



Leonardo da Vinci, (1452 – 1519)

The Virgin of the Rocks **The Theology and** **‘Heresy’ of Leonardo** **(and His Students)**

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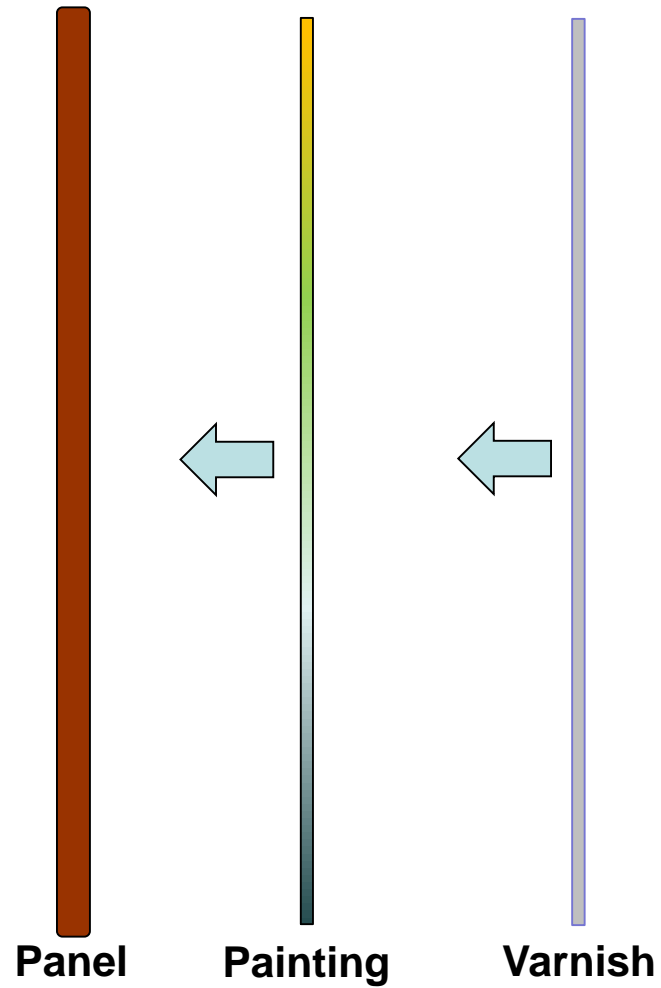
www.thechristianmysteries.com

National Gallery's Virgin of the Rocks

- As it was displayed until 2010



Side View



VoR NG, Side View



After



2/16/2019

Virgin of the

Before



Lecture Outline

- Answer my question: why was paint above the varnish?
 - Lead to many other questions
- Art history analysis
- Conclude: Painting's Revelation – a 15th C heresy
 - What heresy? Two Messiahs
 - Where from? Ancient texts.
 - How did Leonardo learn about it? Plato Academy
- Early Christianity theological ideas depicted
 - Proof from comparing paintings
 - Call for Renaissance 2.0

Virgin (or Madonna) of the Rocks

Two paintings!

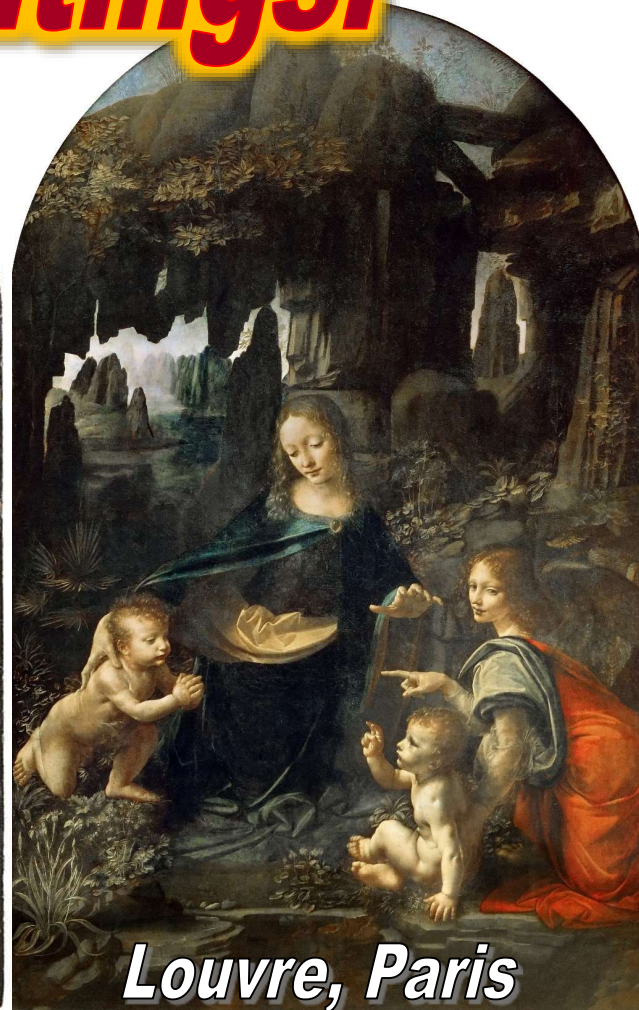
No, 3!

Why?



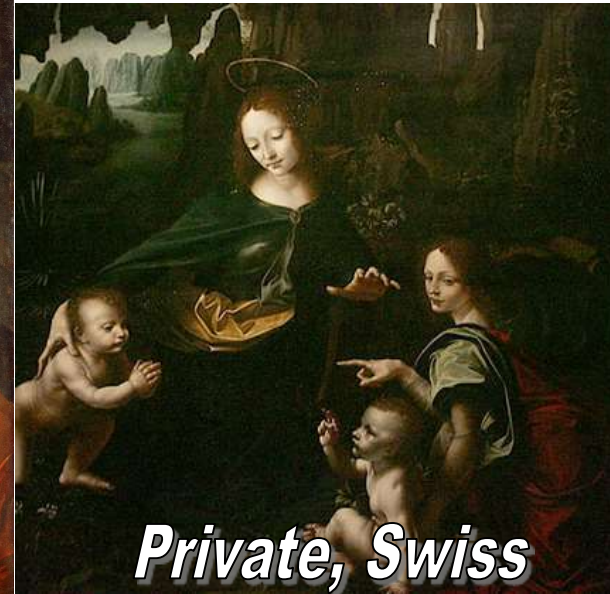
National Gallery, London

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Louvre, Paris

Virgin of the Rocks



Private, Swiss

***From Getty Images
Private collection***



What Art Historians Say

- **Original: The Louvre, Paris**
 - **Copy: the National Gallery, London**
- Both: oils and 2 meters
- Both: on wooden panel
 - The Louvre's transferred to canvas

Who is Depicted?

- Art historians have concluded:
 - Mary,
 - Angel,
 - Christ child,
 - John the Baptist

Annunciation
by LdV &
Verrocchio,
1475, Uffizi



Correct Depictions?

- Seems to be an archangel
 - Nat'l Gallery: Uriel - archangel
 - Why not with JtB?
- If not JtBaptist, who else?
- Is the central figure Mary?
 - Why not with her child?



Why and How Are These Paintings Different?











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Virgin of the Rocks

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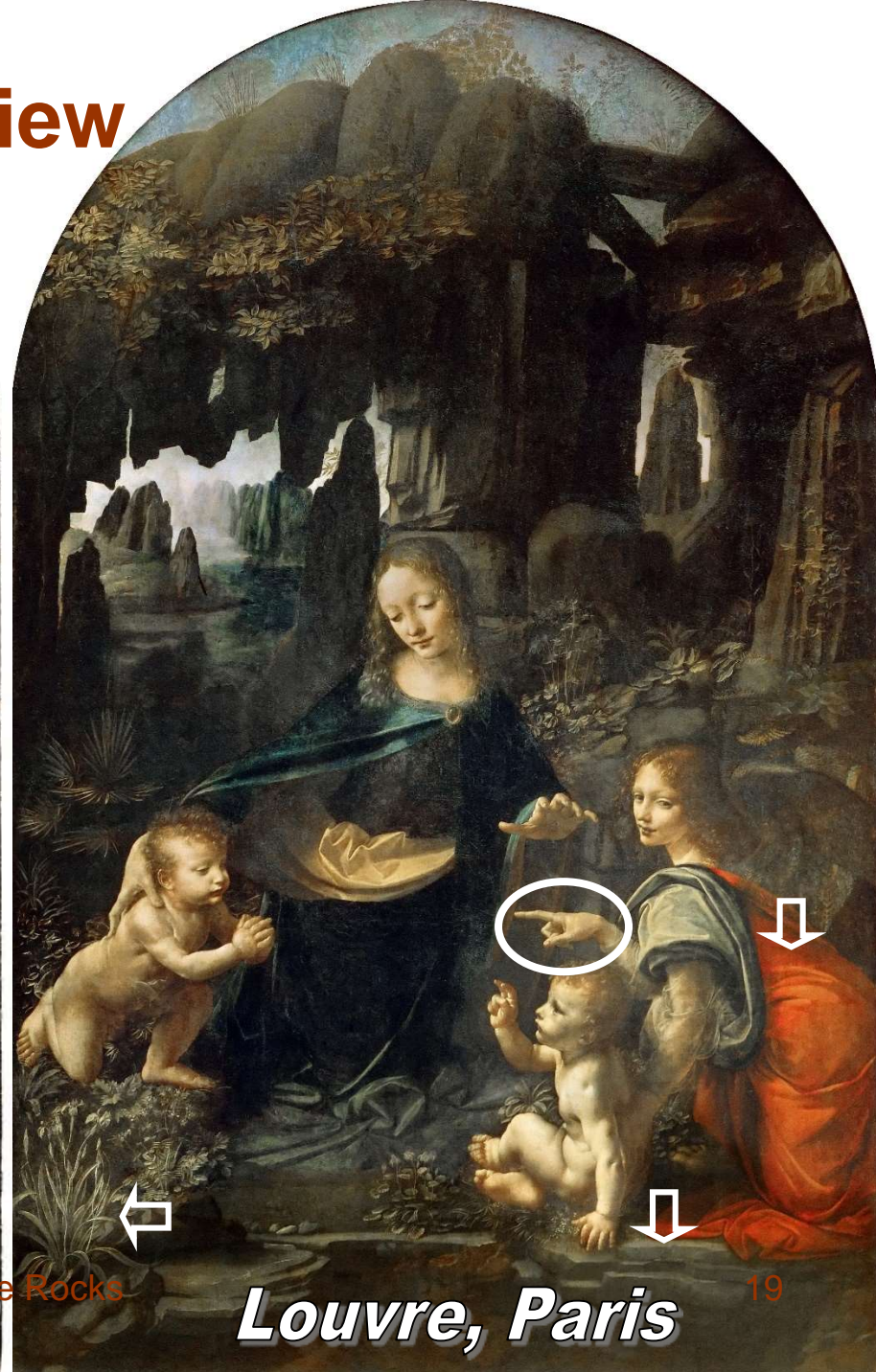
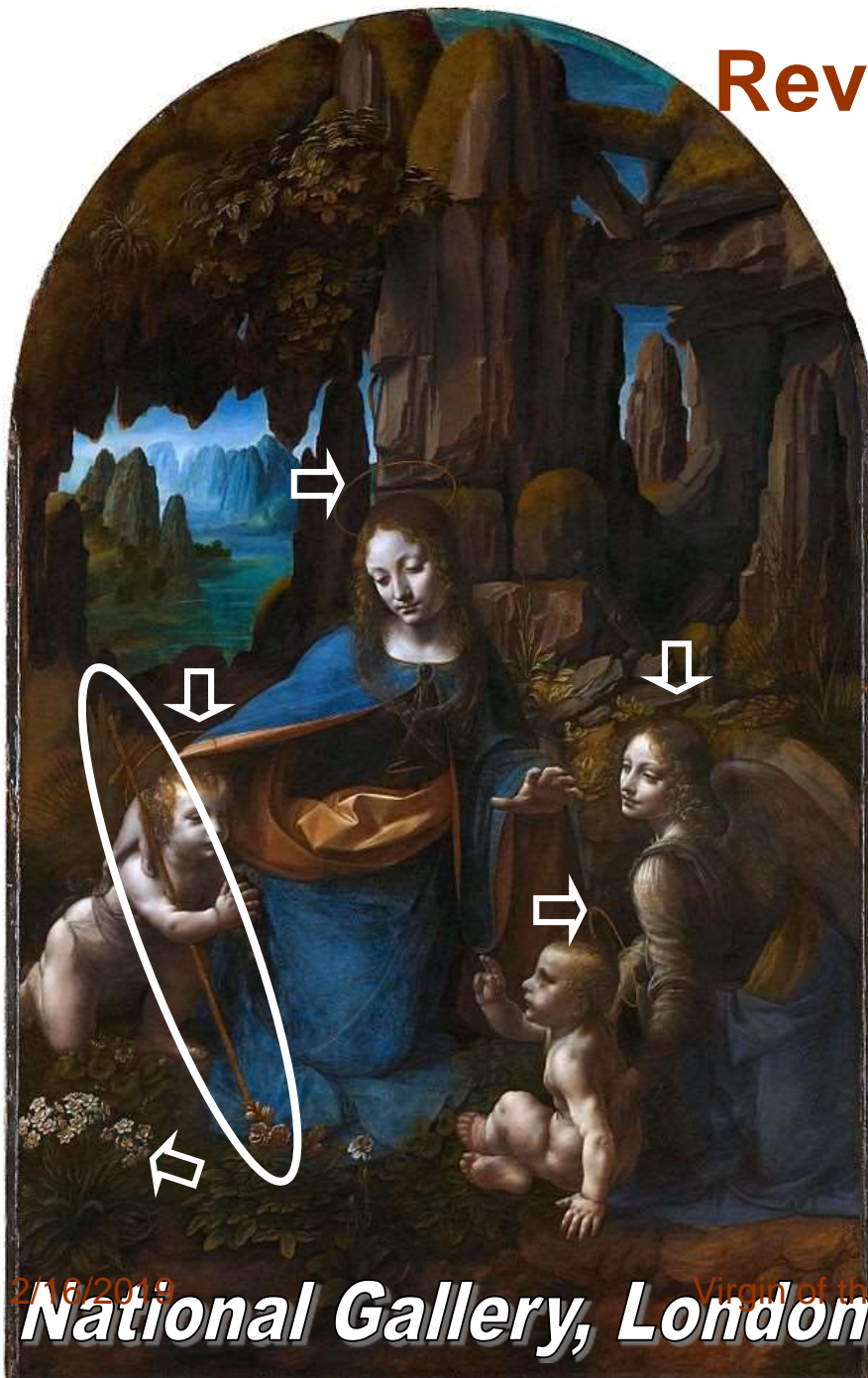


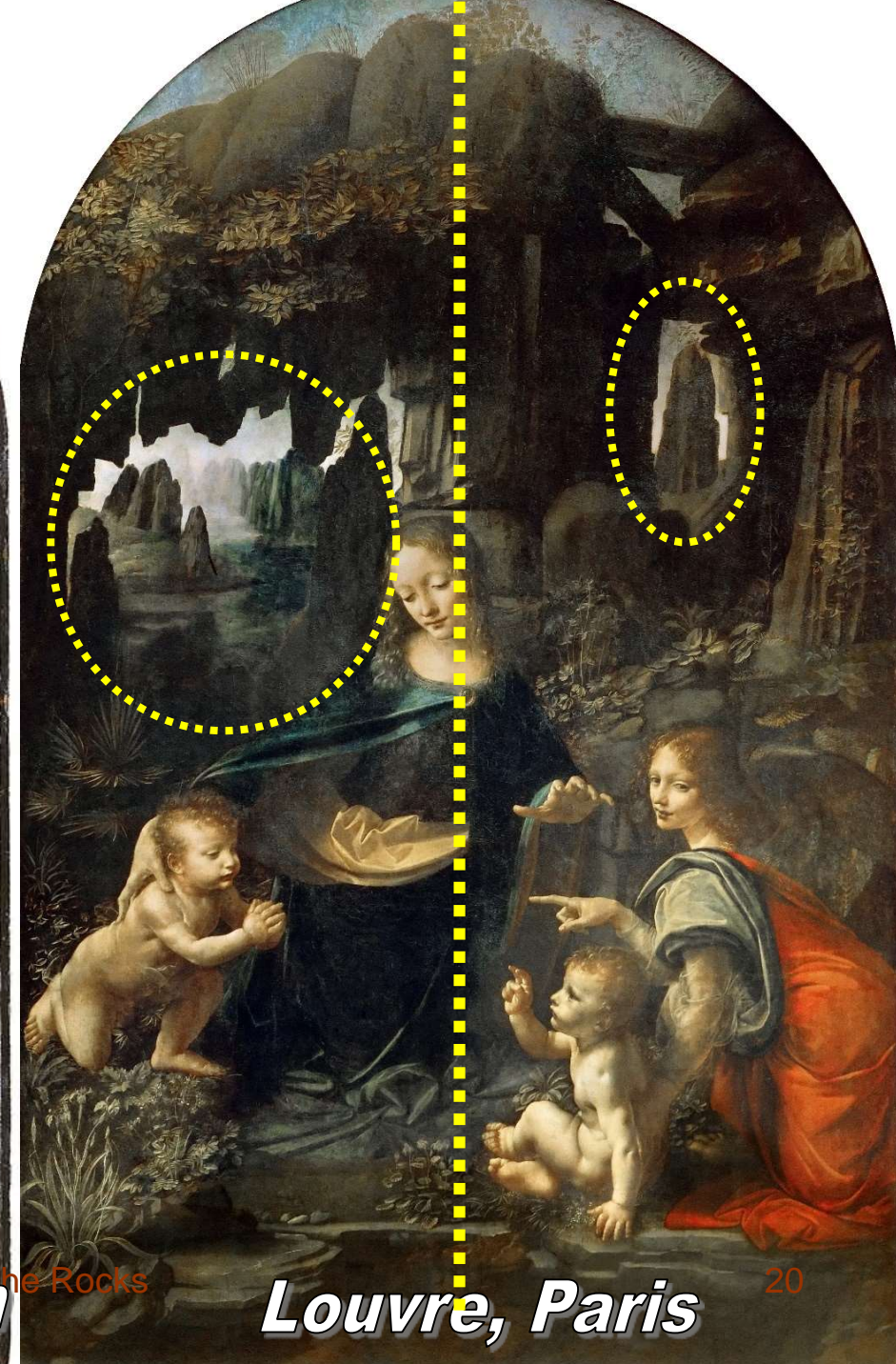
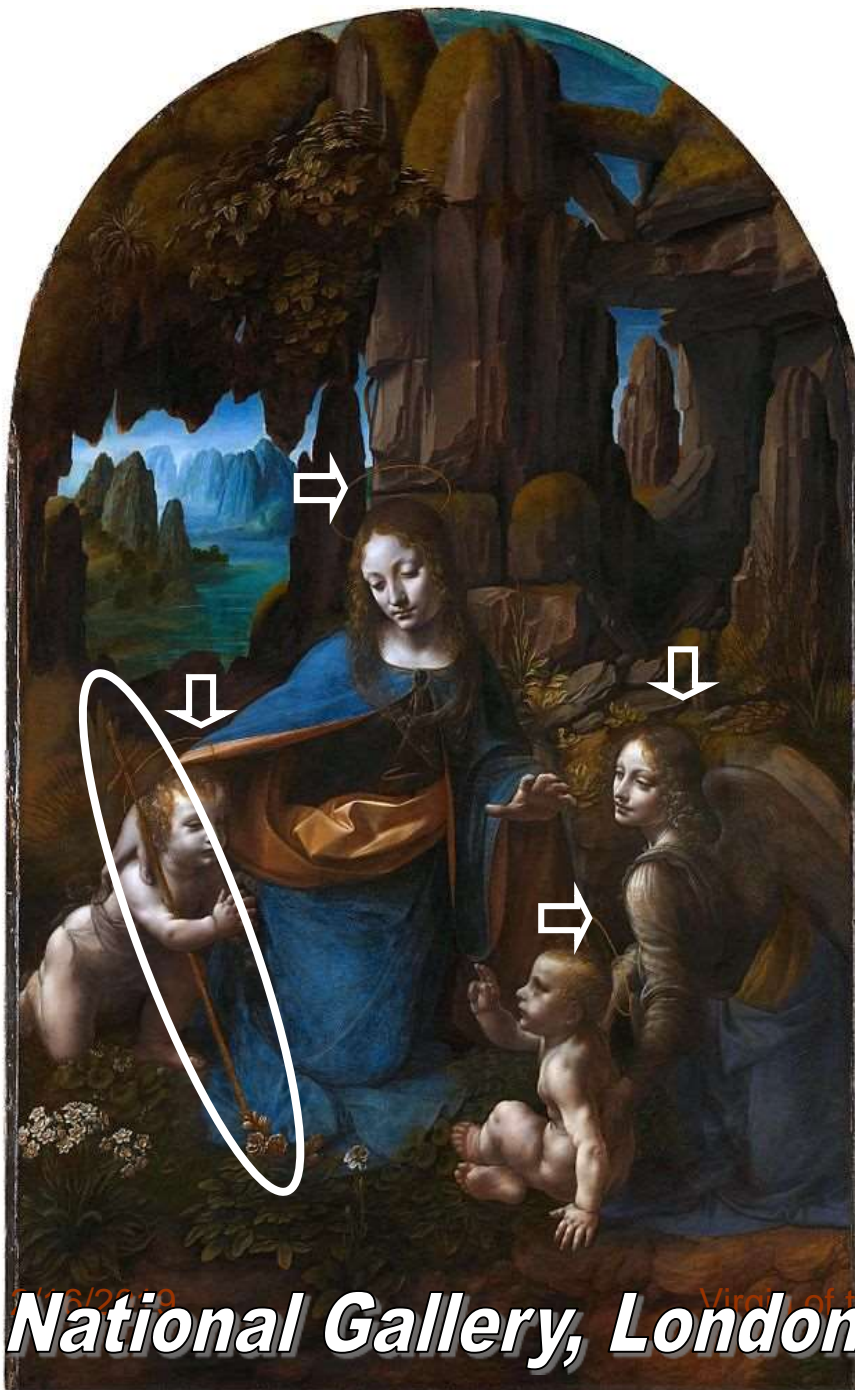


Remember These Two Gesturing Boys!



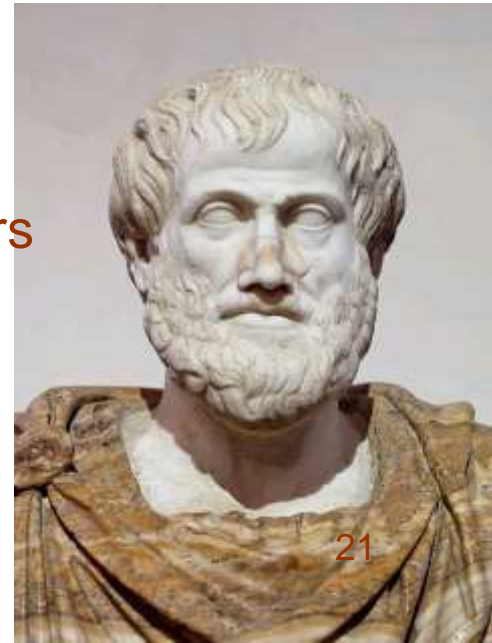
Review

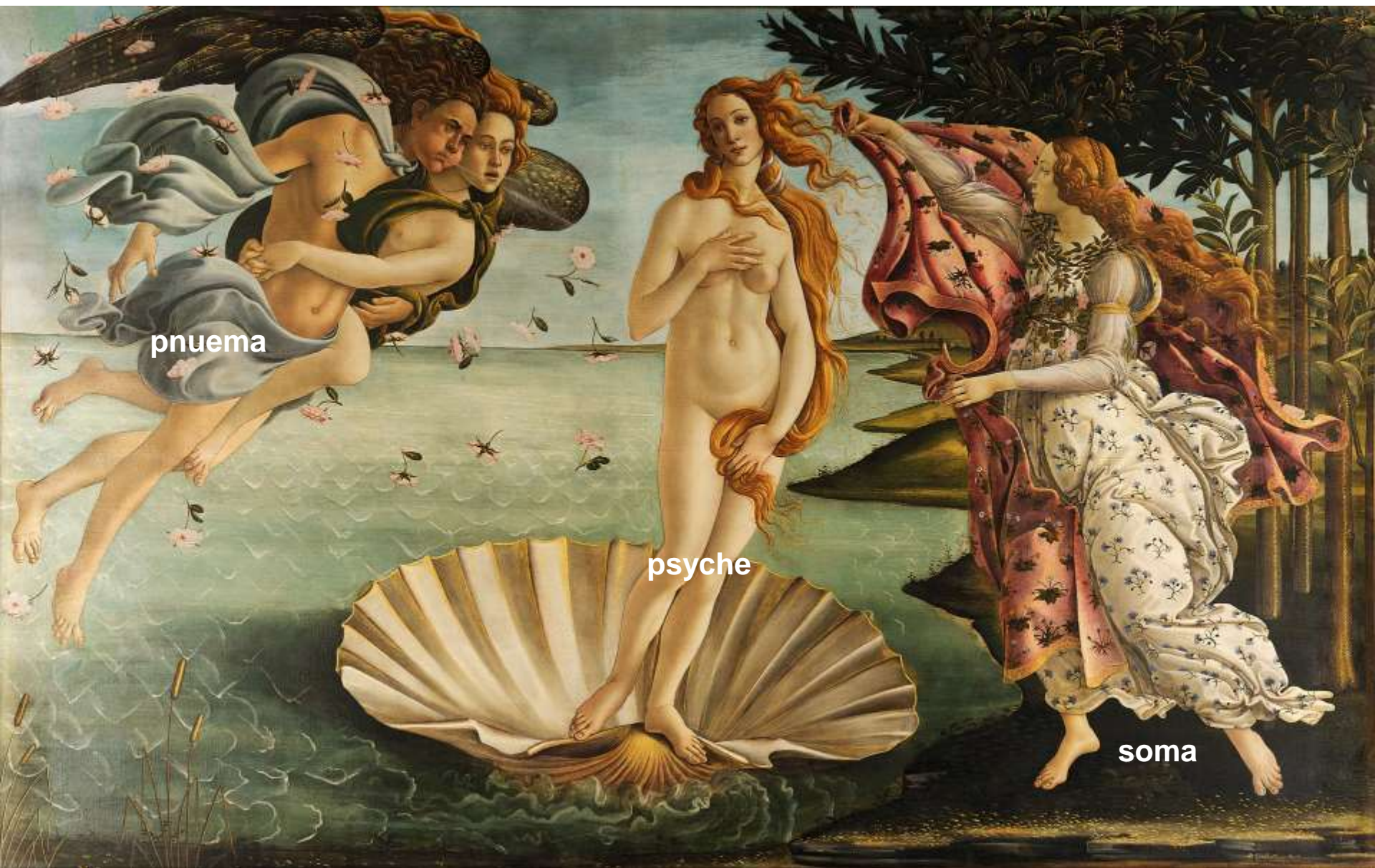




Renaissance: Rebirth of Greek Philosophy

- Greek (& Mystery) knowledge to Europe
- Florentine art revived Neoplatonism:
 - Christian + Greek
 - Greek statues excavated from underground
 - Aristotle then Plato and other Greek philosophers
 - Milan Academy Entrance: Plato's quote on Geometry
 - Ancient Mysteries and Gnosticism?
- Why secrecy about this?
 - All Ancient Mysteries considered heresies
 - Death to Heretics, Hounds of God – the Inquisitors
 - Divulging Mystery Center's secrets meant death





G. Gemistus Plethon

- b. Constantinople 1355, d. Mystra **1452**
- 1428: Byzantine Emperor John VIII asked Plethon
 - Unify split churches?
- **1438 - 39 Council of Florence** (age 83)
 - Envoy because of his renowned wisdom and morality
 - Military need & reconcile the East-West schism
 - Invited to set up a school in Florence
- **Becomes the Catalyst for the Renaissance**
 - Cosimo de' Medici attended
 - Founded **Accademia Platonica**
 - Continued well after the council ended
 - Book *On the Differences of Aristotle from Plato*
 - Inspired Renaissance paintings on Greek mythology



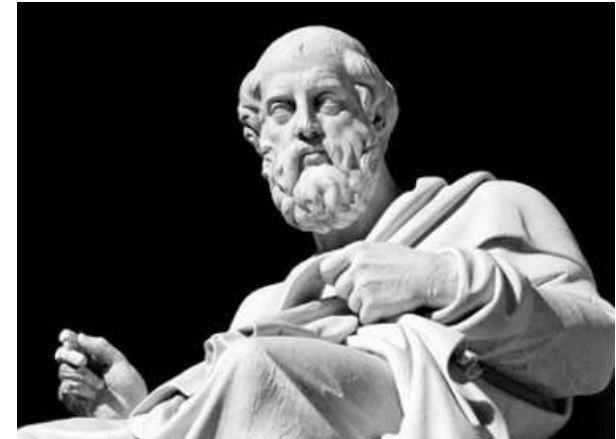
For more see [paper](#)
by Shawn Gray

Who Was Plethon?

- A “Prince Among the Philosophers”
- Marsilio Ficino: '**the second Plato**'
- Cardinal Bessarion: Is Plato's soul in this body?
- Foremost Scholar
 - Plato & Aristotle & Greek Philosophers
 - **Zoroaster / Zarathustra & *ancient mysteries***
- Trunk full of books
 - Medici team allowed to translate
 - Byzantines had many scholars and documents
 - **Hermes Trismegistus**



**Siena Cathedral, 1480s
Mosaic floor**



Plethon After Florence

- 1440: Founded **mystery center** in **Mystra**
 - **Who could found a mystery center?**
- 1452: Died at age 97 – same year (day? 4/15) Leonardo was born
 - Alexander born on the same day Herostratus burned the Temple of Artemis
- 1453: Constantinople fell to Ottomans
- 1466: Remains from Mystra
 - Stolen, interred in Rimini
 - Florence's Adriatic Seaport
 - "So that The Great Teacher may be among free men"



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
- 1396: Invited to teach at Univ. of Florence
 - **Preparer of the Renaissance**
- 1400: Teaches at Bologna, Venice, and Rome
- **Inspires Florentine missions to save ancient texts of the East**
 - 1258: Destruction of Baghdad, Gondhishapur and other centers of learning
 - 1423: Giovanni Aurispa: 238 texts
 - 1469: Basilios Bessarion: 800 volumes



Eastern Christian Church

34 AD:12 Christianities, more to come

- Nestorius (386–451), Patriarch
 - Thomas, Mani, Montanus, Gnostics
- 424–427: broke with Western Church
 - Rejected the Council of Ephesus in 431
- Theology: dyophysite (vs monophysite)
 - Divine and human natures: Christ and Jesus
 - Roman Catholicism: Jesus as Man
 - Eastern: Cosmic Christ
- 9th - 14th centuries: become world's largest Christian church
 - Mediterranean to Mongolia, India to China
- Co-existence with Islam till Hulagu destroyed Baghdad 1258



LdV's Education



- Born 15 April 1452
 - Illegitimate son of a notary
- Early Education
 - At 8: Enrolled in Florence, 1460
 - At 12: Best artistic workshop: Andrea del Verrocchio, 1464
 - Botticelli, Ghirlandaio, Perugino, Lorenzo di Credi
 - Michaelangelo and Raphael in the next generation
 - At 24: Arrested (for nudity, sodomy)
 - Charges dropped
 - Member of the Garden of San Marcos
 - By 28: de Medici household (Lorenzo the Magnificent)
 - “The Medici made me and the Medici destroyed me”

Leonardo da Vinci and Greek Wisdom

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

-- Ficino

- Attended **Plato** Academy
 - Marsilio Ficino (1433 – 1499), Head 1462 – 1492
 - LdV was 10 YO
 - 1456: John Argyropoulos, **Aristotelian**
 - 3 Philosophers
- What taught?
- Academy in Milan
 - Plato, geometry
- **Secret schools?**
 - Kabbalists
 - Cathars
 - Templar Knights



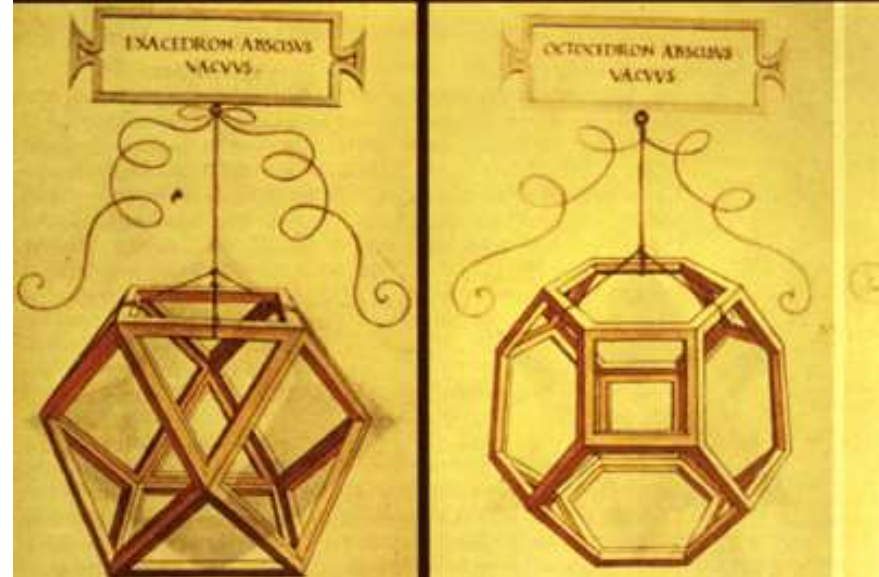
Leonardo knew
Ficino well – he
painted him!



Source: Ficino

LdV After Florence

- 1482: Leonardo left Florence
 - Traveled with his paintings
 - Savonarola mobs
- 1485: Academy in Milan active
 - 1492: Mathematician Luca Pacioli invited
- 1499: Fled Milan at the start of the 2nd Italian War
 - French troops destroy Horse
- 1501: Working again in Florence (Mona Lisa, Raphael)
- **1506: Returned to Milan from Florence** (*to finish that painting!*)
- 1515: Moved to Rome
- 1516: Moved to France
 - Accepted a commission from the King Francois I of France
 - Died at Clos Lucé, France, on May 2, 1519 at age 67



Early Christianity's Support for an “Heretical” Mystery

Gnostic Story
Pistis Sophia



Pistis Sophia (Gnostic)

- <http://gnosis.org/library/pistis-sophia/ps063.htm>
- Refers to **two messiahs and two families!**
 - Two boys about age 12. One working vineyard.
 - Other spirit comes. Mary fetches 2nd. Become united.
- Chapter 59
 - "Thou also, **Mary**, ... **thou and the other Mary**"
- Chapter 61
 - "he embraced thee, he **kissed** thee. And thou also, thou didst kiss him and you **became one**."
- Chapter 62
 - "The **other Mary** came forward"
 - http://www.pseudepigrapha.com/PistisSophia/pistisSophia_Book1.html

Kissing Babes from Pistis Sophia?



Leonardo da Vinci (1452 – 1519)



Joos van Cleve (1485-1540)
Called Leonardo of the North

Holy Infants Embracing (Kissing Babes)

Joos van
Cleve
1485 – 1541
Flemish
(Antwerp)





↑
JvC

Students



of th

Kissing Babes with Madonna

- ***Thuelin Madonna***
 - Marco d'Oggiono
 - Thuelin collection, Paris
- Note:
 - Kissing Babes
 - Hand gestures
 - Madonna left hand on wisdom
- Escaping the slaughter of the innocents?



Bernardino Luini

- 1480 - 1532
- ***Holy Family***
- Pupil of
 1. Ambrogio Bergognone
 2. Leonardo
- Note female's hand gestures
 - Same as VoR with *Kissing Babes* in between







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Virgin of the Rocks

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John the Baptist! – Protection?

Bernardino de Conti
from a private collection

Clues:

- **Staff**
- **Two ‘windows’**
(*impossible – clue?*)
- **Haloos!**
- Bird
- Students knew of each other's works



Bernardino de' Conti

- Private collection
- Appeared exhibition in Ancona, Italy, 2005.



Three Children by Bernardino de' Conti

- Who are these three?
- Exact VoR poses
 - Boys not reversed
- Halo
- Hands
- Why John? Baptism!
- Note the “*transfer*”
- https://elpais.com/diario/2005/10/09/cultura/1128808804_740215.html



Three Children by Bernardino de' Conti



Madonna Terranuova

Raphael

1483-1520

Painted 1505

LdV in Milan
by 1483!

LdV in
Florence
1501-06



Deeper into the Heresy: Expectation of Two Messiahs

Dead Sea Scrolls

Essenes



Dead Sea Scrolls



- Discovered 1947
 - Essene of Qumran
 - 11 caves (more recently)
 - 872 scrolls
- Synopsis: Two messiahs were expected (*livius.org*)
 - “the Qumranites expected the coming of not one, but **two Messiahs**”
 - “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.”
 - One of a **priestly** lineage [Aaron] and one **kingly** [Israel]

DSS: Two Become One

- *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)
 - Available for Leonardo to read
 - Testament of Simeon 7.1-2: "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."



Expectations of 2 Anointed Ones

- 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**

New Testament: Luke & Matthew

- Christmas not celebrated until 354 AD
- Historical inaccuracies:
 - King Herod's death between 4 – 1 BC
 - **Matthew**: slaughter of the innocents carried out by Herod
 - Thus Jesus born in 1BC (or even 4BC)
 - **Luke**: no slaughter
 - No mention of Herod
 - Luke: Jesus after Herod (and after Matthew Jesus, ~1AD?)
- Could there have been two?
 - Same first names very possible
 - But different families with same parents' names?

Birth of Jesus

*Mark & John start at **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**

Luke 3:23-38 (at baptism)

- **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**

The Forgotten Early Christian Theology

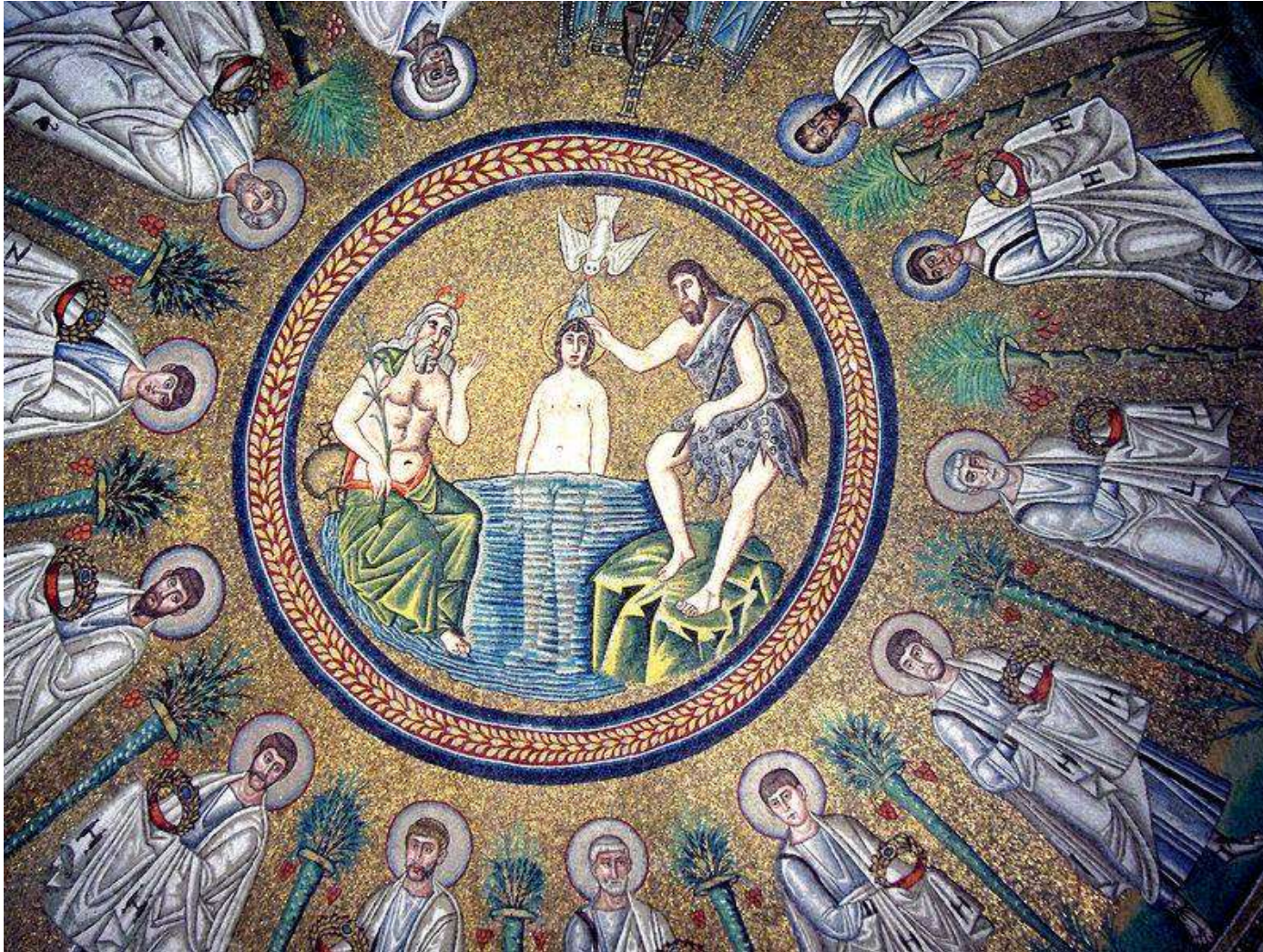
- Focus: **Mystery** of Golgotha and Easter
 - Origin: **Mystery wisdom and Hellenistic philosophies**
 - Plato's 'transmigration of the soul'
 - St. Augustine: Christianity existed before Christ
 - *Christmas* not until after 354 AD
- Christ entered Jesus *at 30*
 - **Birth of Christ at baptism**
 - Cosmic Christ united with Jesus of Nazareth
 - Christ (God) would experience death
 - Lost philosophical basis and knowledge:
 - Pnuema, psyche, & soma
 - Spirit, soul, & body
 - Today, reality = physical (body)
 - **Gnostic** knowledge of Mystery of Golgotha
 - "Mine hour has now come" – cosmic Christ



Fra Angelico, 1442, San Marco Florence

What Happened at the Baptism?

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

Christian states in 495 AD



Arian rule



Catholic rule

ARIAN RULERS AND THEIR DOMAINS

| | | |
|---|--------------|---------------|
| + | Gundobad | (Burgundians) |
| △ | Clovis I | (Franks) |
| ○ | Theodoric | (Ostrogoths) |
| ◇ | Theodemund ? | (Suebi) |
| × | Gunthamund | (Vandals) |
| ⋈ | Alaric II | (Visigoths) |

CATHOLIC RULER AND HIS DOMAIN

| | | |
|---|--------------|----------|
| □ | Anastasius I | (Romans) |
|---|--------------|----------|

2 Messiahs?

Center figure:

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

Kingly Jesus:

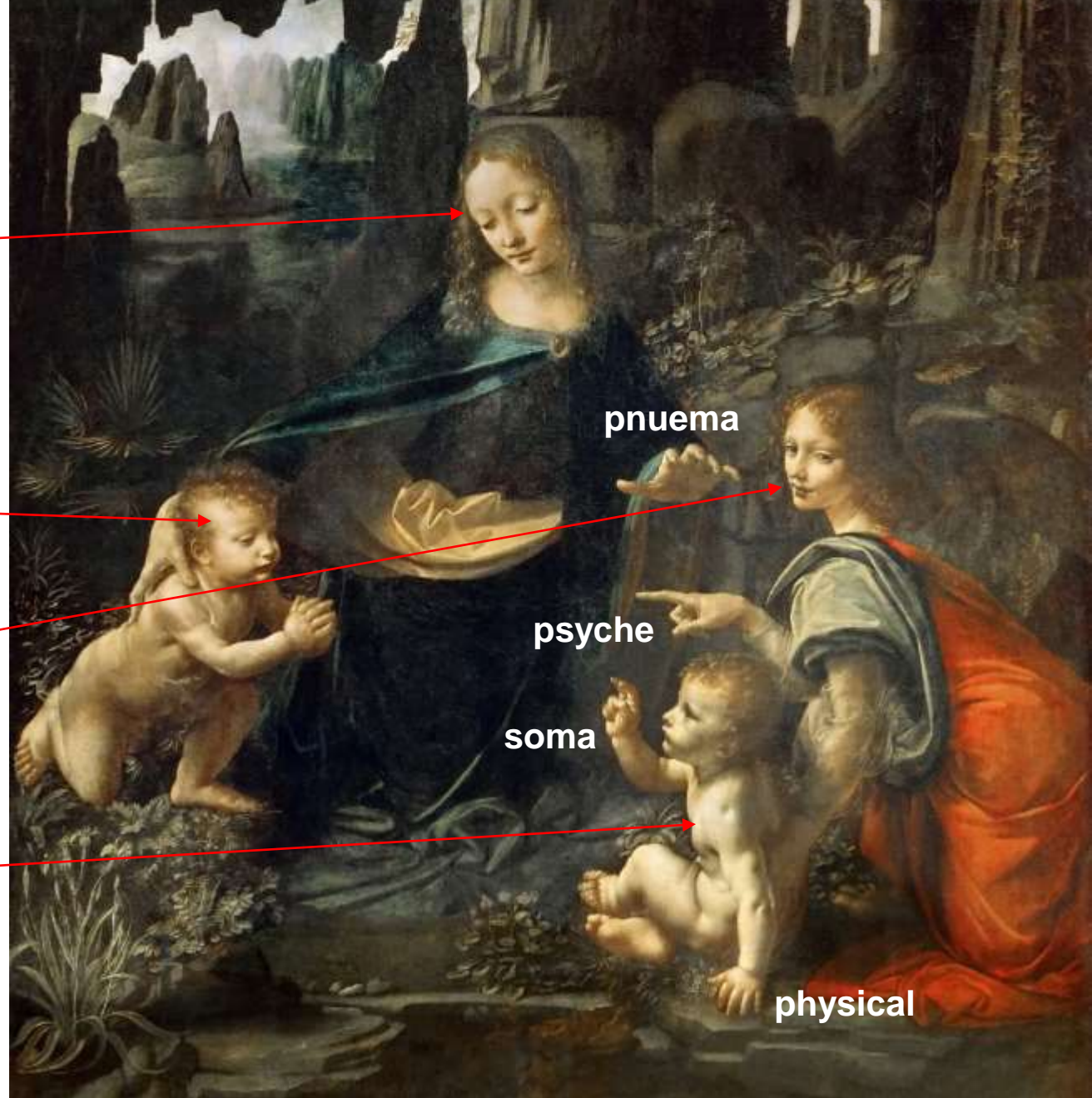
- I honor you as our archetype

Arch-angel:

- 3 members of him shall be replanted in you

Priestly Jesus:

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



Problem with Our Conclusion

If it is two Jesus children, Luke: *Priest* & Matthew: *King*
then why is there just one Jesus later in life?



Merging of the Two Messiahs

Where in NT are two Jesus children united?

- Luke: story of Jesus at age 12 in the Temple
 - Not mentioned in Matthew (its Jesus is 13 or 14)
- Behind the Curtain of the Holy of the Holies
 - Jerusalem Temple
 - "And Jesus grew in wisdom, maturity, and grace before God and men" [Luke 2:52]



Based on Rudolf Steiner's insights.

6th Century Byzantine Art – Two at 12



The Bohdan And Varvara Khanenko Museum Of Arts, Kiev

Jesus Among the Doctors

- Bernardino di Betto (Pinturicchio)
 - 1452-1513
 - Bergognone & LdV
- Painted 1501
- Fresco, Bagloioni Chapel, Santa Maria Maggiore, Spello, Italy



Jesus Among the Doctors

- Notice hands

<http://encyclopedia.farlex.com/Bernardino+Luini>

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Virgin of the Rocks

Jesus Among the Doctors

- Colors, socks, clothes



Virgin of the Rocks



Jesus Among the Doctors

- Clothing colors
 - Black, blue, gold, magenta
 - Royal purple
- Objects in hand
- Four plus one
 - Hierophant
 - Four bodies
- Wall off two children
- Socks:poor, shoes:rich



Jesus Among the Doctors

Ambrogio
Bergognone
b.1452–d. 1524

"And Jesus grew
in wisdom, age
and grace before
God and men"
[Luke 2:52]



Jesus Among the Doctors Bernardino Luini

- Student of both Leonardo and Bergognone
- Painted 1515
- Leonardo's signature appears 3 times on the back



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Virgin of the Rocks

Defendente Ferrari (1490 – 1540)



Painted 1526
Staatsgalerie
Stuttgart

Apprentice to
Giovanni
Martino
Spanzotti
who studied
in Milan

Secrets of the Background

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



***Background
closeup***



Background

***Matthew story:
King
Zarathustra***

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

Conclusion: A Christian Mystery Revealed!



Sacred Geometry



Virgin of the Rocks



Sacred Geometry



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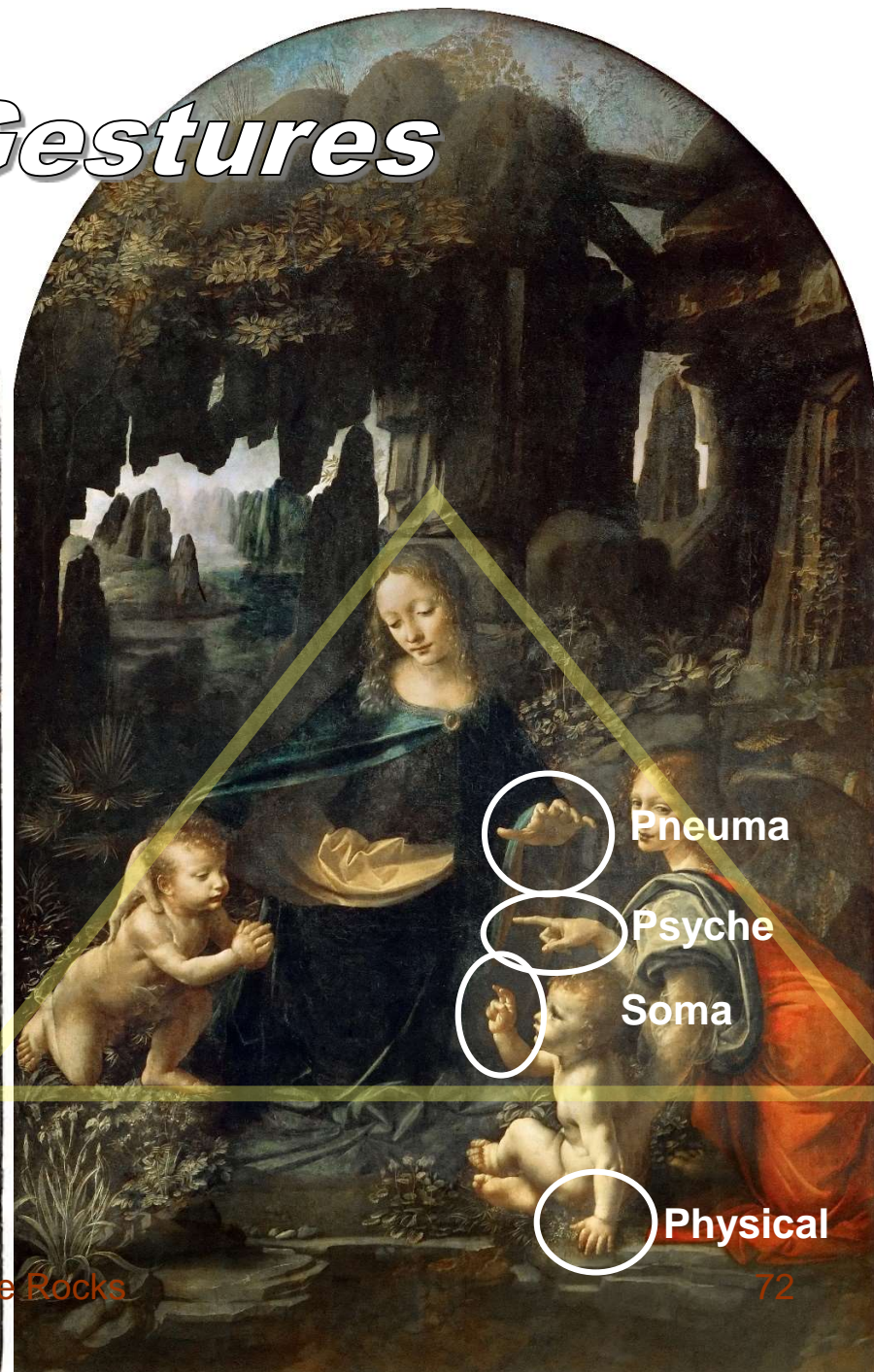
Virgin of the Rocks



Original

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Hand Gestures

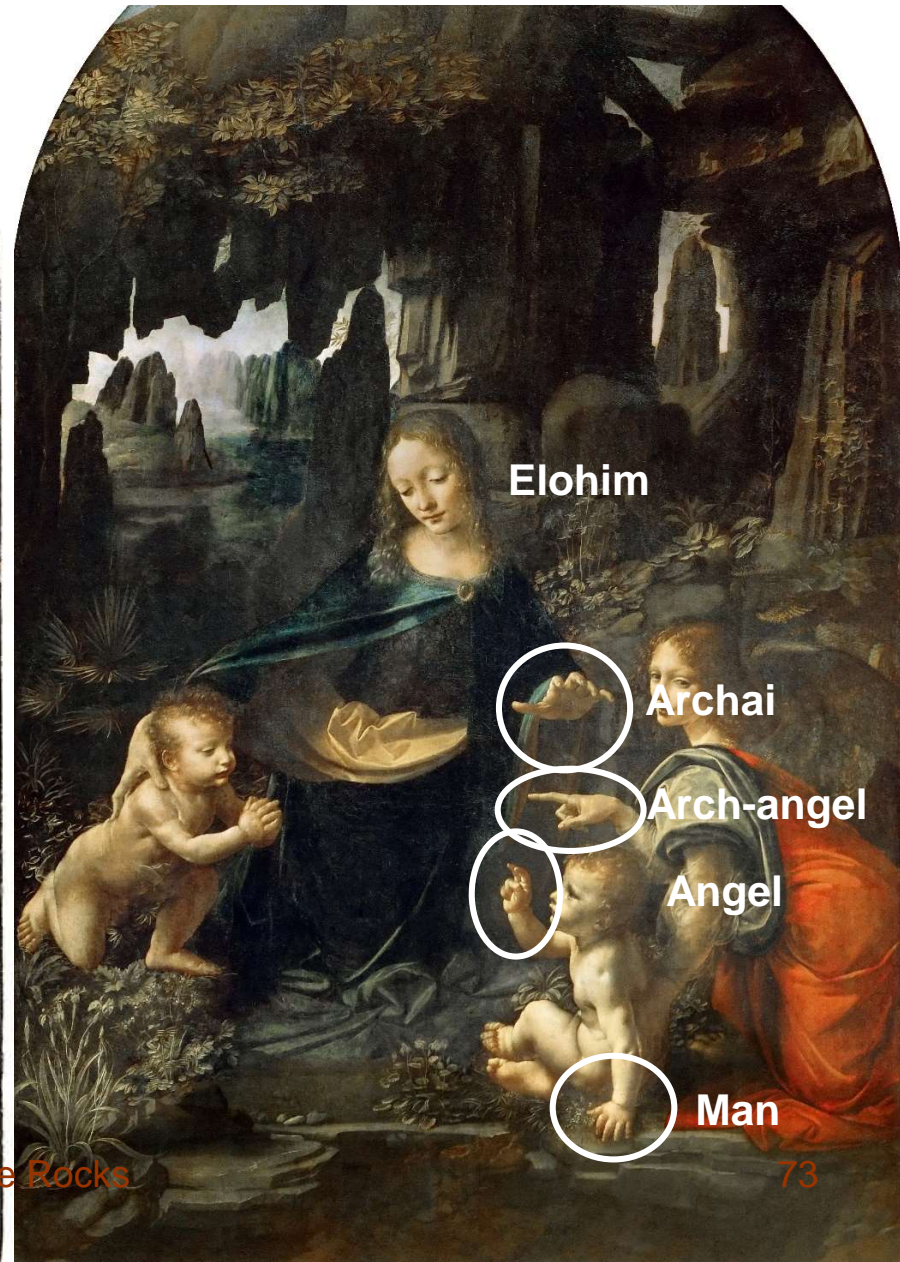


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Virgin of the Rocks

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Model of Dionysius the Areopagite



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Virgin of the Rocks

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History of *The Virgin of the Rocks*

- 1482: Unfinished original travels with LdV to Milan
- 1499: Legal dispute (after 16 years): Ambrogio de Predis claimed to have completed the work, wanted payment
- **1506:** April 27: Dispute settled with the requirement that LvD return to Milan within two years “to complete” the painting
- 1507: Artists paid for copy
- 1508: Copy installed
- 1516: Goes to France with LdV
- After LdV’s death → royal property
- 1625: Found with *Mona Lisa*
 - French Royal collection – donated to Louvre

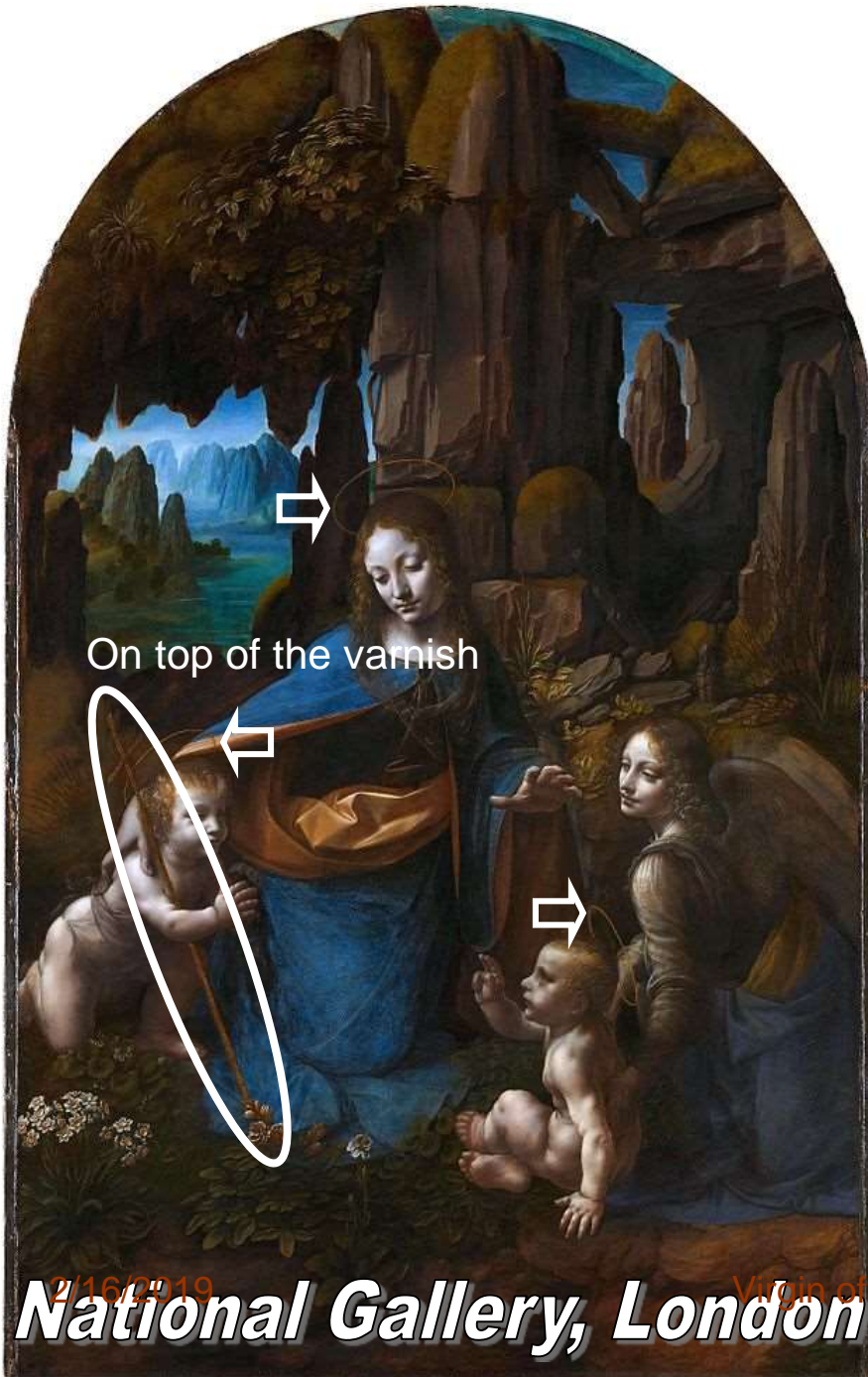


Why Was This 2nd Painting Made?



- Confraternity rejected original
- February 1485: 800 lire paid.
- Work continued
- 1490: Ambrogio and Leonardo asked for more
- + 1,200 Lire
- The Confraternity: + 100 Lire
- Duke Sforza asked to intervene

Solving the Dispute



- March 1503: Louis XII intervened
- June 1503: Confraternity contested
- Requested 'expert evaluation or return of the painting'
- April 1506: judge ruled the work incomplete – Leonardo obliged to complete it
- Leonardo performed 'touch-ups'
- August 1508: painting installed

Lecture Conclusions

- Answered why paint was above the varnish on copy
- Original painting revealed a 15th C heresy
 - Two Messiahs in Ancient texts
 - Matthew and Luke of New Testament texts
 - Early Christianity theological ideas depicted
 - Two boys both named Jesus – merged in Temple at puberty
 - Cosmic Christ born at baptism of Jesus
 - Plethon → Plato Academy → Leonardo
- Proof from student's paintings
 - Depicted: Two Jesus boys, arch-angel, and Elohim-Madonna
- Leonardo's Call for Renaissance 2.0
 - Human being: spirit, soul, and body

The “Smoking Gun”



Jesus Among the Doctors



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Virgin of the Rocks

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John the Baptist

- Gospels of Mark and John
 - Begin with baptism
 - Jesus of Nazareth becomes Jesus-Christ
- Gestures
 - Right hand
 - Left hand
- Staff and fingers
- Smirk
 - Mocking the Church?
 - Christian Mysteries?





Discussion Time

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

Slides are available at www.thechristianmysteries.com

Leda and the Swan

- Cesare da Sesto
- 1515-1520



Summary: The Two Jesus Stories

| | 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 |

Dead Sea Scrolls Recap

- 'Messiah of Israel' and a 'Messiah of David' expected
- Priestly and Kingly descendants
- References:
 - http://www.livius.org/men-mh/messiah/messiah_14.html
 - Millar Burrows, *More Light on the Dead Sea Scrolls: New Scrolls and New Interpretations*, Viking Press, 1958
 - Jona Lendering, ***Qumran's dual Messianism***
<http://www.livius.org/articles/religion/messiah/messiah-9-two-messiahs/>
 - http://www.livius.org/men-mh/messiah/messiah_14.html
 - John Allegro, *The Dead Sea Scrolls: A Reappraisal*, Penguin Books, 1956; see also <http://www.blackelectorate.com/articles.asp?ID=857>

Associations Made by Edward R. Smith

Kingly

- Solomon / Hiram Abiff
- **Cain** stream
- Perfection of “the 3 loaves” from **Abraham*** (14x3)
- **Tree of Knowledge** *forward*
- Magi imply Zoroaster aka **Zarathustra** stream

Priestly

- Nathan (Aaron)
- **Abel** stream
- No karma, **Adam Kadmon**
- Redemption is to find way *back* to **Tree of Life**
- Heavenly hosts surrounding

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

Bacchus

- St. John the Baptist
 - *Note the Staff of John*
- 1515
- Louvre, Paris
- The painting originally depicted John the Baptist.
- In the late 17th century, between the years 1683 and 1693, it was overpainted and altered to serve as *Bacchus*.



Citations

1. Carmen C. Bambach, editor, *Leonardo da Vinci, Master Draftsman*, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, NY, 2003 and *Leonardo da Vinci Rediscovered*, Yale,
2. Pietro C. Marini, *Leonardo da Vinci: the Complete Paintings*, New York, 2003
3. James Kettlewell, *Leonardo da Vinci's 'Virgin Of The Rocks': The Subject Matter Explained*, <http://www.jameskettlewell.com/virgin.html>
4. Ernst Ullman, *A Rediscovered Leonardo da Vinci: The Concetto of the Virgin of the Rocks*, Karolinger Verlag 2010
5. Martin Kemp, *Leonardo: Revised Edition*, Oxford University Press, 2011
6. Frank Zollner, *Leonardo*, Taschen, 2000
7. <https://www.dartmouth.edu/~matc/math5.geometry/unit14/unit14.html>

What Did We Cover?

- What is this painting, *Virgin of the Rocks* about?
 - The story of the two Jesus boys
- What is the historical context?
 1. Early Roman Christianity sought to free itself of the Ancient Mysteries
 2. Mysteries continue, underground, rising up from time to time – flowerings, but brutally crushed each time
 3. Western Christian Church was in a moral crisis entering 15th Century
- What do we know about the painting's history?
 - Painted while Leonardo exposed to Florentine Flowering
 - Louvre painting done first but not accepted by confraternity
 - National Gallery painting accepted by confraternity after touchup
 - Like the Mona Lisa, VoR ends up in the French Royal collection

BACKUP MATERIAL

Conclusions

Why there were two (or three) paintings

- The ‘heresy’ in the first one was rejected by the confraternity
- A copy was made for their commission, keep original ‘clean’
- Copy deemed theologically erroneous till touch-ups over varnish
- Additional copy perhaps for Leonardo’s studio after he fled Milan

Christian “mystery” revealed in original VoR

- Important for LdV to portray
- Theological proof of Two Messiahs
 - Old Testament, Dead Sea scrolls, Kabbalah
 - New Testament (and Nag Hammadi)
- How Leonardo da Vinci knew
 - Plato Academy, **Plethon**, Garden of San Marcos
- Corroboration? Leonardo’s own students were in on this!

Why his Paintings Are at Louvre?

- DaVinci carried with him major works
 - Virgin of the Rocks
 - Mona Lisa
- French King had intervened
- 1516: manor house Clos Lucé
- Here he spent the last 3 years of his life,
 - Accompanied by his pupil Francesco Melzi
- After LdV's death, paintings became royal property
- Eventually the his works were donated to the Louvre



Dog found?

- Hounds of God?



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

Martino Piazza

- Kissing babes
- Note
 - Hands
 - Background



Ukrainian Icon



2/16/2019

Virgin of the Rocks

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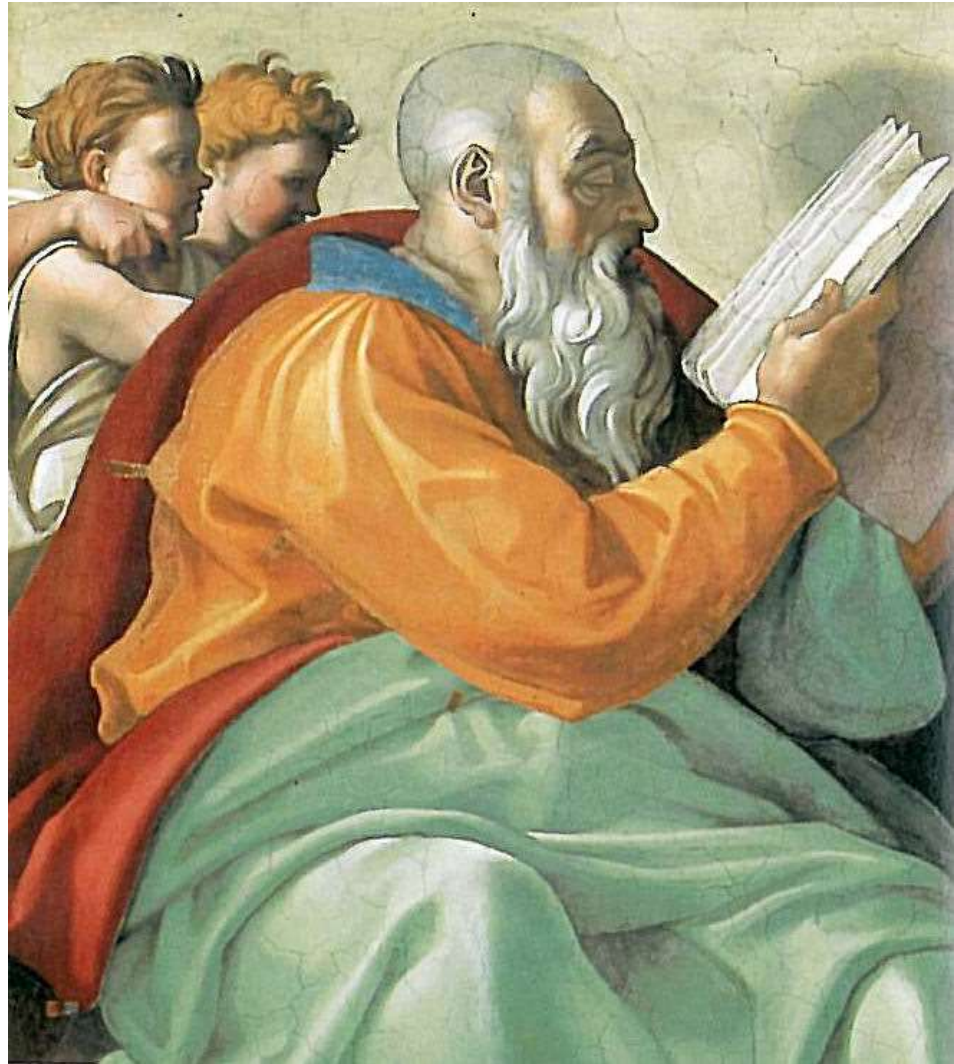
Serbian Icon



Michaelangelo, Sistine Chapel

Zechariah (Zacharias)

Note Two Anointed Ones
foretold



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



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



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



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*

Two Messiahs in the 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.”

Implications 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?

Outline

- Beginning question: why is paint above varnish?
- **Why there were two (or three) paintings VoR**
 - History
- What heresy was being depicted
- – Clues from comparing the paintings
- Corroboration from his students
- From where does this heresy come?
- How did Leonardo learn about it?
- Conclusion

Full dpi



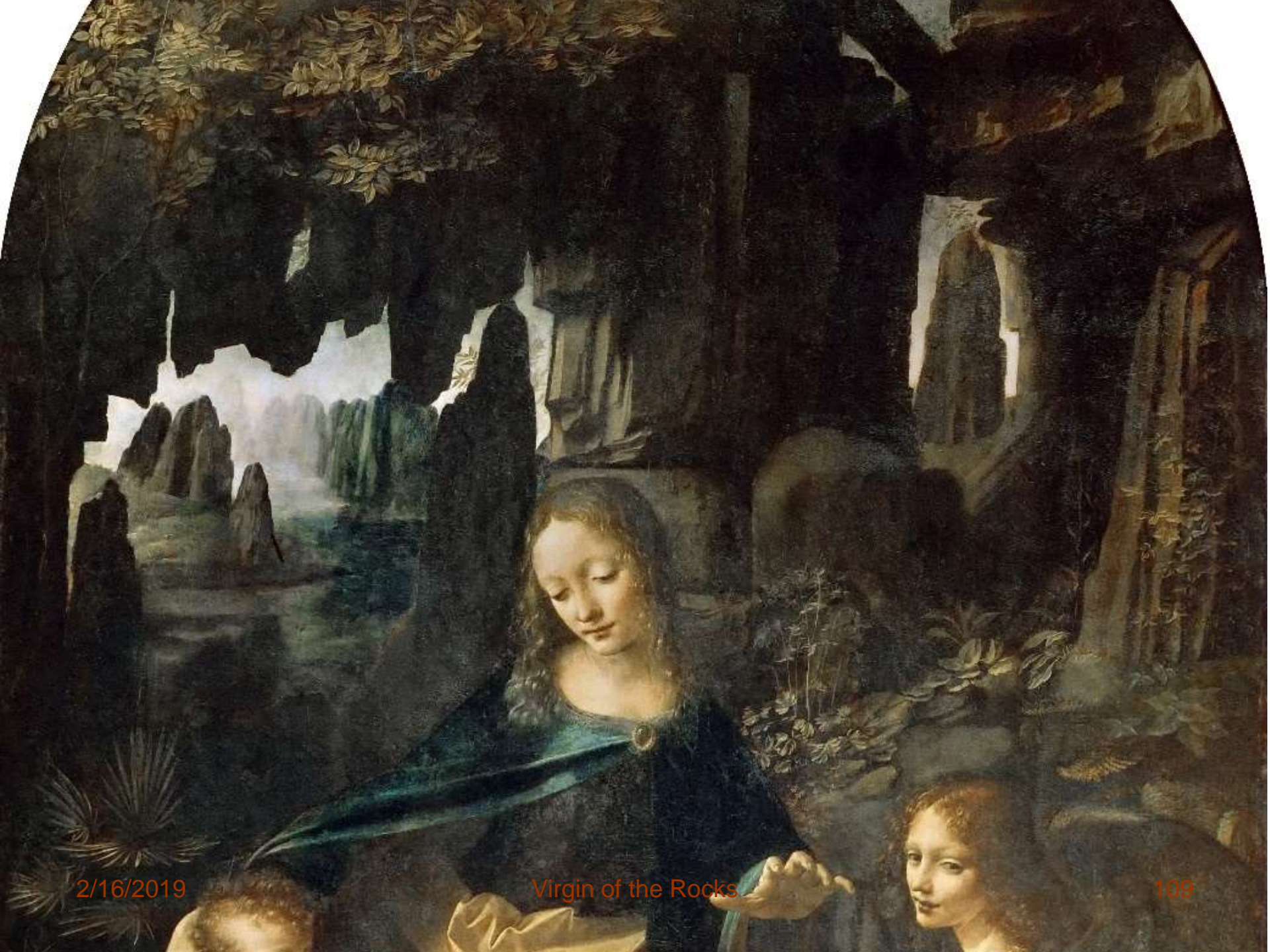
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Hellenistic Concept of the Human

Pneuma

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

Psyche

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

I Am

fire/warmth

Soma

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

Reflects the 9 (3x3) Hierarchies

Pistis Sophia: Jesus “Twins” Chapter 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.”

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

Pistis Sophia: Jesus “Twins” Chapter 61

“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

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- **Conclusion**

What the Louvre Says



- “The most convincing **hypothesis** is that original picture, painted [perhaps] between 1483 and 1486, did not meet with Leonardo’s clients’ full satisfaction.”
 - “Louis XII **may** have acquired it around 1500–1503.”
- “The second, replacement picture, now in London, may have been painted by Ambrogio de Predis under Leonardo’s supervision **between 1495 and 1508.**”
- [2nd] version, now in the National Gallery in London was known to have formerly been in [Confraternity] **chapel**
- Louvre painting in the French royal collection in 1625

<http://www.louvre.fr/en/oeuvre-notices/virgin-rocks>

Historical Situation: Up to 1400 CE

- The Ancient Mysteries had vanished – remnants underground
 - Aristotle & Alexander (323 BCE) – 72 Alexandrias with libraries!
 - 330 CE: Founding of Constantinople, Latin and Greek Christianities
 - Theodosius (379-395 CE) & Justinian (527-565 CE)
 - Teachers flee Europe → east (Baghdad)
 - Helped to ignite the cultural supremacy of the Islamic states in 10th C
 - 14th century: Greek philosophers and culture reentered Europe
- Rome imported but had long since faded away
 - Even the barbarians had become civilized since Charlemagne
- By end 1300s, *gone*: School at Chartres, Cathars, & Templars
 - Crusade followed by Inquisition wiped out the “heretics”
- Period of Pilgrimages (10th – 14th C): over
- Bubonic plague: 60-70% of the population of Europe removed

Situation Within the RC Church

- 1054: Churches of Rome & Constantinople split (already 400 years)
- Black Death Plague 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 1314
 - Rise of Humanism versus blind faith – undermined Church authority
- Papacy in crisis, theology under attack, internal discontent
 - At the end of the 14th century: rival Popes!
 - Great Western Schism (1378–1417): French (Avignon) vs Italian (Rome) Pope
 - Each had different political allies
 - 1409: a third Pope installed
 - 1417: Finally one Pope, Martin V. Papacy restored to the “Papal States”
- However, being declared a heretic still meant death
 - 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**

Resistance to the Renaissance

- **1452**-1498: Girolamo Savonarola, Dominican friar and preacher
- 1482: At 30, 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 – in 1498 he was **burned** in Florence
 - The Medici, restored to power with the help of the papacy and eventually broke the movement



VOR Side Panels

(enlarged, not to scale)



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Virgin of the Rocks

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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





Additional Material

Tying Things Up

Remaining Questions

Arch-angel?
Or merely
An 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 here was annunciation

What role here?

Comparing DaVinci's Archangels

Gabriel



Who?



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.

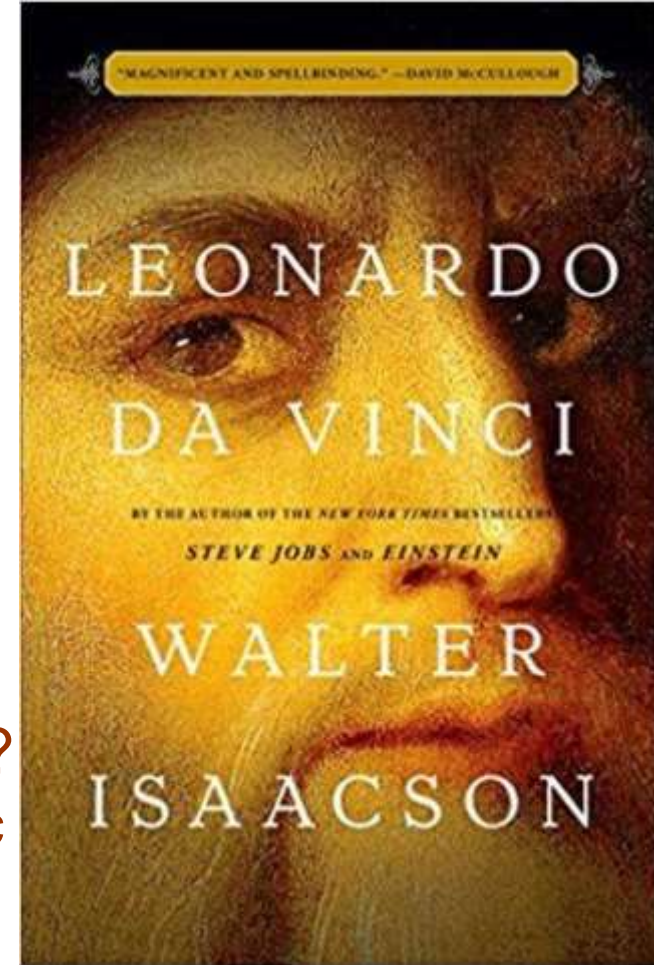
Who Was Leonardo da Vinci? Renaissance Man



- **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?**

Leonardo In The News

- Walter Isaacson's book, talk shows
- Scientist & Artist
- *Vitruvian Man* “classic representation of the Renaissance spirit”
- Notebooks as written record
- Private life kept private: was LdV gay? LdV created arguably the two most iconic works of art in Western history:
 1. *Last Supper*
 2. *Mona Lisa*
 3. ***Virgin of the Rocks*** – *courageous work*
Not just another Christian painting



In the News

- Salvador Mundi
 - Savior of the World
- Auctioned in NYC on Nov 15 at Christie's
 - **\$450M!**



Exhibit at The Met, NYC:

Leonardo da Vinci, Master Draftsman

- Organized by Carmen C. Bambach, world famous curator
 - January 22 – March 30, 2003
- Survey of Leonardo's staggering contribution as artist, scientist, theorist, and teacher.
- Gathered from private and public collections in Europe and North America — with unprecedented loans coming from Windsor Castle, the Louvre, and the Galleria dell'Accademia in Venice
- Brought together nearly 120 works
- [*current exhibit: Michelangelo* also by Carmen]

The Holy Infants

- Kissing Babes
- Over 30 versions
Attributed to LdV



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Virgin of the Rocks

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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 take the place of a Man’s spirit?
 - Man would need to sacrifice the three bodily sheaths
- A Great Christian Mystery is Revealed in the VoR
 - Merging of streams: Cain & Abel
 - King: Solomon (Matthew) & Priest: Nathan (Luke)
 - Three Magi & Simple Shepherds
 - Two Jesus children later “combine” at age 12 (Temple in Jerusalem)
 - **Human act precedes Cosmic act**
 - Jesus of Nazareth sacrifices prepared body to Christ/Logos at baptism
 - First Adam and Second Adam (St. Paul)

Leonardo at the Dawn of the Consc Soul

- “there is a working-together of the Spiritual with the life of the soul — in his drawing, in his composition, and in his power of expression”
 - Leonardo “seeks to bring out the full expressiveness of man; he tries to seize the human being as a whole, and bring him forth to perfection in his drawing”
 - Rudolf Steiner, *The History of Art*, Lecture 1
- “We cannot understand their [Raphael, Michelangelo, Leonardo] creative work unless we understand the **character** which Christianity had assumed at the time when these artists blossomed forth.”
 - “You need only remember that at the end of the 15th and beginning of the 16th century Italian Christianity witnessed the rise even among the Popes, of men who truly cannot be said to have satisfied even the most rudimentary demands of morality ... a whole army of priests were of like character.” [growing animosity towards the Church]
- “Francis of Assisi was among the first who sought to perceive Nature through a deep life of feeling. **Leonardo was the first who endeavored to add to this feeling of Nature, a *conscious understanding* of Nature.**”
 - Rudolf Steiner, *The History of Art*, Lectures 2 and 1 respectively

In What Chapel Was It Installed?

- Late 1482: Da Vinci arrives in Milan
 - Reputation as a Master Florentine painter
 - Sets up painting studio and school in Milan
- Early 1483: he responds to bid by **Confraternity of the Immaculate Conception** for their *chapel*
 - 1480: Giacomo del Maino commissioned for three paintings: a central Virgin and Child with angels and two side panels also with musical angels
 - Work was to be completed by the Feast of the Conception 12/8/83
 - Early 1483: Giacomo withdraws – unable to complete in time
 - Opens the door for Leonardo

History of *The Virgin of the Rocks*

- Many historical assumptions exist
- Andrew Linnell's historical version
 - Leonardo offered VoR, the original that was begun in Florence
 - Apparently it was “accepted” but only after changes made → new version
 - 2nd version painted mostly by his students: de Predis brothers
- As claimed by [James Kettlewell](#):
 - 1485: Painting may have been finished and installed
 - Final payment made on 28Dec1484 [cited Marani, p. 125]
 - Kettlewell claims that Leonardo felt he should have been paid more and sued
 - In 1503, when King of France ruled Milan, Leonardo appealed to him
 - Original likely removed by the King requiring Leonardo to paint another
 - Second painting finished after 1506, installed 1508

History of *The Virgin of the Rocks*

- Carmen Bambach accepts that Leonardo completed his first version that is now in the Louvre of *The Virgin of the Rocks* while in Milan [but began while in Florence].
- VoR has “stylistic similarities with works painted towards the end of his stay in Florence such as *The Adoration of the Magi*” – Louvre
- Giorgio Vasari, in his *Life of Leonardo*, describes a version done by Leonardo during his time in Florence!
- “A common opinion is that the *Virgin of the Rocks* was never installed in the altarpiece” [James Kettlewell]

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
 - Envoys visit 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: Pico della Mirandola 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

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***.”

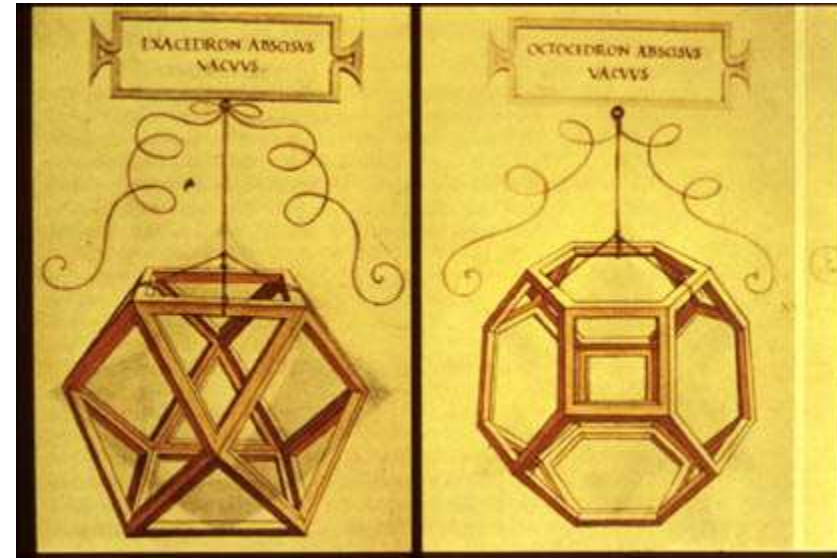
— Clement of Alexandria

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

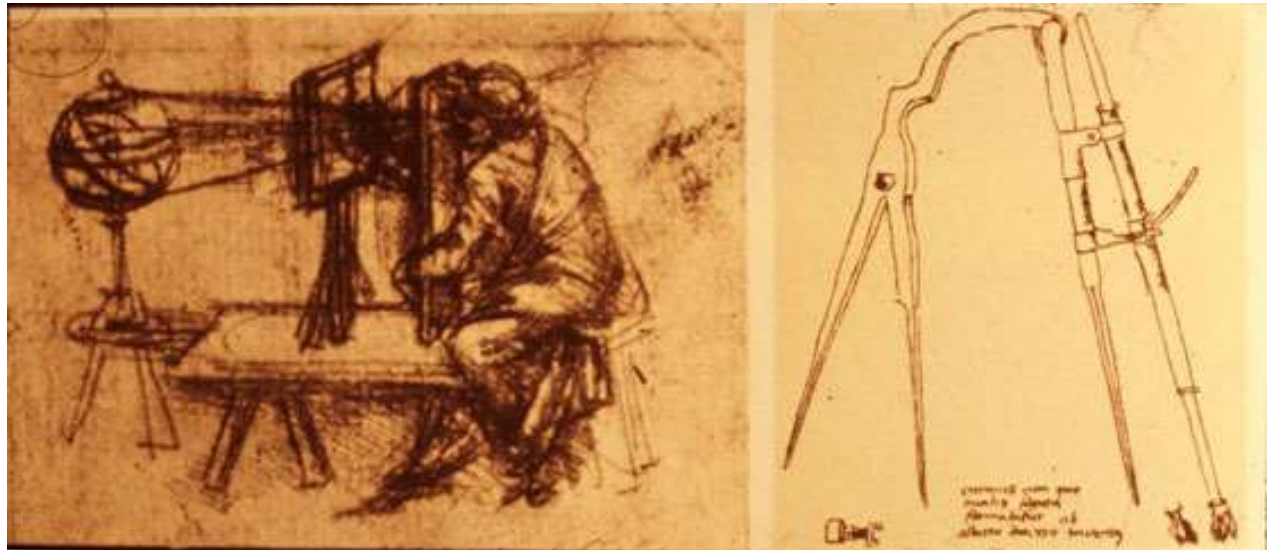


2/16/2019 The illustrations in the book were done by Leonardo

Leonardo and Geometry

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

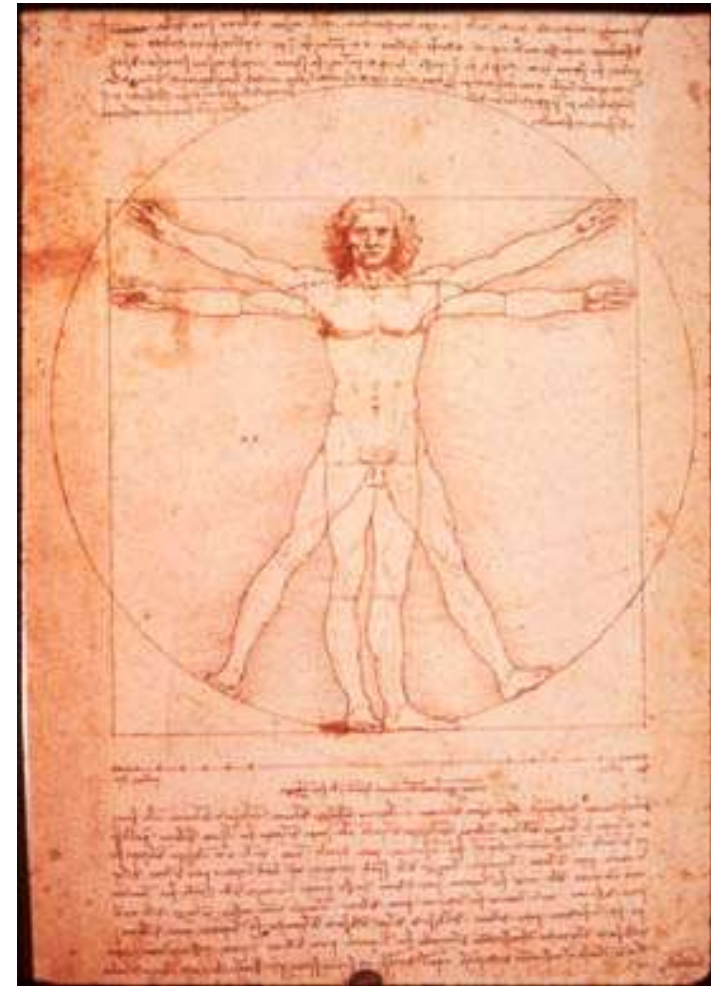
- "the most excellent painter in perspective, architect, musician, and man de tutte vertu doctato, Leonardo da Vinci, who deduced and elaborated a series of diagrams of regular solids"
- Leonardo had an ongoing program of self-study in language and mathematics, studying Pacioli's Summa, and Euclid as 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 ..."



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

Important Christology References:

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- Welburn, Andrew, *The Beginnings of Christianity*
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- Wind, Edward, *Pagan Mysteries in the Renaissance*
- Kristeller, P.O., *Eight Philosophers of the Renaissance*
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- Mead, G.R.S., *Pistis Sophia also Thrice-Greatest Hermes, Studies in Hellenistic Theosophy and Gnosis*
- Bock, Emil, *Moses, From the Myseries of Egypt to the Judges of Israel*
- Budge, Wallis, *The Book of the Cave of Treasures, A History*
- Doresse, Jean, *The Secret Books of the Egyptian Gnostics*

References: Reincarnation in Christianity

- Hastings's *Encyclopedia of Religions and Ethics*, Rabbit Moses Gaster's article *Transmigration in Judaism*
- Rittlemeyer, *Reincarnation*
- Frieling, *Christianity and Reincarnation*
- Head and Cranston, *Reincarnation: The Phoenix Fire Mystery*
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Skin Colors

Moon



2/16/2019

Virgin of the Rocks

Sun



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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)

2/16/2019



Virgin of the Rocks