced clerical corruption, despotic rule, and the exploitation of the poor
 - Inspired the Florentines to:
 - Expel the ruling Medici and establish a popular republic
 - Declare Florence as the New Jerusalem
 - Instituted a puritanical campaign
 - Enlisted Florentine youth **to destroy art** “intended for the vain”
 - Leonardo leaves for Milan – coincidence?
 - With foresight perhaps, but there were cultural/political reasons

Renaissance: Everything is New

- Enter High Renaissance (1490-1530)
- 1492: Lorenzo di Medici dies
 - Moors out of Spain, Columbus to America
- 1495: the Pope excommunicates Savonarola
 - Refused to have Florence join a war against France
 - Popular opinion had turned against him
 - Under *torture*, Savonarola confessed that he had invented his visions and prophecies
 - 1498 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: Leonardo da Vinci leaves for “safer” Milan
 - Accepts post as court artist/musician and military engineer
 - Medici ambassador to Milan [per Marco Rosci]
 - Unfinished: altarpiece for the Chapel of St. Bernard in Palazzo Vecchio and the *Adoration of the Magi* for monks of San Donato
 - *Travels with his paintings (finished and unfinished – VoR?)*
- 1499: Second Italian War, flees Milan for Venice
 - French troops used his Horse for target practice (and ‘fun’)
- 1506: Returns to Milan [Florence: 1500, 1503-1506, 1507]
- 1515: Moves to Rome
- 1516: Accepts a commission from the King Francois I
 - Chief painter, engineer, and architect to the French King
 - Dies at Clos Lucé, France, on May 2, 1519 at age 67

Leonardo da Vinci's Teachers

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

- Age of 8, father takes him to Florence to be educated
- 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 Lorenzo de Medici's household
 - "The Medici made me and the Medici destroyed me" – journal
- Member of the Garden of San Marcos
- Marsilio Ficino, Plato Academy at Careggi 1462
 - John Argyropoulos from Constantinople, Aristotelian
 - Philosopher Pico della Mirandola
- Secret schools existed

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

**Leonardo knew
Ficino well – he
painted him!**

[Source: Ficino](#)



Research Into the Ancient Mysteries and Related Texts

Might it reveal who
the characters are
in the original?



Plato's Cave? (*Republic*)

Simon Abrahams

- Crumbling, ancient skull filled with ancient and cosmic Wisdom
- *Leonardo's Virgin of the Rocks*, EPPH, 2011

Laurie Schneider and Jack Flam

- Argue Leonardo painted a visual metaphor, not reality
- Leonardo's manuscripts refer to rocks and water as the bones and blood of the earth reflected in the movements and working of the human body
 - The human body as microcosm
 - Leonardo's "pantheistic and anthropomorphic" conception of nature
- Source: *Visual Convention, Simile and Metaphor in the Mona Lisa*, Storia dell'Arte, 1977



Nag Hammadi & Dead Sea Scrolls (DSS)

- 1945: Nag Hammadi, Egypt, Gnostic texts
- 1947: Dead Sea Scrolls discovered
 - More found through 1979 in eleven caves
 - Essene settlement called Qumran
 - 872 scrolls were written in Hebrew and Aramaic
 - 70 CE: Roman army dispersed Jews
 - Herod's Great Temple in Jerusalem destroyed

Dead Sea Scrolls (DSS)

- DSS reveal that two messiahs were expected
 - “Qumranites expected the coming of not one, but two Messiahs”
 - 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
 - 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*
 - “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
 - Translation by Robert Grosseteste 13th century

Pistis Sophia: Jesus “Twins” Chptr 61

“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**
 - Source: 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."*

- Apocalypse of Abraham: two messiahs in chapter 29, [link](#)

- One from the "left" and one from the "right" (see [Divine Scapegoats](#), A. Orlov, Marquette Univ)

- "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 Wisdom
- Transform (spiritualize) the Earth - Freemasonry

Priestly Lineage

- Abel, Feminine Wisdom
- Live contentedly within the abundance God has given us

Abraham & Melchizedek



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 **Baptism***

Matthew 1:1-25

- From Abraham,..., David, **King Solomon** (father ...)
- *Kingly and wise*
- Angel to Joseph
- Middle-aged, royal lineage
- Live in Bethlehem
- Comfortable setting
- Magi from the East
- 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**
- *Pure, simple, and loving*
- Angel to Mary
- Young and poor
- Live in Nazareth
- In a stable in Bethlehem
- Shepherds
- No threat. Jesus grows up in Nazareth
- Only child
- Genealogy described at baptism
“as was supposed” of Joseph

6th Century Byzantine Art – Why Two?

The Bohdan And Varvara Khanenko Museum Of Arts, Kiev



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
 - Pistis Sophia?
- Over 30 versions





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Virgin of the Rocks Revealed

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Three Children by Bernardino de' Conti

- Bernardino was a student of Leonardo
 - 1470-1523, Milan
 - 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



Can This Be Verified?

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 spiritual “members” from Matthew-Jesus
 - Ego, Manas, and Buddhi
 - Man as microcosm of the macrocosm
 - For more, see Rudolf Steiner:
 - *Gospel According to Luke*
 - *Gospel According to Matthew*

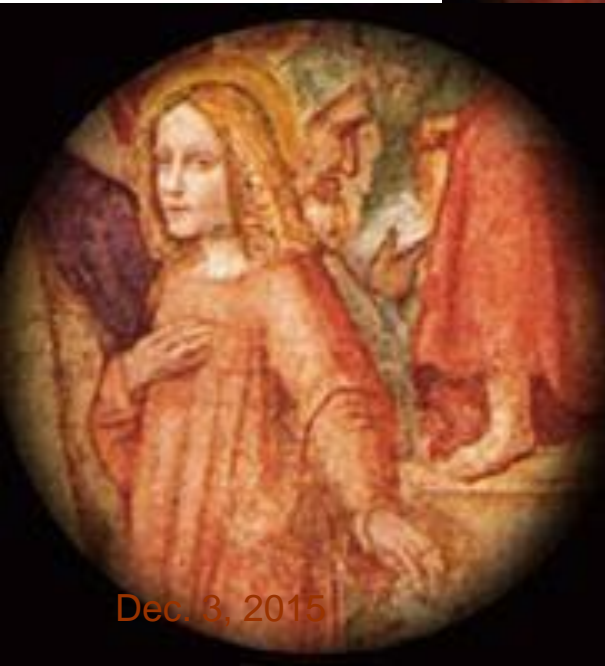
Ambrogio da Fossano Bergognone

- Student of Leonardo in Milan
- Altarpiece at Milan's St. Ambrogio Basilica, 1509 fresco
- When Leonardo returned to Milan in 1506 to complete 2nd version of Madonna of the Rocks
 - Bergognone is with him as his student

Bergognone's Christ Among the Doctors



Ambrogio da Fossano Bergognone



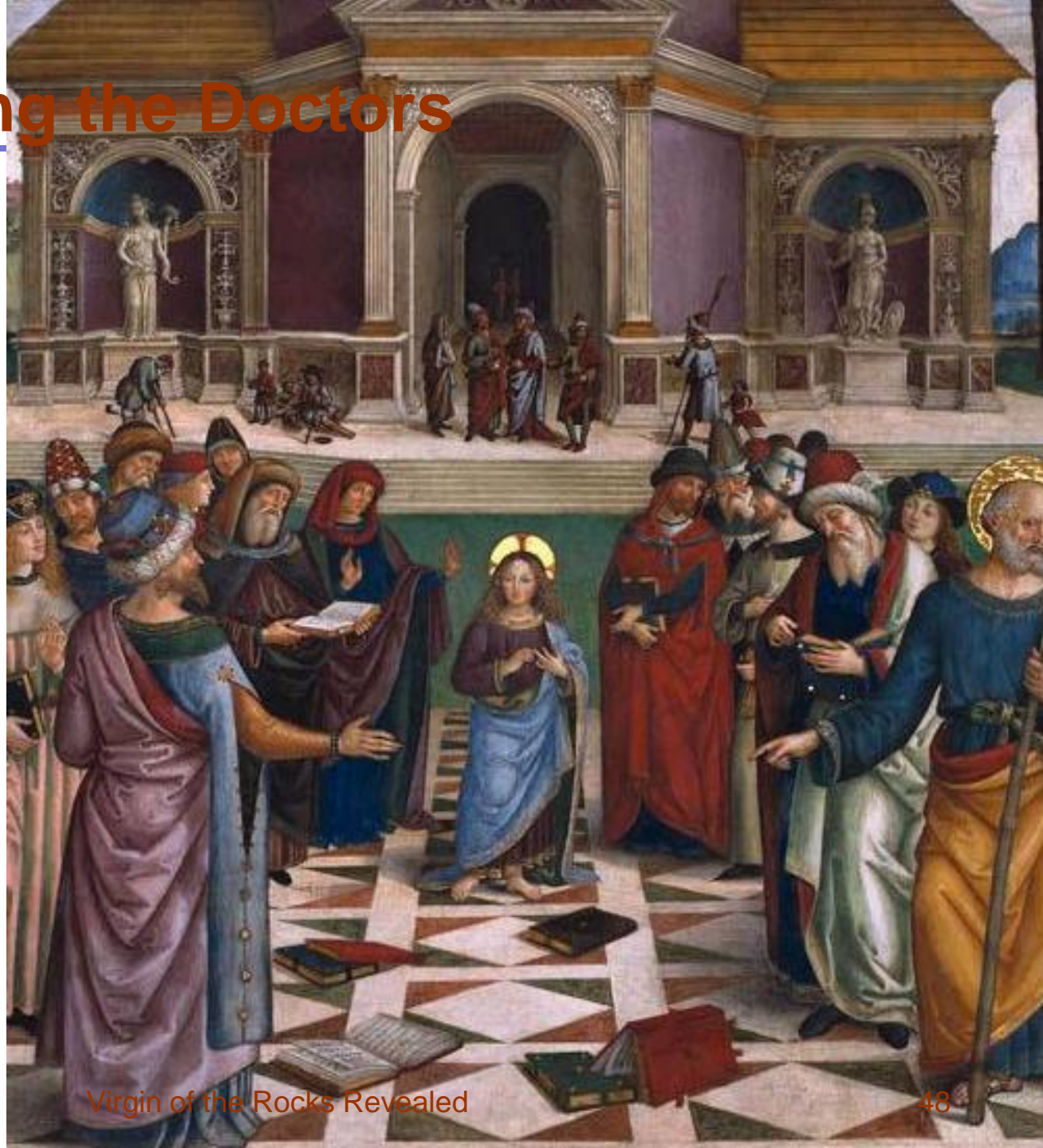
Jesus Among the Doctors

- 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



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Bernardino Luini

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



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Martino Spanzotti (1455 – 1528)



Greek Philosophy (Theology) Help Us Understand?



Soma
Psyche
Pneuma



Greek Concept of the Human

Spirit

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

Transfer?
Compare to NDE
Near death experience

Soul

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

Ego

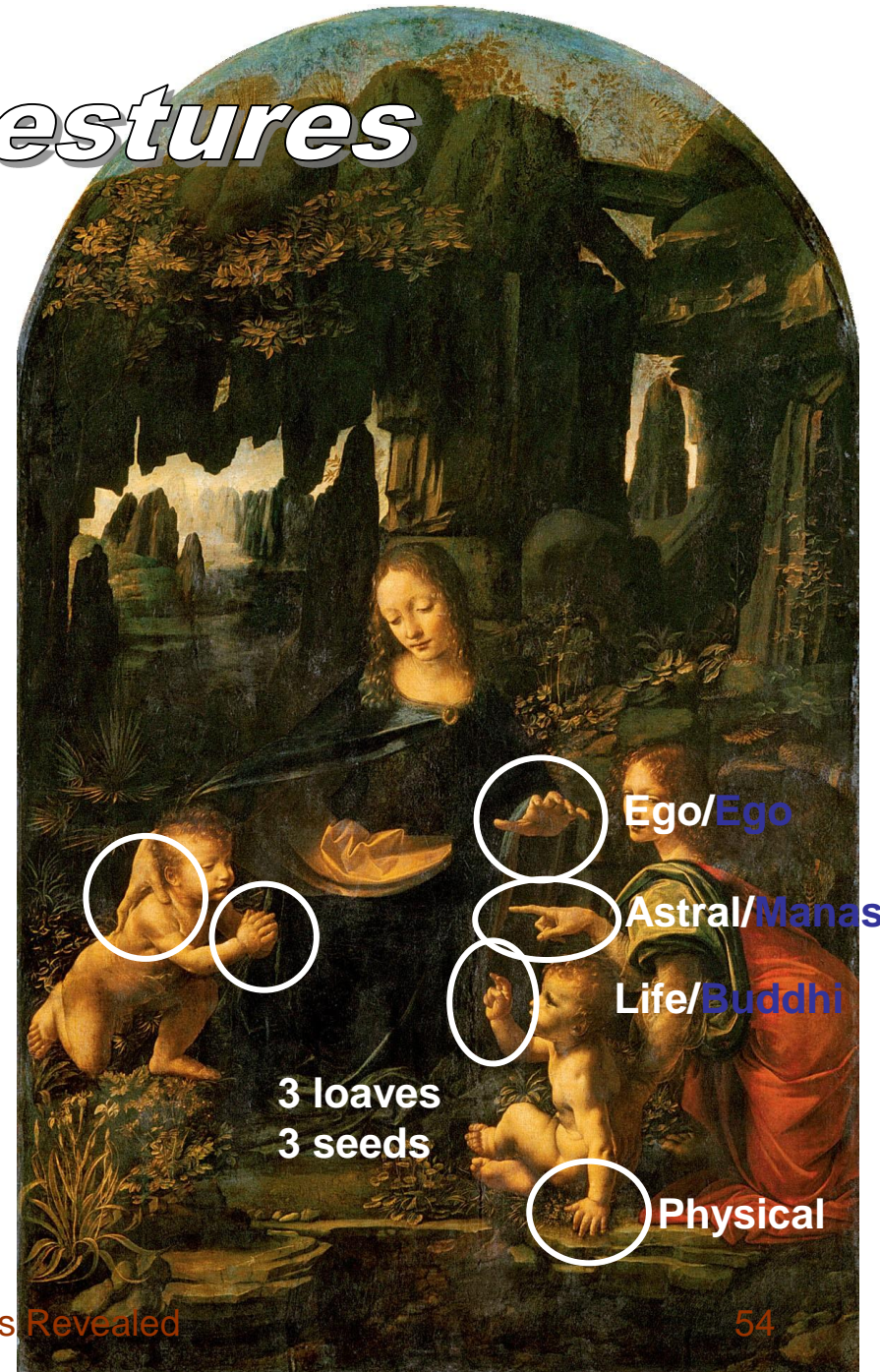
Fire (Prometheus)

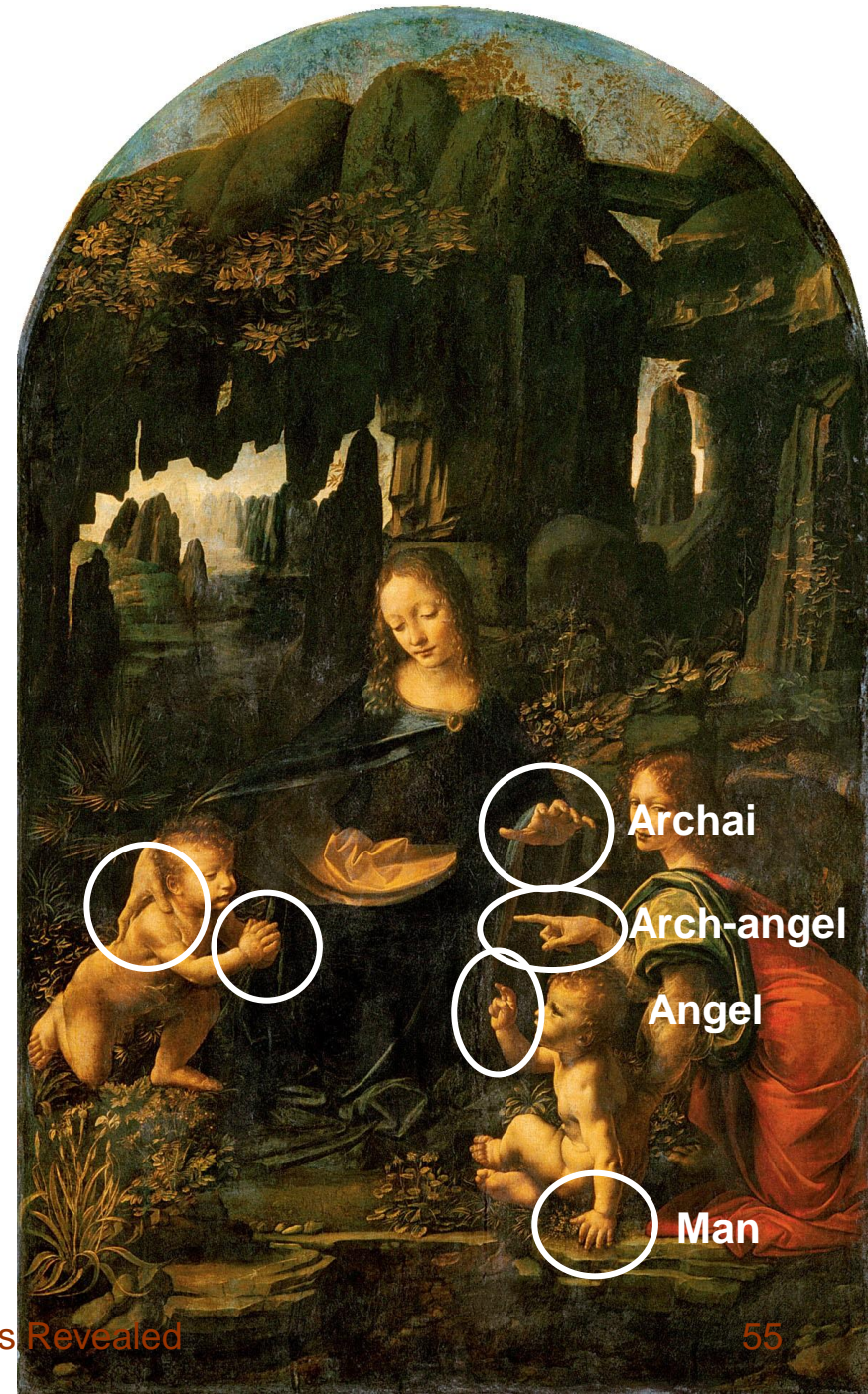
Body

- | | | |
|------------------------|----------|-------|
| • Astral – Aisthetikon | wisdom | Air |
| • Etheric – Threptikon | beauty | Water |
| • Physical – Gaia | strength | Earth |

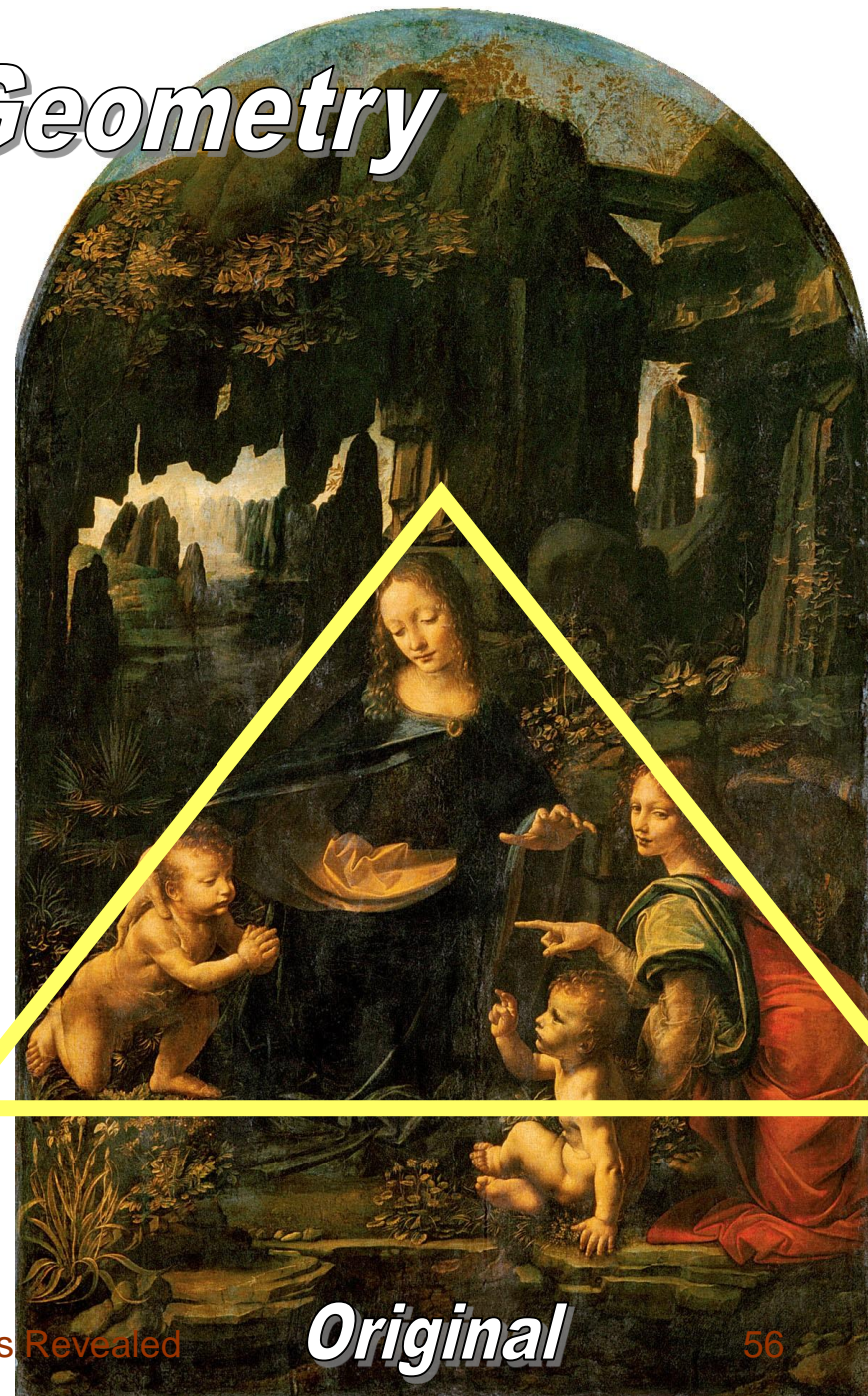
Reflects the 9 (3x3) Hierarchies

Hand Gestures





Sacred Geometry



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Virgin of the Rocks Revealed

Original

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Sacred Geometry



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Virgin of the Rocks Revealed



Original

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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



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Virgin of the Rocks Revealed

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Background



***Matthew story:
King
Zarathustra***



***Luke story:
Priest
Adam-Kadmon***

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 C



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

Why His Paintings Are at Louvre?

- DaVinci carried 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
 - Melzi inherited the scientific works and manuscripts
- Eventually the his works are donated to the Louvre



Summary

Answered why 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 the 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!

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?



Discussion Time

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

Slides are available at www.thechristianmysteries.com

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL

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?

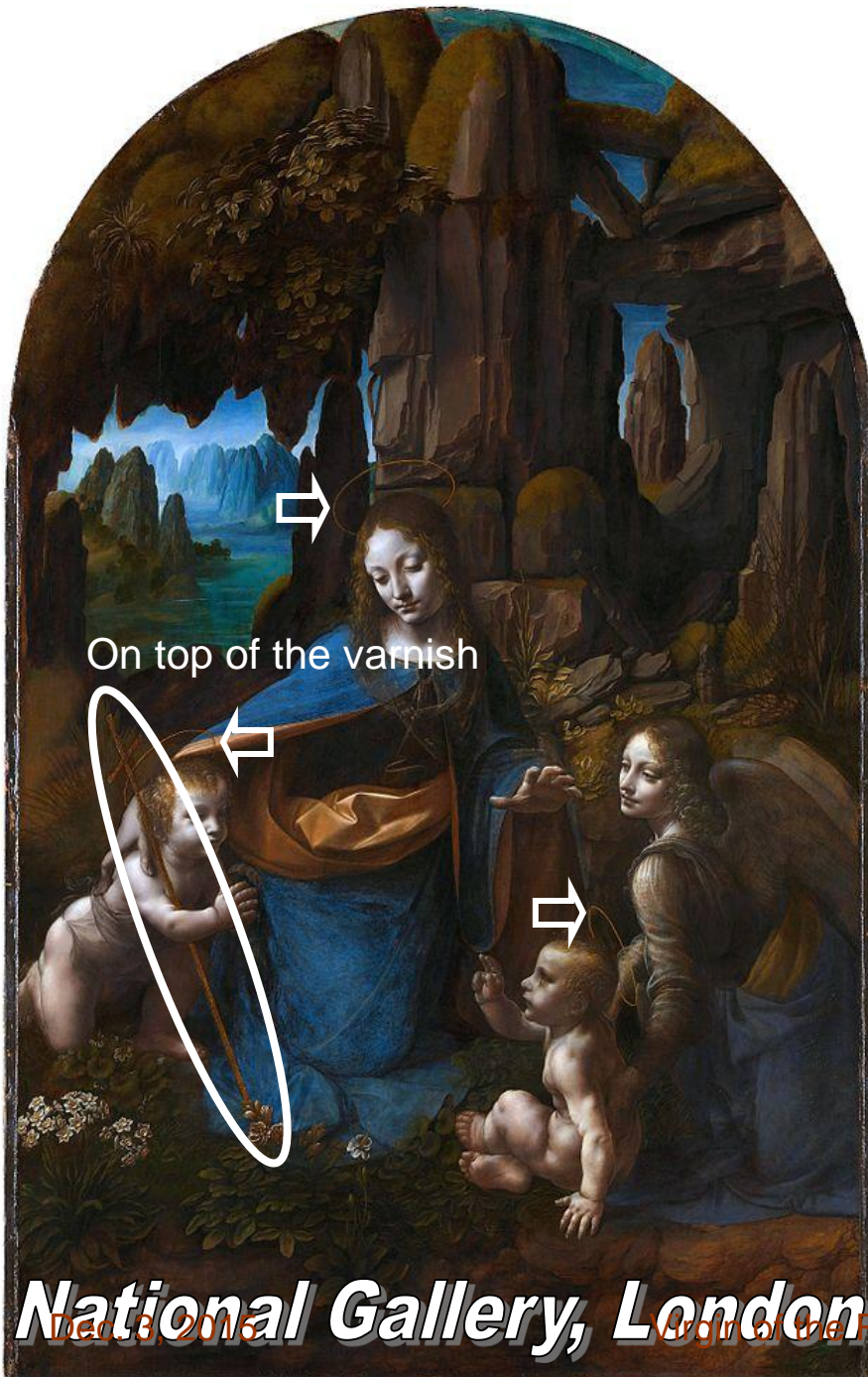
With Florentine Art/Philosophy Schools?

Slides are available at www.thechristianmysteries.com



Why a 2nd Painting?

- 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



Why a 2nd Painting?

- 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

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

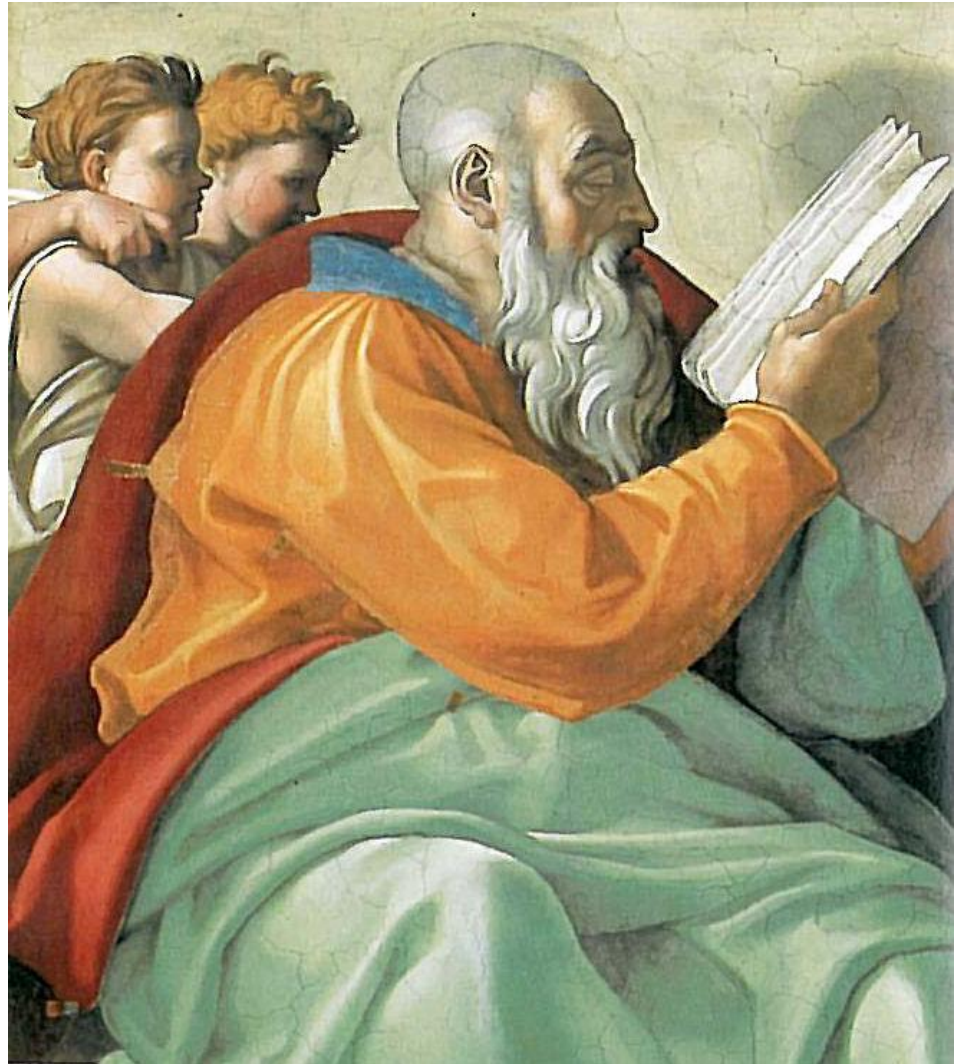
Perhaps Answers the Gnostic Question?

- 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

Michaelangelo, Sistine Chapel

Zechariah (Zacharias)

Note Two Anointed Ones
foretold

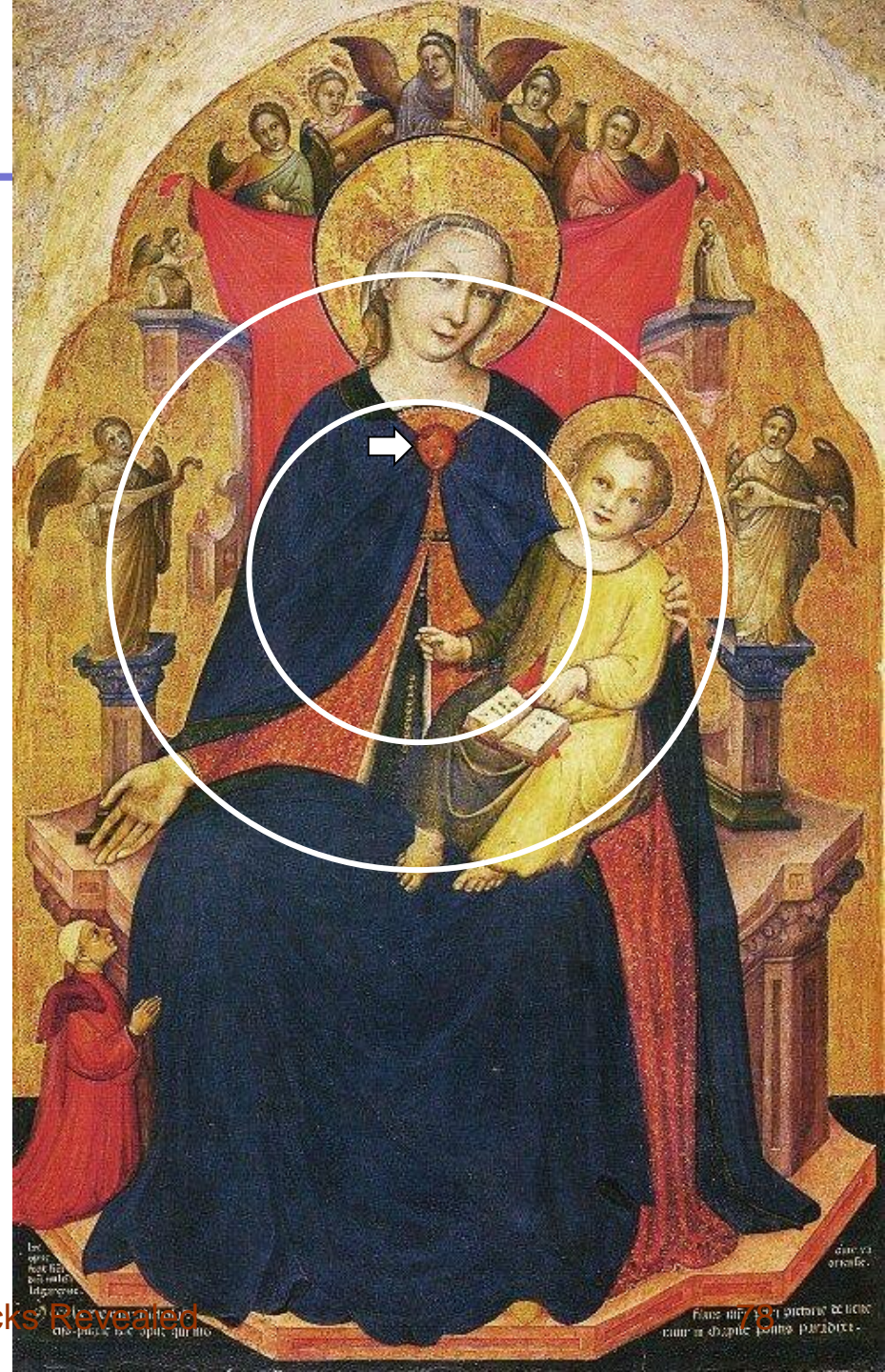


Nicolo di Pietro (1350)

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

Dec. 3, 2015

Virgin of the Rocks Revealed



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

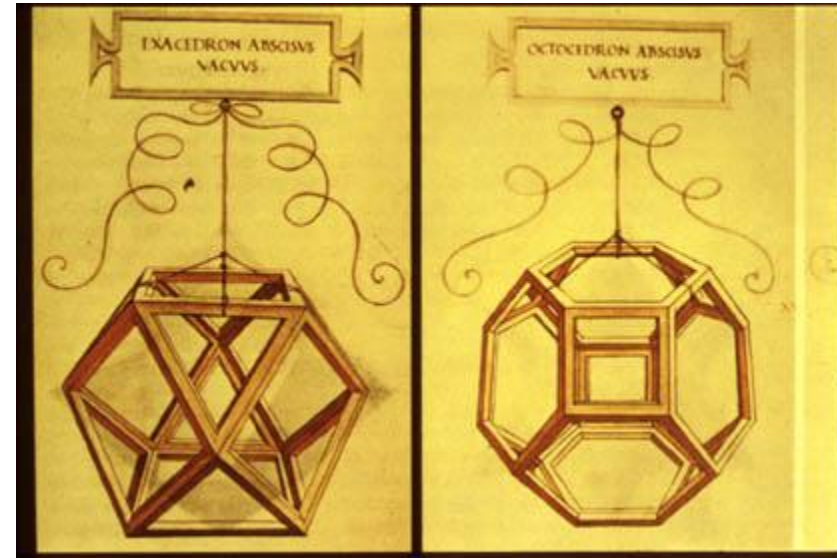


Leonardo and Geometry

<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



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



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?

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