

Ethics of Renaissance

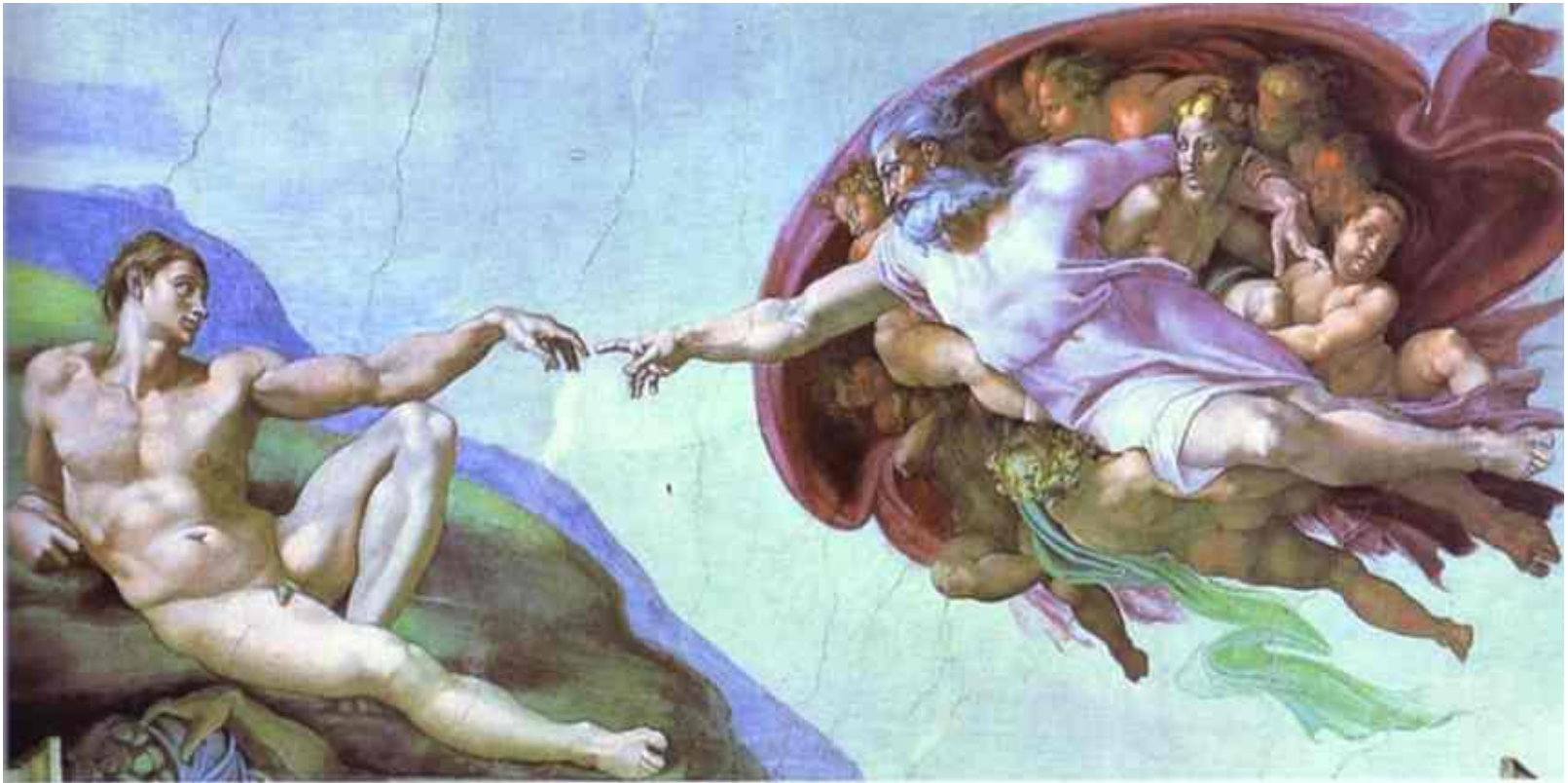
Ethics of Renaissance

- Birth of humanism
- A greatness of a human being
- Ethics of middle ages is reviewed
- Do not obey, but be virtues
- Ancient values: power and cult of body
- Equality of people
- How Christian values can be exercised in reality? (N. Machiavelli)
- A certain crisis of religion

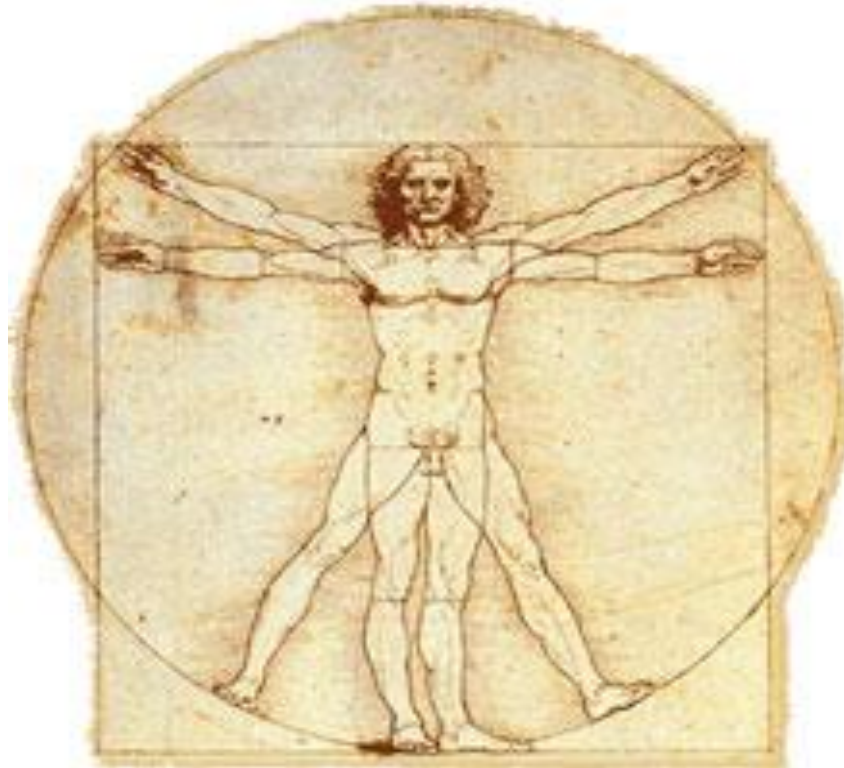
Ethics of Renaissance: humanism

- Even if the masters used the Biblical motives, they put a human nature in it.
- Art: human flesh captured attention, even in Biblical paintings.
- Yet, humanism has paradoxical features: triumph and illusion at once.
- Humanism worships a godless human mind: science, empirics, intellect.

HUMANISM AND RENAISSANCE: Biblical motives



HUMANISM AND RENAISSANCE: an interest to a human being



HUMANISM AND RENAISSANCE: new culture

Back to the classics

**Renaissance XV-XVI
century (Leonardo,
Michelangelo)**

**A new birth of culture
and arts (after
Medieval Times)**



Giordano Bruno – burned alive

Thomas More – decapitated

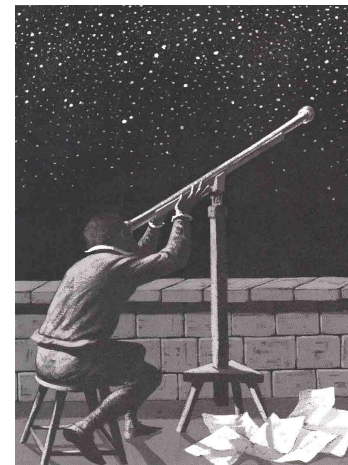
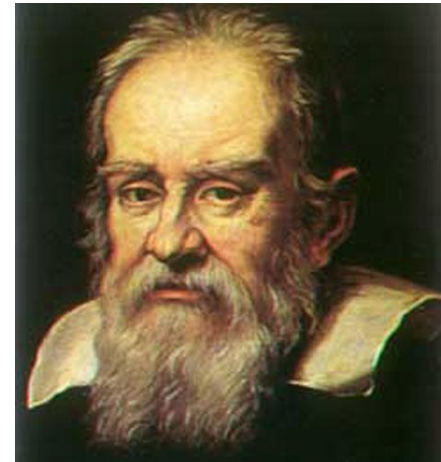


HUMANISM AND RENAISSANCE

- A **direct relationship with the classics** (in polemics with Medieval interpretations)
- The **centrality of Man** though God is still fundamental
- A new interest in the **study of nature**
- The relationship between **morality and politics** (Machiavelli, Bodin)

HUMANISM AND RENAISSANCE: science

- From a closed world to the infinite space:
Copernicus (1543) the Earth is rotating around the Sun, **Bacon** (1561-1626) and the concept of experiment, **Galilei** (1564-1642) the telescope and the infinite universe.
- But also the **Inquisition**



Protestant reform: a crisis of church

(Luther, Calvin)



MARTIN LUTHER AND THE PROTESTANT REFORM

1517 Luther posted a sheet of theses for discussion on the University's chapel door □ *Ninety-Five Theses*

A devastating critique of the church's sale of *indulgences*

ERASMUS MUNDUS (1469-1536)

- 1) **Positive**: Folly is **necessary for human life**: it generates friendships, combines weddings, give birth □ men are moved by passions more than rational reasoning
- 2) **Negative**: the folly of **conventions** and appearances (social role) VS the salvation of the soul
- 3) **Positive**: the highest level of folly □ **belief and faith**

Thomas More (1478-1535)

1529 Chancellor of England

1535 Decapitated because he refused to recognize the divorce between Henry VIII and Catherina of Aragon and the “act of supremacy” declaring the King as the head of the English Church;

“UTOPIA”: a place where everyone is happy

HUMANISM

- Francesco Petrarch : A romantic love and poetry;
- N. Machiavelli: politics and ethics;
- M. Montaigne and B. Pascal: the happy way