To Each His Own By Leonardo Sciascia

To Each His Own By Leonardo Sciascia To Each His Own by Leonardo Sciascia To Each His Own by Leonardo Sciascia is a compelling exploration of individual morality, societal justice, and the complex interplay between personal conscience and collective norms. As one of Italy's most influential writers and intellectuals, Sciascia's work often delves into the intricacies of human nature and the political landscapes that shape our lives. This particular phrase, "to each his own," encapsulates a philosophical stance that emphasizes respect for individual choices and the recognition that moral ambiguity often characterizes human actions. In this article, we will analyze the themes, context, and significance of Sciascia's piece, examining how it reflects broader societal concerns and philosophical debates. --- Contextual Background of Leonardo Sciascia's Work The Literary and Political Environment of Sciascia's Time Leonardo Sciascia (1921–1989) was an Italian novelist, essayist, and politician whose work was deeply rooted in the socio-political fabric of post-World War II Italy. The country was grappling with issues of corruption, organized crime, and political instability, which heavily influenced Sciascia's themes. Sciascia's Philosophical Perspective Sciascia believed in the importance of moral integrity and often questioned the efficacy of the legal system and political institutions. His writings reflect a skepticism of authority and a nuanced understanding of morality, emphasizing that human actions cannot be easily categorized as simply good or evil. --- The Meaning of "To Each His Own" Philosophical Foundations The phrase "to each his own" suggests a recognition of individual differences and the acceptance that morality can be subjective. It often implies a tolerant attitude but also raises questions about moral relativism. Moral Relativism Versus Moral Absolutism - Moral Relativism: The belief that moral judgments are valid only relative to specific cultural, societal, or personal contexts. - Moral Absolutism: The stance that certain actions are intrinsically right or wrong, regardless of context. Sciascia's use of the phrase invites reflection on where the line should be drawn between respecting individual choices and maintaining social justice. --- Key Themes in "To Each His Own" by Leonardo Sciascia Justice and Injustice Sciascia often explores how justice is administered and how it can be compromised by corruption and complicity. The phrase underscores the tension between individual moral judgment and societal laws. Morality and Human Complexity The work acknowledges that humans are complex beings capable of both good and evil. It challenges black-and-white thinking, urging readers to appreciate the shades of gray in human morality. The Role of the State and Authority Sciascia scrutinizes the authority figures and institutions that wield power, questioning their moral authority and the legitimacy of their decisions. Personal Conscience and Social Responsibility The narrative emphasizes the importance of personal conscience, suggesting that individuals must often navigate difficult moral landscapes where societal

norms may conflict with personal 2 integrity. --- Analysis of Sciascia's Approach to Morality Embracing Ambiguity Sciascia's writings demonstrate that moral ambiguity is an inherent aspect of human existence. By advocating "to each his own," he emphasizes tolerance but also warns against moral indifference. The Danger of Moral Relativism Although respecting individual choices is vital. Sciascia cautions against unchecked moral relativism, which can undermine social cohesion and justice. Ethical Dilemmas in Society The author illustrates that moral dilemmas are often complex, requiring nuanced judgment rather than simplistic moral labels. --- Literary Techniques Used by Sciascia Narrative Style Sciascia employs a straightforward, almost journalistic style that enhances the realism of his stories and underscores the gravity of moral questions. Symbolism and Allegory He often uses symbols and allegories to deepen the thematic resonance, such as the figure of the outsider or the morally ambiguous protagonist. Use of Real-Life Cases Sciascia frequently draws upon actual criminal and political cases to ground his reflections in reality, lending authenticity to his moral inquiries. --- Notable Works Related to the Theme "The Day of the Owl" (Il giorno della civetta) This novel examines organized crime in Sicily and explores themes of complicity and moral compromise. "Equal Danger" (Il contesto) A political thriller that questions the nature of justice and individual morality within corrupt institutions. "The Council of Egypt" (Il consiglio d'Egitto) A collection of essays contemplating the moral responsibilities of individuals within society. ---The Significance of the Phrase in Sciascia's Philosophy Embracing Moral Pluralism Sciascia's invocation of "to each his own" promotes a form of moral pluralism, recognizing diverse perspectives while maintaining a critical stance on societal injustices. Encouraging Personal Responsibility He advocates for individuals to act according to their consciences, especially in environments where legal or institutional morality is compromised. Balancing Tolerance and Justice The phrase encapsulates the delicate balance between tolerating individual differences and upholding justice and social order. --- Contemporary Relevance of Sciascia's Ideas Modern Moral and Ethical Challenges In an increasingly interconnected world, debates over cultural relativism, human rights, and moral responsibility echo Sciascia's themes. The Role of Critical Thinking Sciascia's work encourages critical reflection on authority, morality, and the complexity of human actions, which remains relevant today. Navigating Moral Gray Areas Understanding that moral decisions are often complex helps foster empathy and nuanced discourse, aligning with Sciascia's philosophy. --- Conclusion Reflection on "To Each His Own" by Leonardo Sciascia Leonardo Sciascia's "To Each His Own" is more than a mere phrase; it is a profound philosophical stance that invites us to consider the multifaceted nature of morality, justice, and human responsibility. Through his incisive storytelling, Sciascia challenges readers to look beyond black -and -white notions of right and wrong and to recognize the shades of gray that define real human experience. His work remains a vital contribution to ethical discourse, urging us to respect individual conscience while remaining vigilant against the dangers of 3 moral complacency. In a world often divided by rigid moral judgments, Sciascia's message advocates for understanding, tolerance, and ethical complexity—principles that continue to resonate in contemporary society. Question Answer What is the main theme of 'To Each His Own' by Leonardo Sciascia? The novel explores themes of justice, morality, and individual integrity within the

context of Sicilian society and its complex social dynamics. How does Leonardo Sciascia portray Sicilian society in 'To Each His Own'? Sciascia depicts Sicilian society as deeply rooted in tradition, corruption, and moral ambiguity, highlighting the challenges of upholding justice in such an environment. What is the significance of the title 'To Each His Own' in the novel? The title reflects the novel's exploration of the idea that everyone has their own sense of justice and morality, often leading to conflicting interpretations and actions. Who are the main characters in 'To Each His Own' and what roles do they play? The novel centers around a Sicilian judge and other local figures, each representing different facets of justice, morality, and societal expectations, illustrating the complexity of moral decision-making. How does Leonardo Sciascia's writing style influence the tone of 'To Each His Own'? Sciascia's concise, incisive prose and use of irony create a tone that is both critical and contemplative, emphasizing the moral ambiguities faced by his characters. What relevance does 'To Each His Own' have in contemporary discussions about justice and morality? The novel remains relevant as it prompts reflection on the relativity of justice, the influence of societal and cultural contexts, and the individual's role in moral decision-making. Has 'To Each His Own' been adapted into other media or inspired other works? While there are no widely known direct adaptations, the themes and narrative style of Sciascia's work have influenced various literary and cinematic discussions on justice and morality in Italian culture. To Each His Own by Leonardo Sciascia: An In-Depth Literary Analysis Leonardo Sciascia's To Each His Own (originally A ciascuno il suo) stands as a quintessential example of mid-20th-century Italian literature, blending sharp social critique with profound philosophical inquiry. This novel, first published in 1966, is celebrated for its incisive exploration of justice, morality, and the complexities of human nature. As a cornerstone of Sciascia's oeuvre, To Each His Own offers readers a compelling narrative that challenges conventional notions of right and wrong, illuminating the often murky moral waters navigated by individuals caught in societal and personal conflicts. In this detailed guide, we will delve into the themes, characters, stylistic elements, and historical context of To Each His Own, providing a comprehensive understanding of why this work remains To Each His Own By Leonardo Sciascia 4 relevant and impactful today. --- Understanding the Title and Its Significance The phrase "To Each His Own" immediately signals a focus on individual justice, personal morality, and the subjective nature of truth. It suggests that every person has their own perspective, their own sense of justice, which may not always align with societal or legal standards. Sciascia's choice of title hints at the novel's core concern: how personal biases, societal pressures, and moral ambiguities influence human decisions. --- Historical and Cultural Context Post-War Italy and the Rise of Moral Ambiguity Published in 1966, To Each His Own emerges during a period of significant social and political upheaval in Italy. The post-World War II era was marked by rapid economic growth, political instability, and debates over justice and morality in a society grappling with its recent history. The Italian judiciary and political institutions faced scrutiny, and issues surrounding corruption, organized crime, and the abuse of power were increasingly in the public eye. Sciascia's work reflects this climate, emphasizing the difficulty of establishing objective truth amidst conflicting narratives and interests. The novel's themes resonate with Italy's broader struggles to reconcile justice with morality, making it both a

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product of its time and a timeless meditation on human nature. --- Plot Summary and Structure To Each His Own follows the story of a murder investigation in a small Sicilian town. The protagonist, a local magistrate named Sciascia himself, becomes embroiled in uncovering the truth behind a series of mysterious events. The narrative is characterized by its sparse prose, detailed character portrayals, and a focus on the moral dilemmas faced by those involved. The novel is divided into several key sections: - The Crime: An ambiguous murder case that raises more questions than answers. - The Investigation: The magistrate's efforts to uncover the truth, facing obstacles from societal pressures, local authorities, and personal biases. - The Reflection: An exploration of justice, morality, and the human condition, often through philosophical digressions. - The Resolution: An open-ended conclusion that leaves the reader contemplating the nature of truth and justice. --- Major Themes and Their Significance 1. Justice and Moral Ambiguity At the heart of To Each His Own is the question of what constitutes justice. Sciascia challenges the reader to consider whether justice is an absolute concept or a subjective construct shaped by individual perspectives. The novel illustrates that in many cases, justice is elusive, often compromised by corruption, prejudice, or personal interest. Key points: - The magistrate's pursuit of truth is hindered by societal complicity. - Moral decisions are often gray rather than black and white. - The narrative suggests that true justice may be an ideal rather than an achievable reality. 2. Power and Corruption Sciascia's portrayal of local authorities and societal institutions reveals widespread corruption and the influence of organized crime, particularly in Sicily. The novel depicts how power dynamics distort justice and complicate the pursuit of truth. Key points: - The complicity of officials hampers investigations. - Corruption is depicted as ingrained in societal structures. - The narrative underscores the difficulty of confronting entrenched power. 3. The Subjectivity of Truth Throughout the To Each His Own By Leonardo Sciascia 5 novel, Sciascia emphasizes that truth is often subjective, shaped by individual perceptions and societal narratives. The characters' interpretations of events are colored by personal biases, making objective truth difficult to ascertain. Key points: - Multiple perspectives challenge a singular truth. - The novel questions whether truth can ever be fully known. - The narrative invites readers to consider their own assumptions about justice. 4. Human Fallibility and Moral Complexity Sciascia's characters embody human flaws—prejudice, greed, fear, and moral compromise. The novel portrays how these flaws influence decisions and perceptions, complicating notions of morality. Key points: - Characters often act out of self-interest. - Moral ambiguity leads to tragic or unintended consequences. - The novel advocates for empathy and understanding amid complexity. --- Stylistic Elements and Literary Techniques To Each His Own is characterized by Sciascia's minimalist style, which employs concise, precise language to convey complex ideas. His narrative technique often involves: - Sparse prose that leaves room for interpretation, -Philosophical digressions that deepen thematic exploration. - Detailed character studies that reveal moral ambiguities. - Open-ended conclusions that provoke reflection. Sciascia also employs irony and satire to critique societal norms and institutions subtly. His use of allegory and symbolism enriches the narrative, encouraging readers to see beyond the literal events. --- Critical Reception and Legacy To Each His Own has been lauded for its incisive critique of Italian society and its exploration of universal themes. Critics have praised Sciascia's ability to blend literary craftsmanship with social commentary, making the novel both a compelling narrative and a valuable sociopolitical document. The novel's influence extends beyond Italy, inspiring discussions on justice, morality, and human rights worldwide. Its emphasis on moral ambiguity remains relevant in contemporary debates over law, ethics, and societal responsibility. --- Why Read To Each His Own Today? In an era where misinformation, corruption, and social divisions persist, Sciascia's To Each His Own offers timeless insights: - It challenges readers to question the narratives presented by authorities and media. - It underscores the importance of moral integrity amid societal pressures. - It illuminates the complex interplay between justice, power, and human fallibility. This novel encourages a nuanced understanding of morality, emphasizing empathy and critical thinking—qualities essential for navigating our complex world. --- Final Thoughts: The Enduring Relevance of Sciascia's Work Leonardo Sciascia's To Each His Own remains a vital work for its unflinching examination of human morality and societal injustice. Its layered narrative invites readers to reflect on their own perceptions of truth and justice, making it a timeless piece of literature. For students, scholars, and casual readers alike, this novel offers a profound meditation on the moral dilemmas that define human existence. Its enduring relevance underscores the importance of questioning, understanding, and empathizing—values at the core of Sciascia's literary legacy. --- In summary, To Each His Own by Leonardo Sciascia is not just a detective story: it is a philosophical inquiry into the nature of justice and morality. Its To Each His Own By Leonardo Sciascia 6 sparse yet powerful prose, combined with its thematic depth, makes it a compelling read that continues to resonate across generations. Whether approached as a work of fiction or a mirror to society's moral struggles, Sciascia's

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leonardo s choice genetic technologies and animals is an edited collection of twelve essays and one dialogue focusing on the profound affect the use of animals in biotechnology is having on both humans and other species communicating crucial understandings of the integrated nature of the human and non human world these essays unlike the majority of discussions of biotechnology take seriously the impact of these technologies on animals themselves this collection s central questions revolve around the disassociation western ideas of creative freedom have from the impacts those ideas and practices have on the non human world this transdisciplinary collection includes perspectives from the disciplines of philosophy cultural theory art and literary theory history and theory of science environmental studies law landscape architecture history and geography included authors span three continents and four countries included essays contribute significantly to a growing scholarship surrounding the question of the animal emanating from philosophical cultural and activist discourses its authors are at the forefront of the growing number of theorists and practitioners across the disciplines concerned with the impact of new technologies on the more than human world

cutting through the veil of legend martin kemp offers an unparalleled portrait of this extraordinary man asking what made leonardo s work so astonishing and what vision drove his art and his invention this updated edition is the first book to include two newly discovered leonardo works the most important discoveries in over a hundred years

leonardo da vinci 1452 1519 was one of the preeminent figures of the italian renaissance he was also one of the most paradoxical he spent an incredible amount of time writing notebooks perhaps even more time than he ever held a brush yet at the same time leonardo was renaissance culture s most fanatical critic of the word when leonardo criticized writing he criticized it as an expert on words when he was painting writing remained in the back of his brilliant mind in this book joost keizer argues that the comparison between word and image fueled leonardo s thought the paradoxes at the heart of leonardo s ideas and practice also defined some of renaissance culture s central assumptions about culture and nature that there is a look to script that painting offered a path out of culture and back to nature that the meaning of images emerged in comparison with words and that the difference between image making and writing also amounted to a difference in the experience of time

a wall street journal book of the year a spectator book of the year a truly intimate portrait of one of the greatest creators in human history this biography of leonardo da vinci has the pace elegance and authorial omnipresence of a novel bringing both artist and renaissance italy to life noah charney author of the art of forgery why did leonardo da vinci leave so many of his major works uncompleted why did this resolute pacifist build war machines for the notorious borgias why did he carry the mona lisa with him everywhere he went for decades yet never quite finish it why did he write backwards and was he really at war with michelangelo and was he gay in a book unlike anything ever written about the renaissance genius mike lankford explodes every clicha about da vinci and then reconstructs him based on a rich trove available evidence bringing to life for the modern reader the man who has been studied by scholars for centuries yet has remained as mysterious as ever seeking to envision da vinci without the obscuring residue of historical varnish the sights sounds smells and feel of renaissance italy usually missing in other biographies are all here transporting readers back to a world of war and plague and court intrigue of viciously competitive famous artists of murderous tyrants with exquisite tastes in art lankford brilliantly captures da vinci s life as the compelling and dangerous adventure it seems to have actually been fleeing from one sanctuary to the next somehow surviving in war zones beside his friend machiavelli struggling to make art his way or no way at all and often paying dearly for those decisions it is a thrilling and absorbing journey into the life of a ferociously dedicated loner whose artwork in one way or another represents his noble rebellion providing inspiration that is timeless

in this rich treasure trove of historical inspiration contemporary ideas and future oriented how to s valerie brown has brought together a lifetime of work synthesizing science participatory processes and action for sustainability a seasoned explorer she moves effortlessly between disciplines as she describes a comprehensive approach to tackling the great challenges of our time together because together is the only way they can be tackled read learn and act alan atkisson author believing cassandra and executive director earth charter international

inventor artist scientist leonardo da vinci s wide ranging inquisitiveness was the source of his greatest accomplishments and his lifelong financial difficulties he would get bored quickly and rarely finish his projects as an artist only seventeen of his finished works survive and yet they include two of the most famous paintings in the world the last supper and mona lisa his scientific studies of human anatomy were centuries ahead of their time and his designs for inventions such as mechanical flight foresaw technologies that would not be developed for hundreds of years leonardo s achievements make him more than just an important historical figure he was the ultimate renaissance man whose achievements inspire both artists and scientists more than 500 years after his death

amazing leonardo da vinci inventions you can build yourself introduces readers to the life world and incredible mind of leonardo da vinci through hands on building

projects that explore his invention ideas most of leonardo s inventions were never made in his lifetime they remained sketches in his famous notebooks amazing leonardo da vinci inventions you can build yourself shows you how to bring these ideas to life using common household supplies detailed step by step instructions diagrams and templates for creating each project combine with historical facts and anecdotes biographies and trivia about the real life models for each project together they give kids a first hand look into the amazing mind of one the world's greatest inventors

an epic quest exposes hidden truths about leonardo da vinci s salvator mundi the recently discovered masterpiece that sold for 450 million and might not be the real thing in 2017 leonardo da vinci s small oil painting the salvator mundi was sold at auction in the words of its discoverer the image of christ as savior of the world is the rarest thing on the planet its 450 million sale price also makes it the world s most expensive painting for two centuries art dealers had searched in vain for the holy grail of art history a portrait of christ as the salvator mundi by leonardo da vinci many similar paintings of greatly varying quality had been executed by leonardo s assistants in the early sixteenth century but where was the original by the master himself in november 2017 christie s auction house announced they had it but did they the last leonardo tells a thrilling tale of a spellbinding icon invested with the power to make or break the reputations of scholars billionaires kings and sheikhs ben lewis takes us to leonardo s studio in renaissance italy to the court of charles i and the english civil war to amsterdam moscow and new orleans to the galleries salerooms and restorer s workshop as the painting slowly painstakingly emerged from obscurity the vicissitudes of the highly secretive art market are charted across six centuries it is a twisting tale of geniuses and oligarchs double crossings and disappearances in which we re never quite certain what to believe above all it is an adventure story about the search for lost treasure and a quest for the truth praise for the last leonardo the story of the world s most expensive painting is narrated with great gusto and formidably researched detail in ben lewis s book lewis s probings of the salvator s backstory raise questions about its historical status and visibility and these lead in turn to the fundamental question of whether the painting is really an autograph work by leonardo charles nicholl the guardian as the art historian and critic ben lewis shows in his fo

now updated a comprehensive 500 year history of technology in society historian thomas j misa s sweeping history of the relationship between technology and society over the past 500 years reveals how technological innovations have shaped and have been shaped by the cultures in which they arose spanning the preindustrial past the age of scientific political and industrial revolutions as well as the more recent eras of imperialism modernism and global security this compelling work evaluates what misa calls the question of technology in this edition misa brings his acclaimed text up to date by drawing on current scholarship while retaining sharply drawn portraits

of individual people artifacts and systems each chapter has been honed to relate to contemporary concerns globalization misa argues looks differently considering today s virulent nationalism cultural chauvinism and trade wars a new chapter focuses on the digital age from 1990 to 2016 the book also examines how today s unsustainable energy systems insecure information networks and vulnerable global shipping have helped foster geopolitical risks and instability and takes a look at the coronavirus pandemic from the perspective of wuhan china s high tech district a masterful analysis of how technology and culture have influenced each other over five centuries leonardo to the internet frames a history that illuminates modern day problems and prospects faced by our technology dependent world

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payne has the gift as does john keegan of using prose to elevate facts figures dates and events into the realms of the dramatic book reviewer based on entirely fresh primary research leonardo presents important new information and perspectives on one of the most interesting men and greatest geniuses of all time the following are only a few of the new and controversial findings offered by payne in this highly readable book the portrait of a bearded man universally accepted as a self portrait is actually a drawing of leonardo s father the subject of the mona lisa was not the wife of a merchant but the duchess of milan among the illustrations in the book are two earlier seldom seen mona lisas leonardo was not the son of a peasant woman as it is generally thought he was but of a high born woman payne paints an extraordinarily convincing picture of leonardo not only as a giant of his age but also as a man human real simple and natural besides dispelling many myths about him the author places his subject realistically in his own time the summit of the italian renaissance with its wars and sudden upheavals its unsurpassed artists and architects its ambitious and often warring princes leonardo is a meticulously accurate book and it reads like a swiftly paced novel

using the inspiration of leonardo da vinci to build a new humanistic computing that focuses on users needs and goals

this exceptionally readable and down to earth handbook is destined to become the definitive guide to psychobiographical research the application of psychological theory and research to individual lives of historical importance it brings together for the first time the world's leading psychobiographers writing lucidly on many of the major figures of our age from osama bin laden to elvis presley the first section of the book addresses the subject of how to construct an effective psychobiography editor william todd schultz introduces the field provides valuable definitions of good and bad psychobiography discusses an optimal structure for biographical data dan meadams explores the question of what psychobiographers might learn from current research in personality psychology alan elms delivers wise advice on the tricky subject of theory choice in psychobiography william runyan asks why van gogh cut off his ear and in the process explains how one evaluates competing interpretations

of the same event in a subject s life and kate isaacson describes a template for use in multiple case psychobiography never before has method in psychobiography been so clearly and explicitly addressed those just getting started in the field will find in section one a detailed roadmap for success the remaining sections of the book are composed of richly engaging case studies of famous artists psychologists and politicians they address compelling questions such as what are the subjective origins of photographer diane arbus s obsession with freaks in what ways did the early loss of sylvia plath s father affect her poetry and presage her suicide out of what painful life experience did james barrie drive himself to invent peter pan why did elvis experience such difficulty singing the song are you lonesome tonight what accounts for bin laden s radicalism kim jong il s paranoia george w bush s conflict with identity why did freud go so disastrously astray in his analysis of leonardo what made psychologist gordon allport s meeting with freud so pungently significant how did the loss of his father determine major elements of nietzsche s philosophy these questions and many more get answered often in surprising and incisive fashion additional chapters take up the lives of harvard operationist s s stevens erik erikson edith wharton saddam hussein truman capote kathryn harrison jack kerouac and others within each case study tips are proffered along the way as to how psychobiography can be done more cogently more intelligently and more valuably

revered today as perhaps the greatest of renaissance painters leonardo da vinci was a scientist at heart the artist who created the mona lisa also designed functioning robots and digital computers constructed flying machines and built the first heart valve his intuitive and ingenious approach a new mode of thinking linked highly diverse areas of inquiry in startling new ways and ushered in a new era in leonardo s legacy award winning science journalist stefan klein deciphers the forgotten legacy of this universal genius and persuasively demonstrates that today we have much to learn from leonardo s way of thinking klein sheds light on the mystery behind leonardo s paintings takes us through the many facets of his fascination with water and explains the true significance of his dream of flying it is a unique glimpse into the complex and brilliant mind of this inventor scientist and pioneer of a new world view with profound consequences for our times

meanwhile r a 20th century historian writing a novel about leonardo meditates upon the same question in the midst of an apocalyptic traffic jam as military helicopters fill the air with tear gas aids demonstrators run amok and a hospital evacuates its patients onto a nearby sidewalk

discusses the life of leonardo da vinci and describes his unique style of art

churches and their leaders have innovation fever innovation seems exciting a way to enliven tired institutions embrace creativity and be proactive and is a superstar of the business world but this focus on innovation may be caused by an obsession with contemporary relevance creativity and entrepreneurship that inflates the self lacks

theological depth and promises burnout in this follow up to churches and the crisis of decline leading practical theologian andrew root delves into the problems of innovation he explores where innovation and entrepreneurship came from shows how they break into church circles and counters the new imaginations like neoliberalism and technology that hold the church captive to modernity root reveals the moral visions of the self that innovation and entrepreneurship deliver they are dependent on workers and consumers being obsessed with their selves which leads to significant faith formation issues this focus on innovation also causes us to think we need to be singularly unique instead of made alive in christ root offers a return to mysticism and the poetry of meister eckhart as a healthier spiritual alternative

leonardo da vinci s elements of the science of man describes how da vinci integrates his mechanical observations and experiments in mechanics into underlying principles this book is composed of 17 chapters that highlight the principles underlying da vinci s research in anatomical studies considerable chapters deal with leonardo s scientific methods and the mathematics of his pyramidal law as well as his observations on the human and animal movements other chapters describe the artist s anatomical approach to the mechanism of the human body specifically the physiology of vision voice music senses soul and the nervous system the remaining chapters examine the mechanism of the bones joints respiration heart digestion and urinary and reproductive systems

inverting rules with obvious relish florentine artist piero di cosimo 1462 1522 is known today as he was in his own time for his highly personal visual language one capable of generating images of the most mesmerizing oddity in this book dennis geronimus overcomes the scarcity of information about the artist s life and works only one of the nearly sixty known works by piero is actually signed and dated and pieces together from extensive archival research the most complete and accurate account of piero s life and career ever written unfettered imagination was the sign under which piero exercised his pictorial invention and yet the complicated artist was also a product of his culture the book fills gaps in the artist s biography and provides intensive analysis of piero s protean imagery discusses his various patrons and commissions and lists his extant lost and uncertainly attributed works

stephen jay gould s writing remains the modern standard by which popular science writing is judged ever since the last 1970s his monthly essay in natural history and his full length books have bridged the yawning gap between science and the wider culture this fascinating new collection of essays contains some of gould s best writing on a variety of subjects ranging from leonardo da vinci and martin luther to fossils and the history of science as always these essays brilliantly display his gift for colloquial and vivid explanation and include fascinating oddities from the natural world and the printed word

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