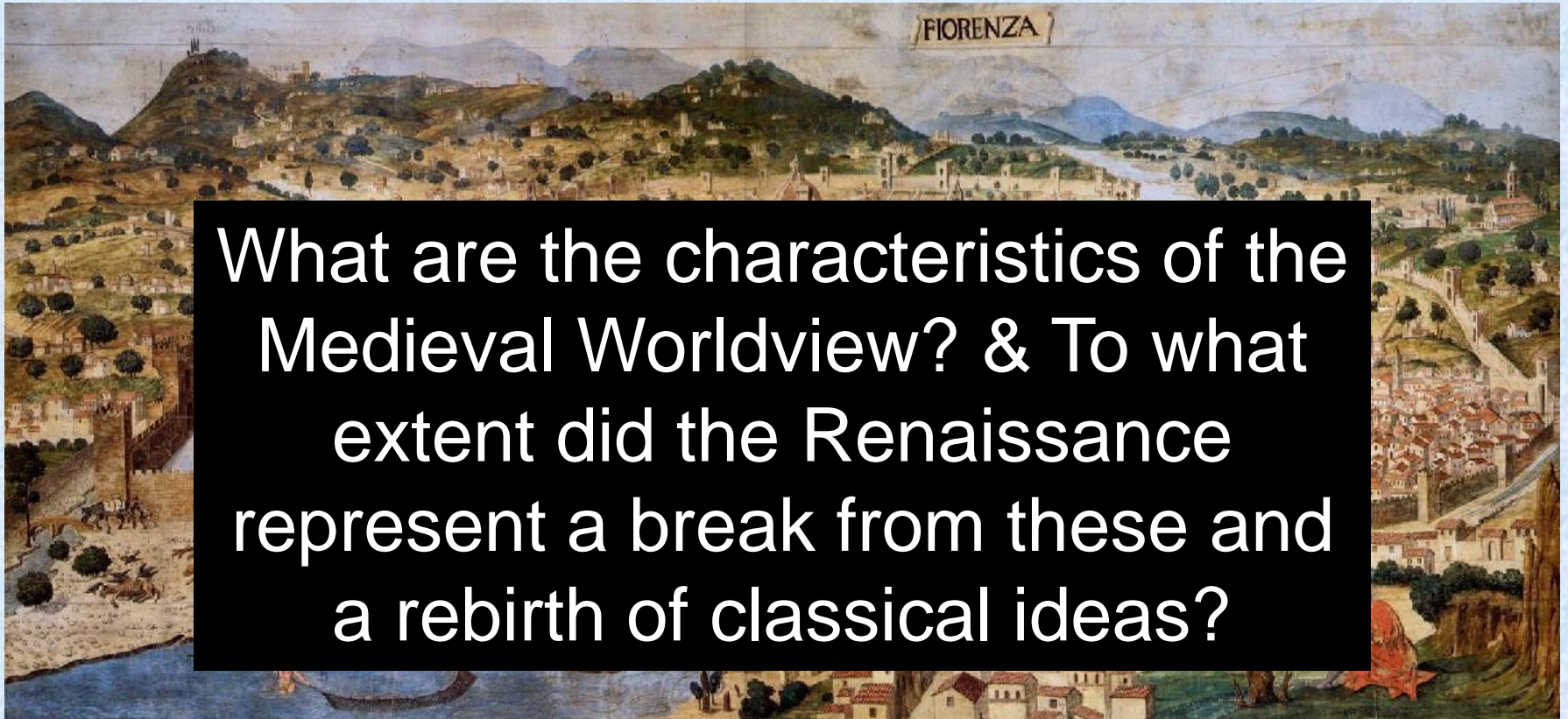


Is the term ‘Renaissance’ a valid term to describe the era of the 15<sup>th</sup> and early 16<sup>th</sup> Centuries”?

**What is this question asking?**



What are the characteristics of the Medieval Worldview? & To what extent did the Renaissance represent a break from these and a rebirth of classical ideas?

Renaissance-Era Florence

# The Medieval Worldview

- *On the Misery of the Human Condition*
  - Pope Innocent III
- *Dythelm's Vision*
  - Saint Bede
- *The Divine Comedy*
  - Dante Alighieri
- The Status of Women in Medieval Society  
*Anti-Female Prejudices*
  - Sprenger/Kramer

# Characteristics of the Medieval Worldview?

- Higher spiritual world (perfection) vs. lower material world (just above hell)
- Nature of man – wicked, flawed
- Narrow/isolated experience
- Christianity/Superstition
- Emphasis on the afterlife – heaven/hell
- Defined social, economic roles - hindered social advancement



**The Last Judgment  
- Fra Angelico (15<sup>th</sup> C.)**

# The Last Judgment

According to the Christian doctrine, the **Last Judgment** is the second coming of Christ, when *"The Lord shall judge the people"* (Book of Psalms 7:7-15). In the Gospel of Matthew (25:31-46) he renders the words of Jesus in the following way: *"When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne, with all the nations gathered before him. He will separate people into two groups"(25:32) and the righteous He will bless, and they will enter eternal life; and the wicked He will curse and they will go away to eternal punishment."*

In another place in his Gospel Mathew wrote about the Last Judgment *"... at the end of time the angels will go out, and they will separate the wicked from the good, and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth."* (Matthew 13:49-50).

Fra Angelico (15<sup>th</sup> C)







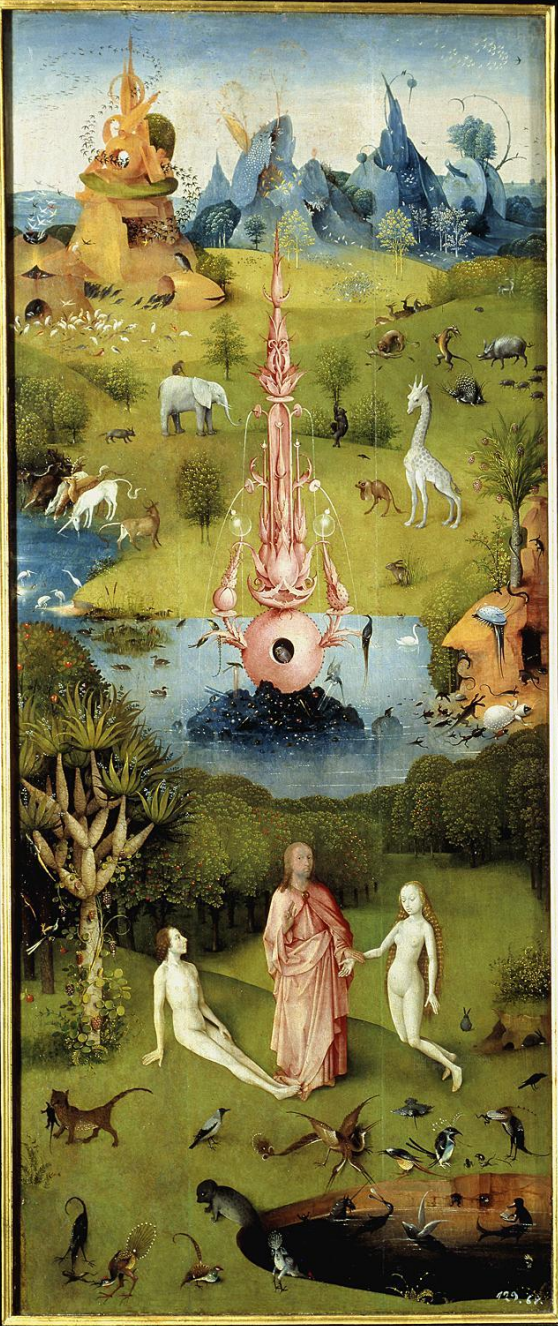








**Garden of Earthly Delights**  
**- Hieronymus Bosch (1450-1516)**









2823  
EL BOSCO  
EL JARDIN DE LAS DELICIAS







# Medieval Worldview

- God – creator of universe – active
- Universe (God and his creation) – described using the Great Chain of Being:
  - Celestial spheres – stars, planets, sun, moon
  - Earth at the center (hell in the center of the earth)

# The Great Chain of Being

**God/Heaven**

**Angels/Saints**

**Humans**

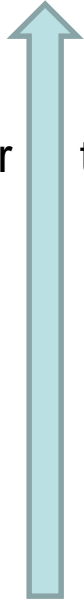
\*social classes  
(estates)  
individuals\*

**Animals**

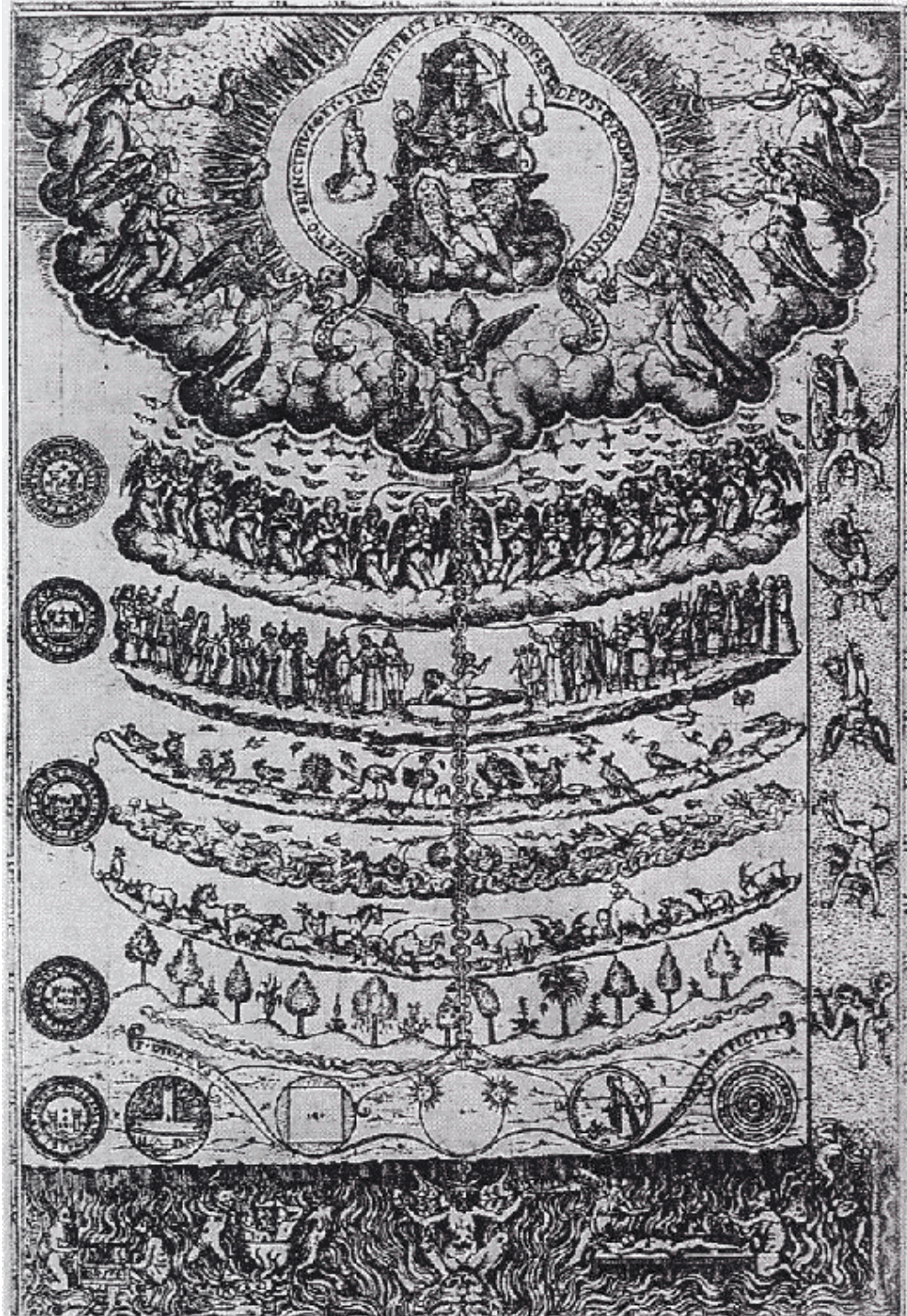
**Plants**

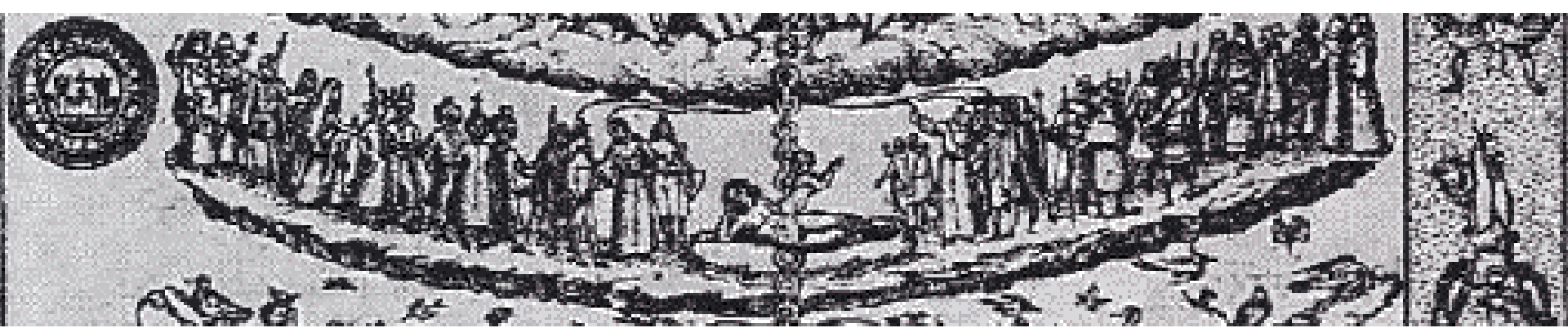
**The Devil/Hell**

Closer to God



- Obsession w/ order!
- Greatest Fear:
  - Disorder
  - Grave sin to disrupt the chain
- Did not value opportunity, originality, individuality





## Humans

- Top three ranks of human chain < 10% pop.
  - 50% of the land//100% of power
- Why did 90% put up with it?
  - Drilled into people from the pulpit: God created ordered universe
  - Paternalism: upper end of the chain had the responsibility to look after those below
  - Deference – obedience expected from lower orders
- Reality: disruptions – new blood in nobility, rise of burgher class/cities/guilds/market economics, increase in lot of peasantry, religious temporal leadership conflicts, plague, peasant uprisings, Babylonian Captivity/Schism

# **Modern Era Challenges to the Great Chain of Being & the Medieval Worldview**

- Renaissance Humanism
- Rise of centrally/increasingly secularly governed nation-states
- Social mobility – mercantilism/capitalism
- Discovery of the New World
- Invention of Printing Press
- Protestant Reformation, its consequences and the Wars of Religion
- Rational/Scientific Revolutions & The Enlightenment

# The Renaissance (1350-1550) evolves during a time of crisis...

- Devastating recurrences of the plague
- Major changes to government.
  - Centralization – England/France/Spain
  - Fragmentation – Germany/Italy
- Disasters for the Church
  - Crusades (only the *Reconquista* successful)
  - Conflicts with stronger secular gov'ts (Boniface VIII)
  - Rival Popes/Schism
  - Questioning of Church Authority
  - Black Death
- Hundred Years' War
- Feudalism Eroding - - Social upheaval

**TOUGH WORLD!!!!**

# If we accept the validity of the Renaissance, here are some characteristics:

- Jacob Burckhardt (19<sup>th</sup> C. Historian)

*Renaissance* = “rebirth” of humanity and Italians as “*firstborn sons of modern Europe*” – ideas of Petrarch and others who saw their time as something distinct from the previous era

- Classicism – revival of Greco-Roman thought & reconciliation w/ Christian thought
- Individualism – perfecting the individual – emphasis on individual ability
- Humanism – study of humanities/classical works – secular
- Secularism – worldliness
- Realism/Rationalism

Exaggerated b/c changes were gradual and limited to intellectual/artistic/urban/wealthy elite (NOT a mass movement!!!) and the society remained very religious and influenced by medieval thought

# Renaissance Origin Questions

- **Why did the Renaissance begin in Italy?**
  - Businessmen/Small City States – need for widespread literacy (governmental affairs, business affairs)
  - Wealth – encouraged secular spirit
  - Literacy – intellectual pursuits
  - Lived with the “ghosts” of Rome
- **How was the Renaissance tied to urbanization/cities?**
  - Exchange and movement of ideas
  - Centers of wealth/patronage & learning
  - Emphasis on Civic Humanism
- **How was the Renaissance tied to economics?**
  - Overseas trade – Mediterranean, Atlantic, N. Europe (Hanseatic L.)
  - Venetian traders, Florentine wool industry filled economic vacuum left by 14<sup>th</sup> C. depression
  - Entrepreneurial merchant class – Medici family – banking/finance -- influence
- **What is the link between wealth and intellectual development?**
  - Wealth developed by entrepreneurs of the age: copper, iron, silver mining, metalworking, cloth making -- banking
  - Wealth provides **patronage** for arts, intellectual pursuits
  - Wealthy classes provide financing for intellectual/learned class to engage in their art/discipline





# Renaissance Society

- Social order inherited from the feudal system of the middle ages – 3 estate system
  - Peasants/Townspeople (90%) – manor life, serfdom in decline; money economy growing bourgeoisie
    - In towns – patricians, burghers, impoverished workers (40%) – poor=lazy, evil
    - In Italy – resurgence (early-mid 15<sup>th</sup> C.) then decline of slavery/slave trade (end of the 15<sup>th</sup> C.) – domestic labor – multicultural origin – “domestic enemy” – Portuguese slave import – S. Eur.
  - Nobility – hit during 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> C. – new members (2-3% of population)
    - *Book of the Courtier* – Castiglione – ideal nobleman – emphasis on education and combat – deference and service to prince

# Renaissance Society

- Family

- Extended family, importance of surname and proximity, vendetta

- Marriage

- Father as emancipator
- Arranged marriages – extramarital relations (double standard)
- Ages (W-16, M-35!!!)
  - Prostitution “gloves on her hands and a bell on her head”
- Dowry – size matters!
- Patriarchal – limited role of wife, children – emancipated
- Women – domestic role – death – childbirth



# Intellectual Renaissance – ISMs!!!!

- **Humanism** – glorification of human achievement, expression, potential, experience – seeking to understand human nature – based on writings of Greeks/Romans, independent of Church teachings
  - Humanities: grammar, rhetoric, poetry, moral philosophy, ethics
- **Civic Humanism** – Humanism tied to Florentine civic spirit – duty of intellectual to live an active life for state/prince – glorification of Cicero
- **Individualism** – emphasis on the individual, achievement, human perfectibility, idealization of human form, uniqueness, expression, thoughts/feelings
  - Hermeticism/pantheism – human beings with divine creative power – existence of original divinity -- magi)
  - Portraiture
- **Secularism** – concern with the “here and now” – Ex: Guicciardini (*History of Florence/Italy*)
- **Hedonism** – Pursuit of pleasure on earth
- **Classicism** – inspiration from Classical Civilizations (ex: Neoplatonism – Great Chain of Being – bonds of sympathetic love)
- **Realism/Naturalism** – concern and portrayal of how things actually exist or their ideal form
- **Rationalism** – understanding through acquiring knowledge, reason and natural thought, liberal arts education – practical: classics combined with Christianity

# Renaissance Emerges

- What makes the Renaissance art unique and new?
- A new subject- People still painted religion but now branched into classical motifs and more portraits.



Raphael-Self Portrait – 1509

# Medieval Artwork

- Almost always religious in nature
- Very flat
- 2D
- Proportions not correct/ Not realistic
- Landscape not emphasized
- No perspective
- Artist = craftsman



# Book of Hours – (Flanders) 1484-1529









**Gentile Da Fabriano, 1423**

**Sandro Botticelli, 1475**



Contrast medieval  
painting w/  
Renaissance painting  
– Subject:  
*Adoration of the Magi*



Sandro Botticelli – *Adoration of the Magi* (1475)

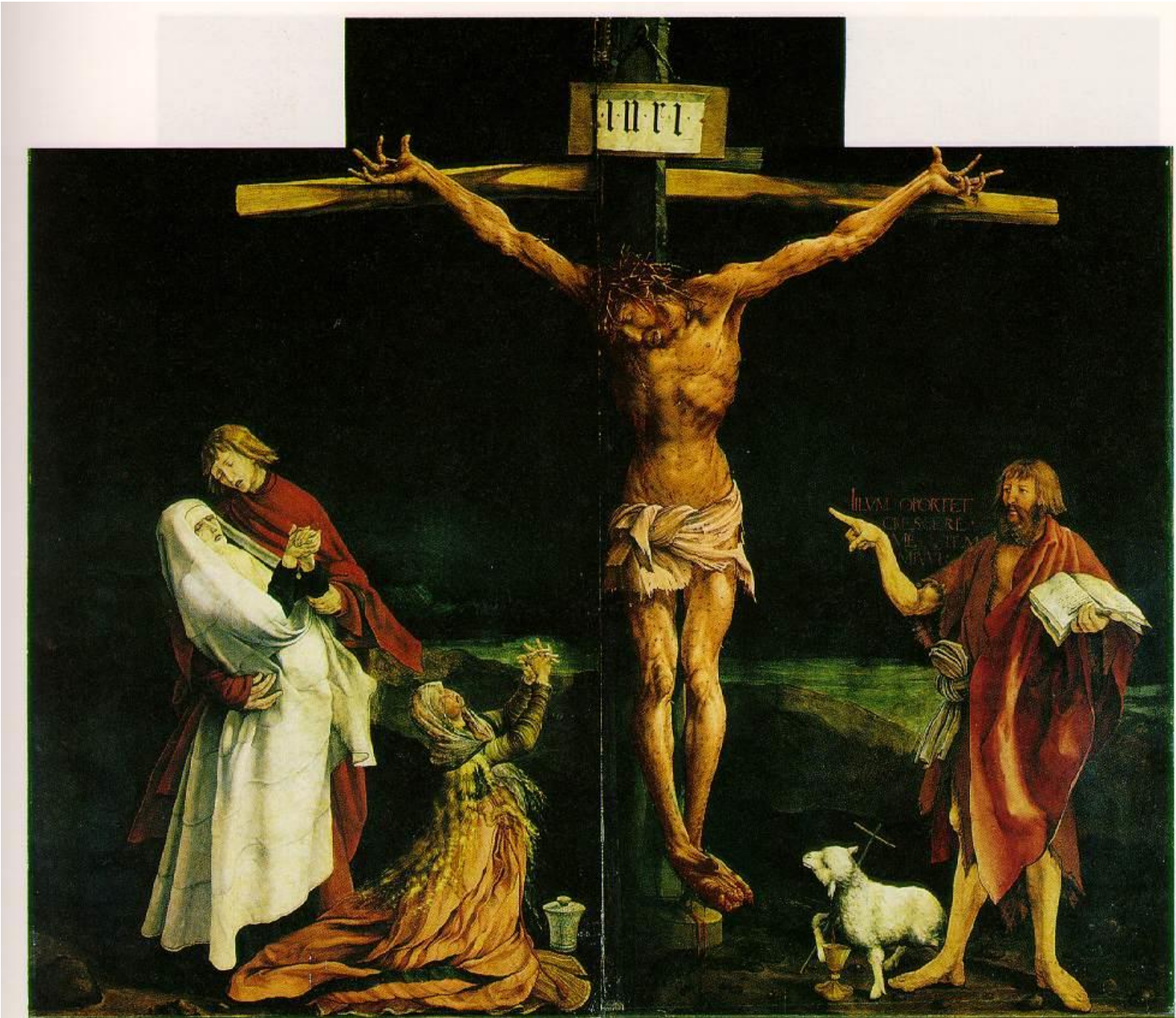


**Albrecht  
Durer  
1504**

**Crucifixion  
scene  
from  
Dominican  
Missal  
Regensburg,  
Germany  
~1300**



Crucifixion, The Isenheimer Altarpiece (German) – Early 1500s  
- Mathis Grünewald



# Techniques

- Numerous techniques dominated Renaissance work.
- Some are realism, perspective, chiascuro, proportions, and visible emotion.



# Realism

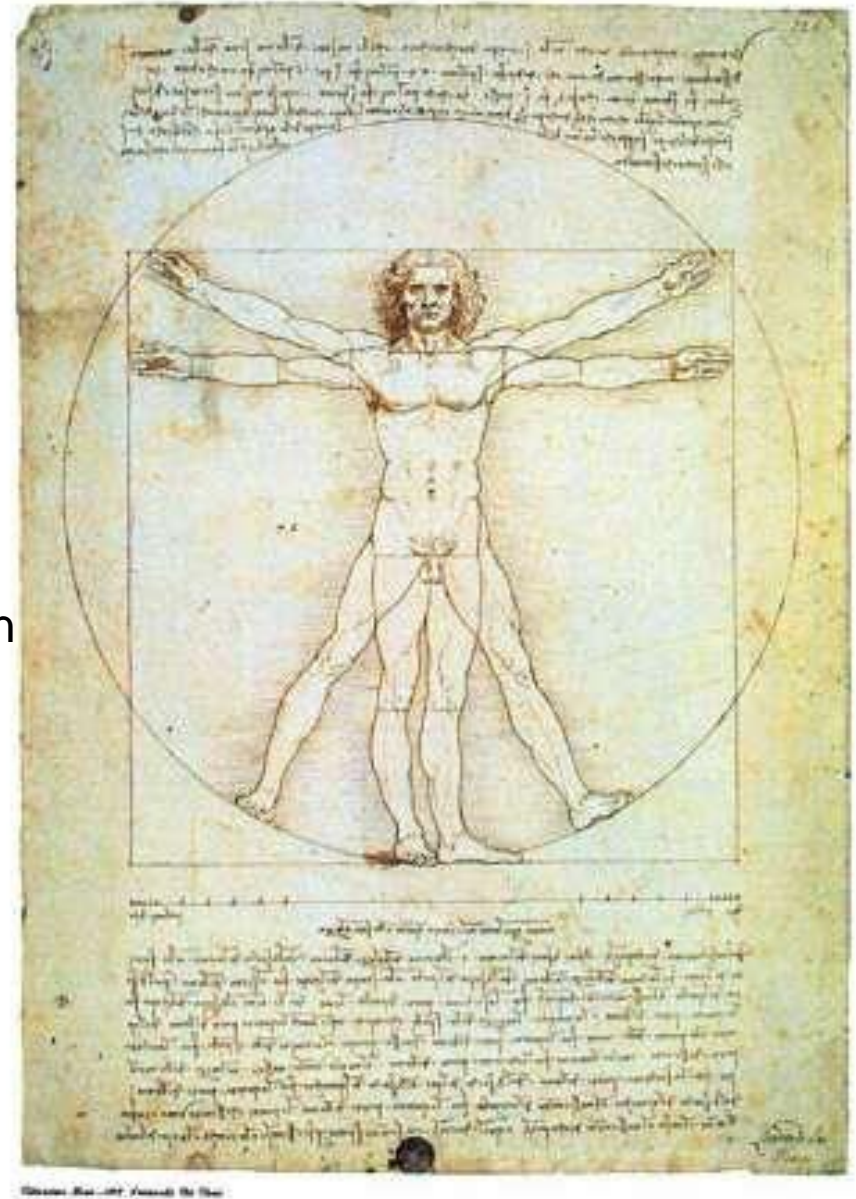
- Artists wanted to depict realism as accurately as they could.
- To do this, they often dissected human bodies, studied the way the body moved, and the way muscles and bones were set.



# Realism

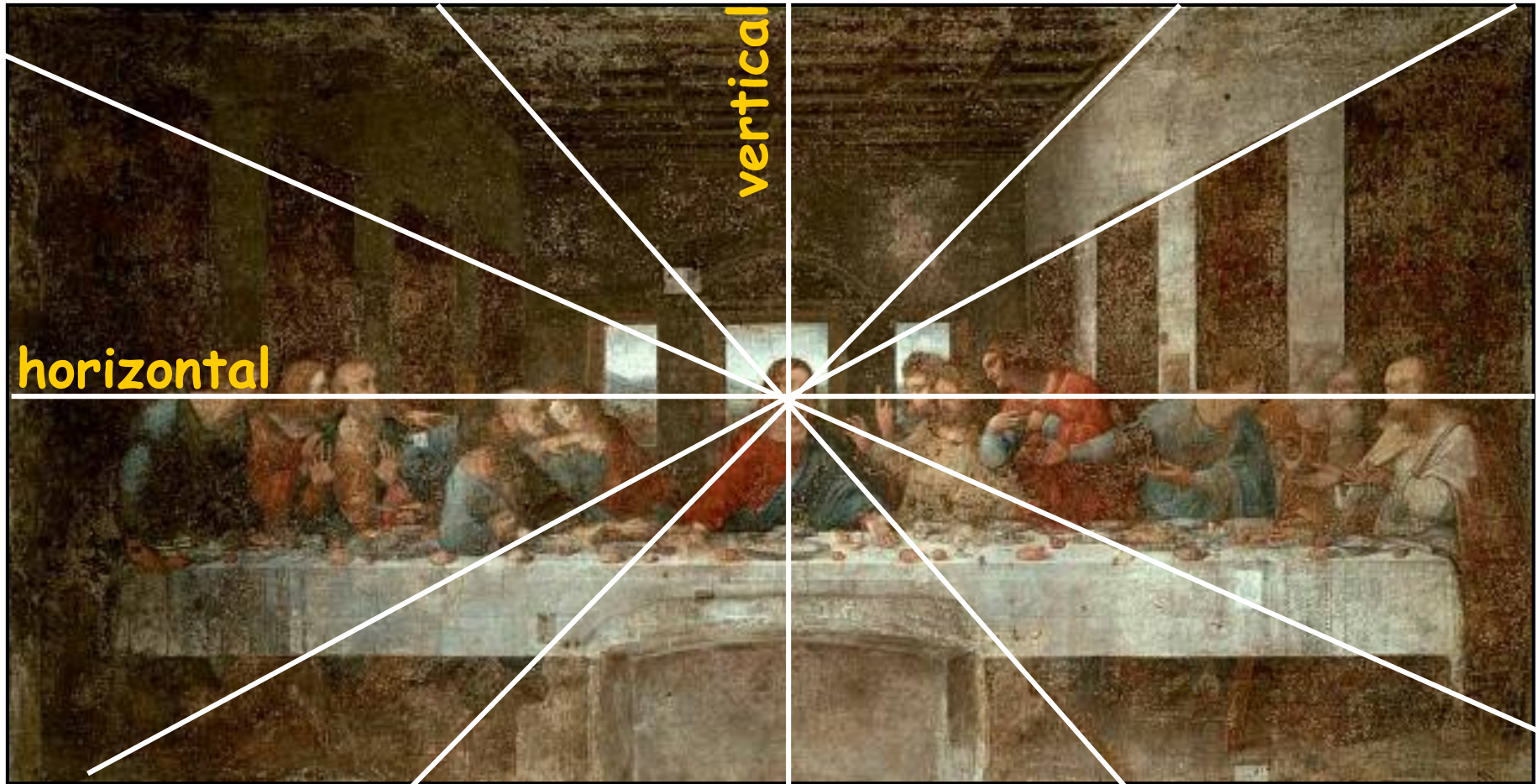


Vitruvian Man  
DaVinci





# *The Last Supper* - da Vinci, 1498



**Perspective!**

# Setting

- Once again, usually a biblical setting, mythological, or in a lavish room.

Andrea Sarto  
On Calvary Hill



# Renaissance Periods

(Renaissance describes a way of thinking more than it does a time period...)

## 1300 – 1370

- Individual “Renaissance” thinkers

## 1370 – 1470

- Florentine Period

## 1440s – 1600

- Reception of the Renaissance throughout Europe
- Northern Renaissance – Late 15<sup>th</sup>-Early 16<sup>th</sup> C.



***The School of Athens* - Raphael - (1509-1511)**

# You go!

<https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/renaissance-reformation/>

- Donatello's *David* (early) vs. Michaelangelo's *David* (high)
- Michelangelo's *Sistine Chapel* (high)
- Leonardo DaVinci (high)
- Raphael (high)
- Botticelli (early)
- Giotto (early)
- Titian (high)
- Jan Van Eyck (Northern Renaissance – early)
- Brueghel (Northern Renaissance – late)

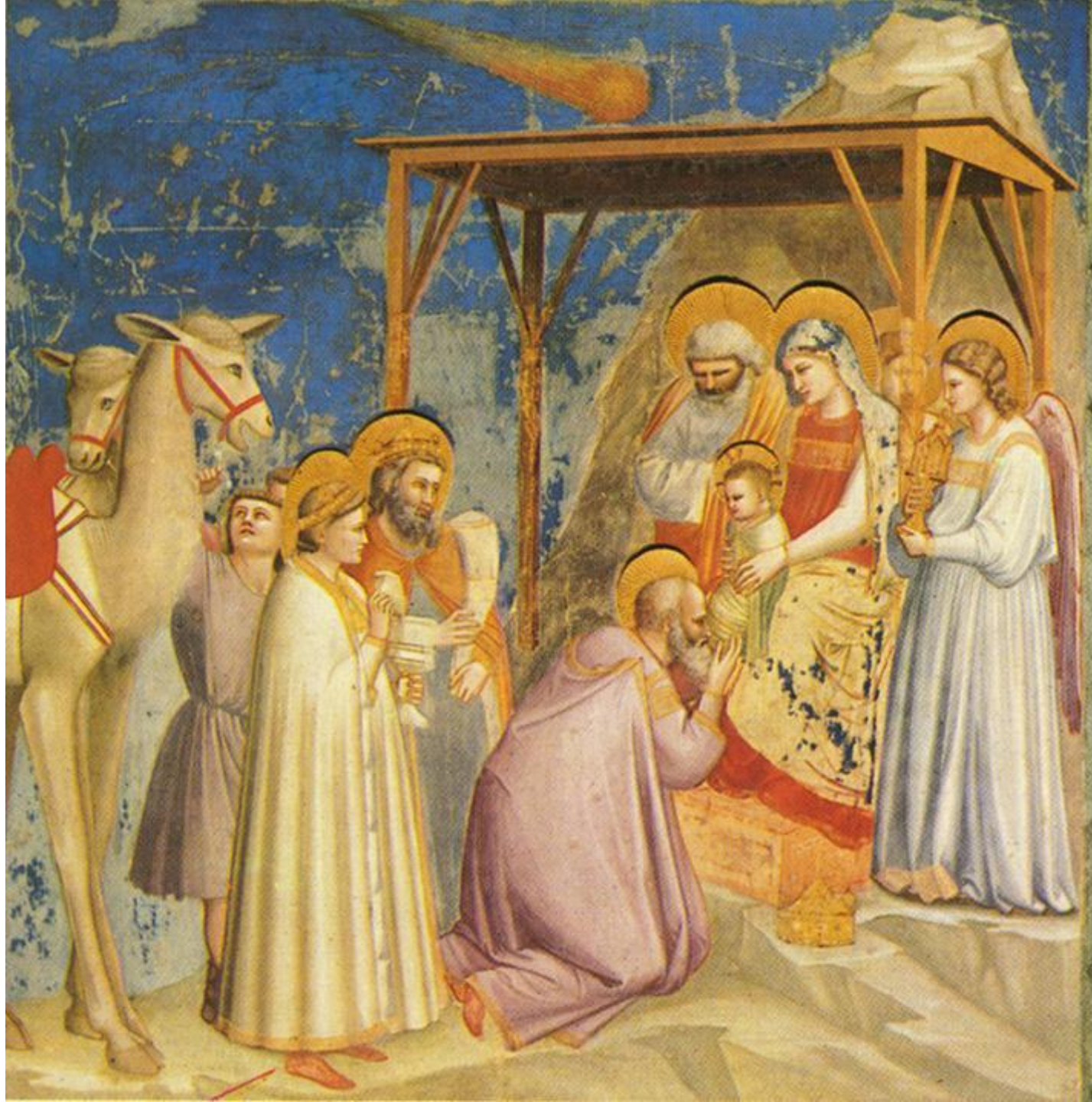


*The Ambassadors*  
Hans  
Holbein  
(1533)

**Early-  
Renaissance:**

**Giotto**

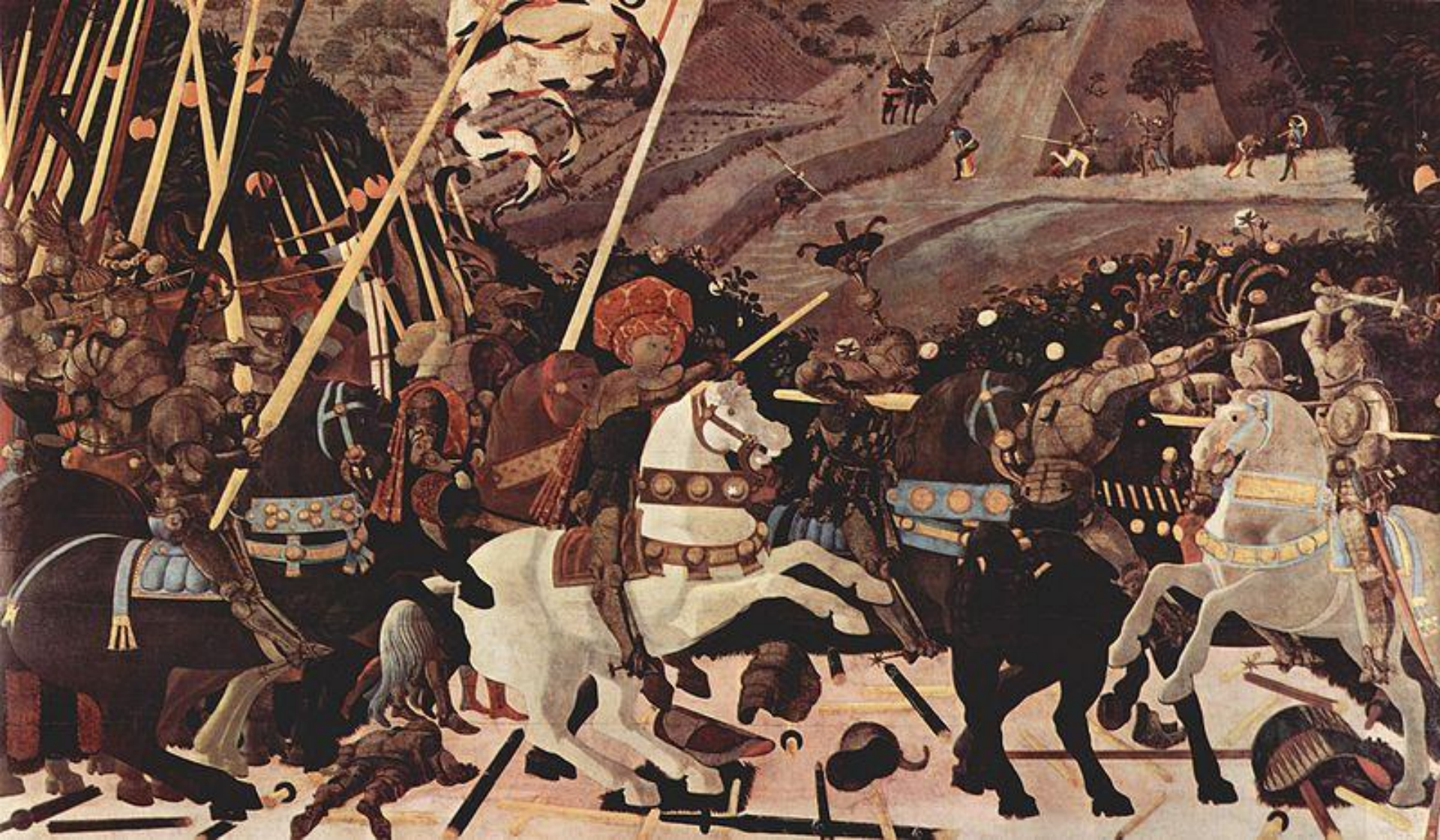
***The Adoration  
of the Magi  
(1304-1306)***



***The Arnolfini  
Marriage***  
Jan van Eyck  
(1434)

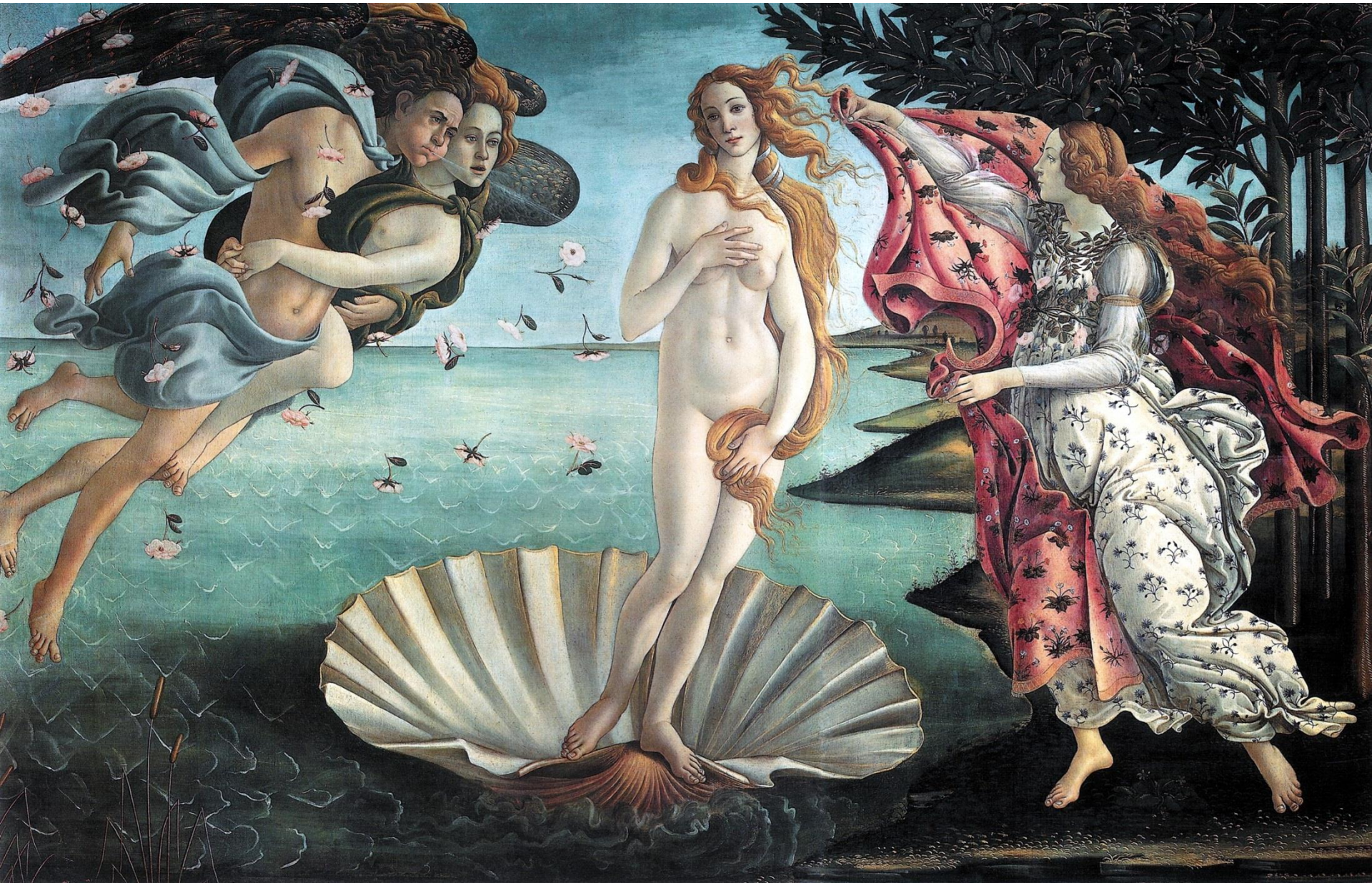






**Uccello – *The Battle of San Romano*  
(1450)**

# ***Birth of Venus* – Sandro Botticelli (1484)**



# Subject-Classical Motifs

## Botticelli-*Mars and Venus*



# Classical Setting

## Botticelli - *Primavera*



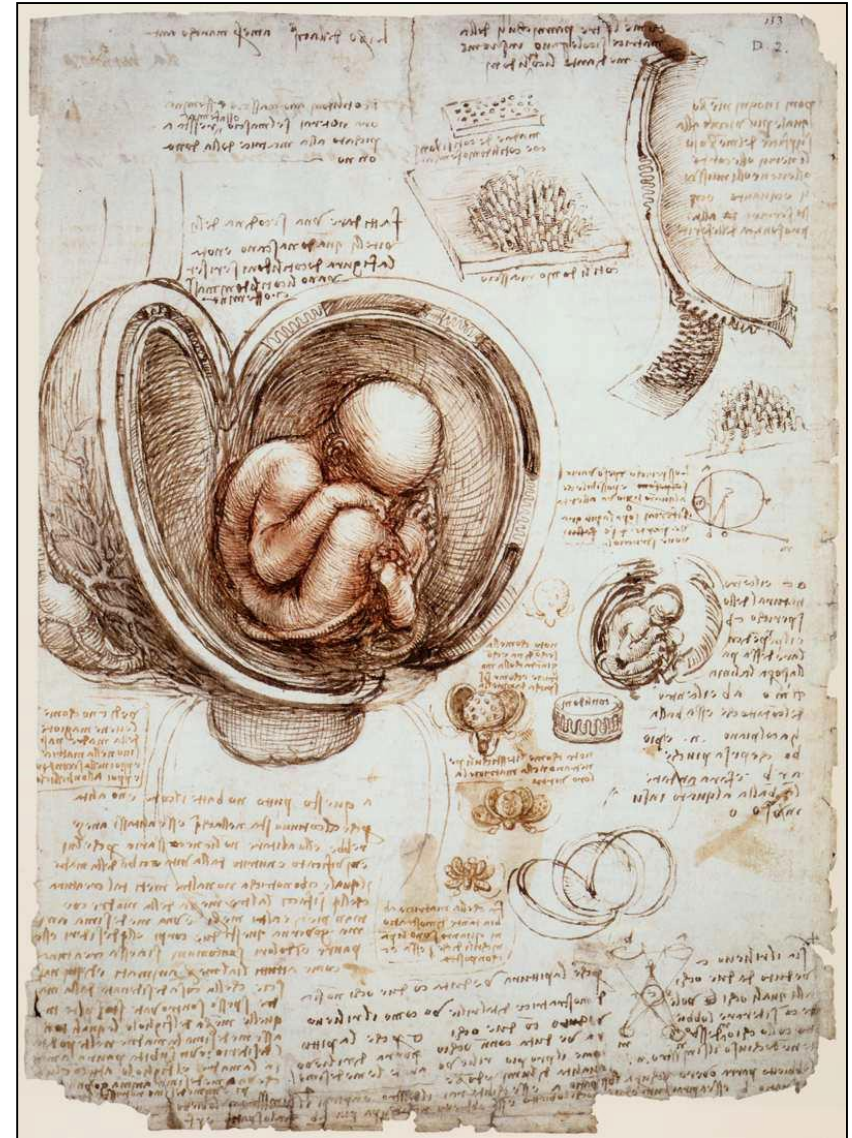


***Mona Lisa***

**- Da Vinci, 1498**

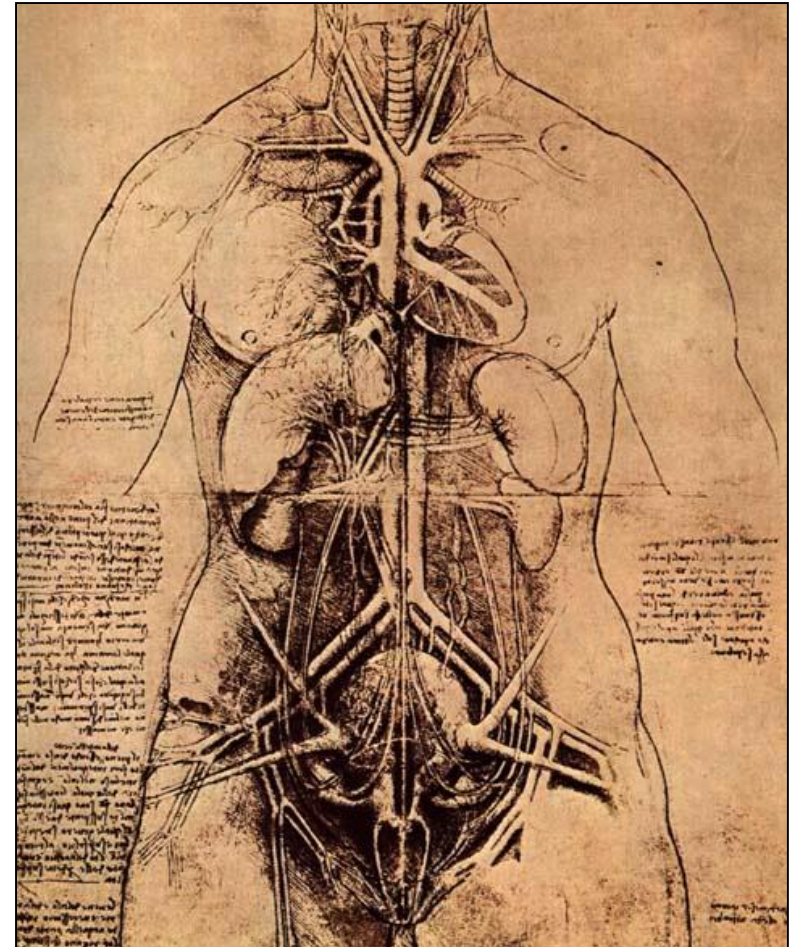
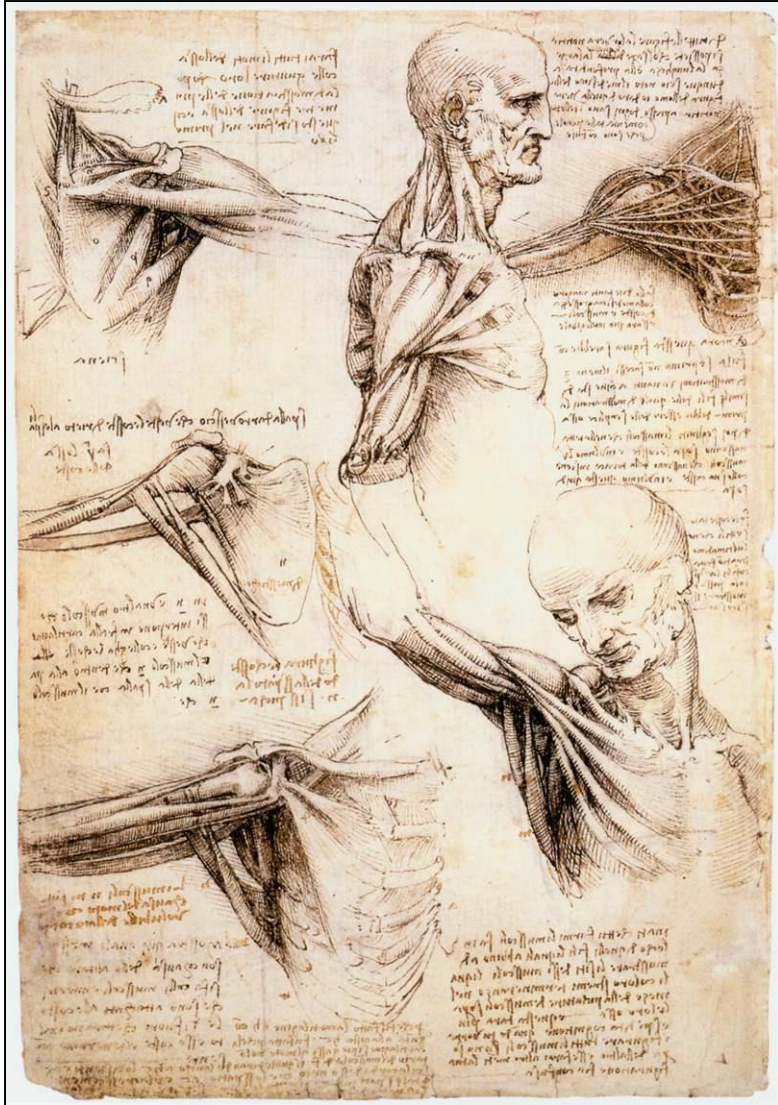
# Leonardo, the Scientist (Biology):

Pages from his  
*Notebook*



# Leonardo, the Scientist (Anatomy):

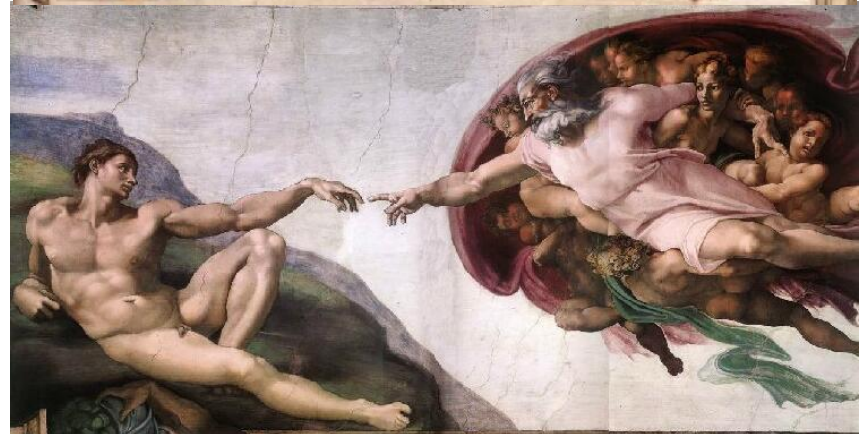
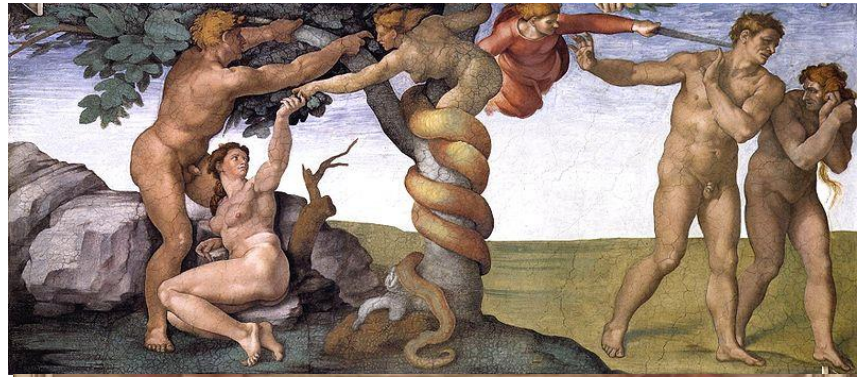
## Pages from his *Notebook*



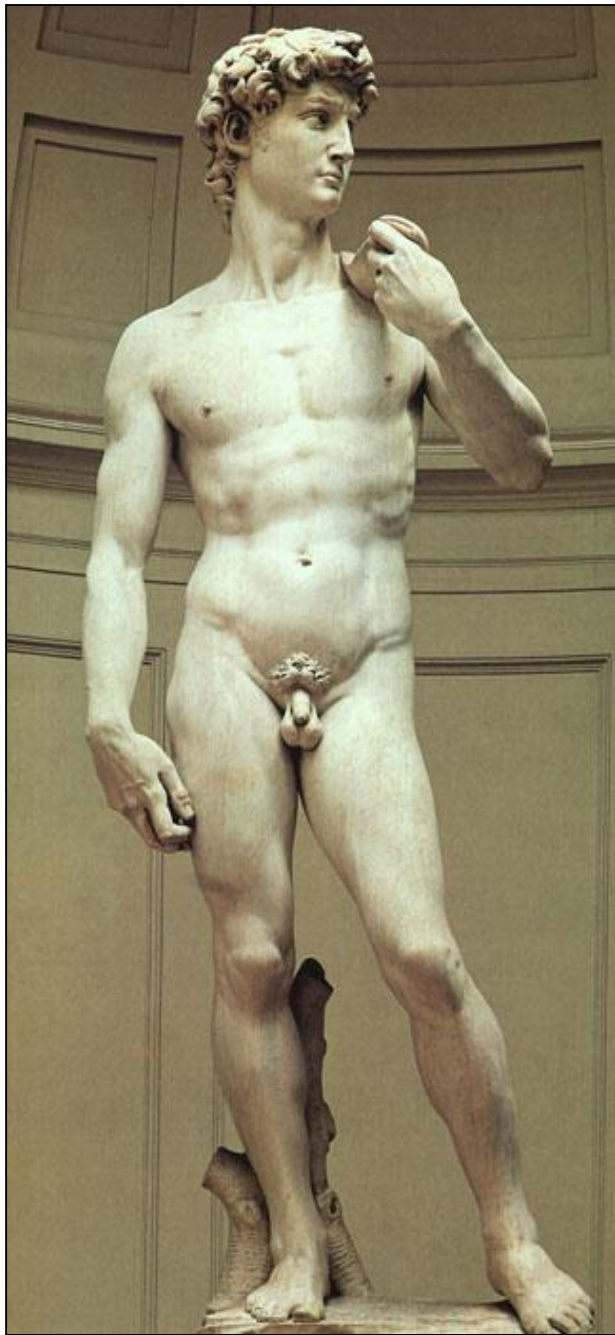
***The Sistine Chapel Ceiling***

**Michelangelo**

**(1508-1512)**







🌀 **David**

🌀 **Michelangelo  
Buonarotti**

🌀 **1504**

🌀 **Marble**





***The School of Athens* - Raphael - (1509-1511)**



***Bacchus  
and  
Ariadne***

**Titian**

**(1522-1523)**

# Netherlandish Proverbs - 1559





*Peasant wedding*  
Peter Bruegel - - c. 1568

# *The Ideal City*

**Piero della Francesca, 1470**



# Renaissance Quote...

*“What am I? A scholar? No, hardly that; a lover of woodlands, a solitary, in the habit of uttering disjointed words in the shadow of a beech tree and used to scribbling presumptuously under an immature laurel tree...fervent in toil, but not happy with the results; a lover of letters but not fully versed in them; an adherent of no sect but very eager for truth; and because I am a clumsy searcher, often, out of self-distrust, I flee error and fall into doubt, which I hold in lieu of truth...Thus I have finally joined that humble band that knows nothing, holds nothing certain, doubts everything – outside of the things that it is sacrilege to doubt.”*

- Petrarch