

# Ethics of Renaissance

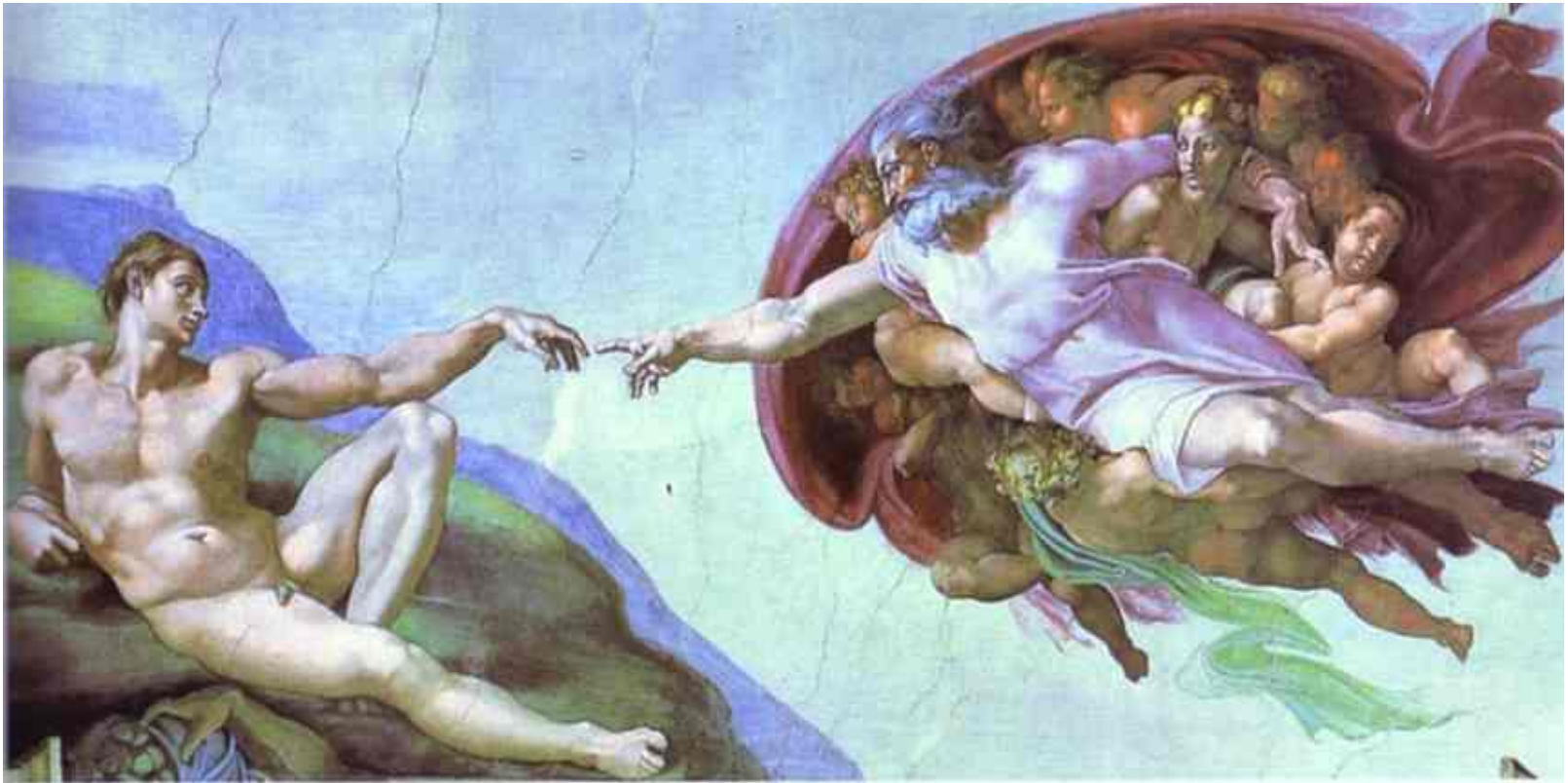
# Ethics of Renaissance

- 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

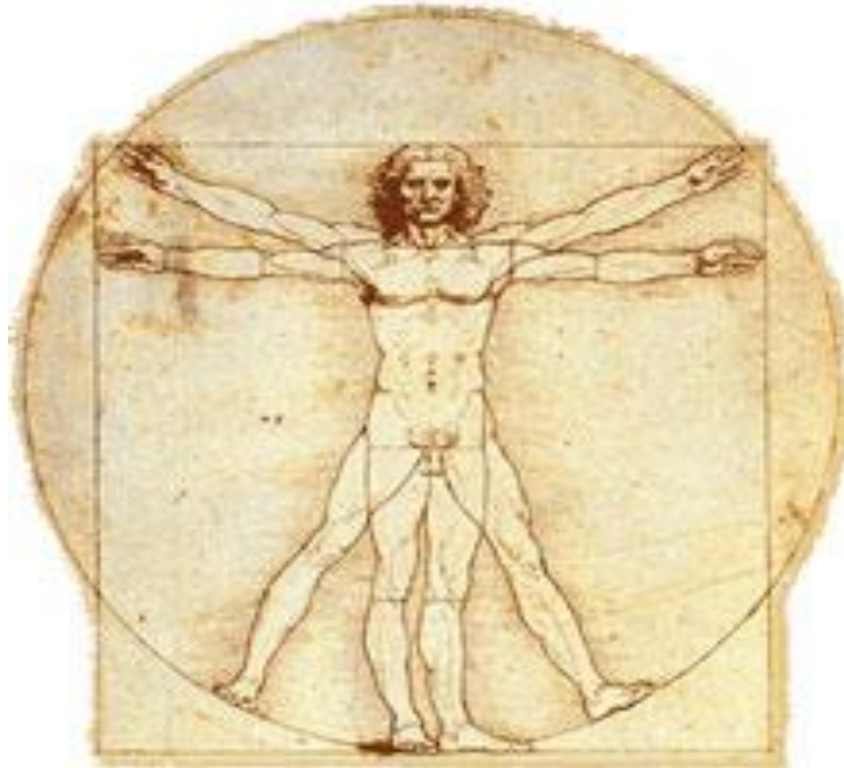
# Ethics of Renaissance: humanism

- 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



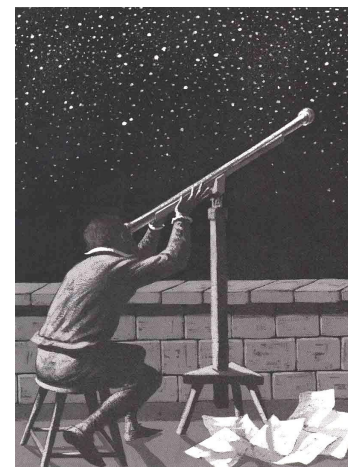
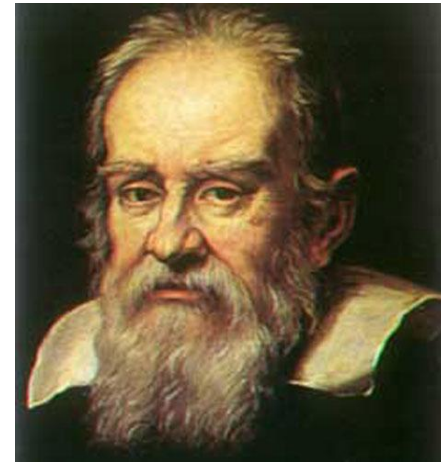
# HUMANISM AND RENAISSANCE

- 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)



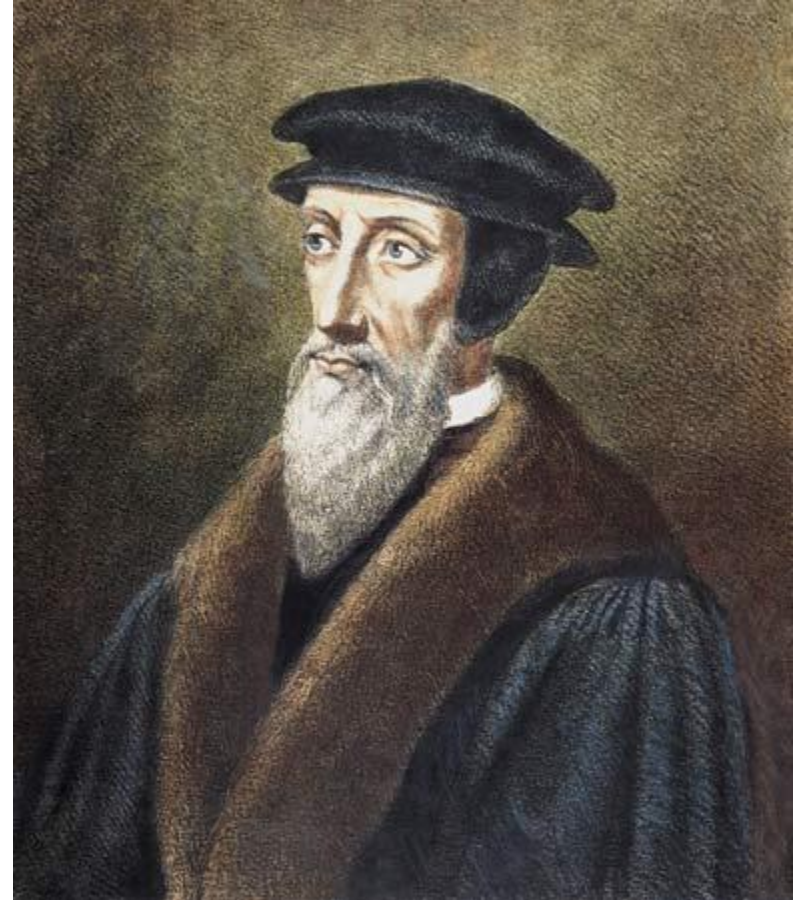
# HUMANISM AND RENAISSANCE: science

- 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