

THE BOOK OF NATURE - QUOTES

“Help Nature and work on with her; and Nature will regard thee as one of her creators and make obeisance. And she will open wide before thee the portals of her secret chambers; lay bare before thy gaze the treasures hidden in the very depths of her pure virgin bosom. Unsullied by the hand of Matter, she shows her treasures only to the eye of the Spirit – the eye which never closes, the eye for which there is no veil in all her kingdoms.”

“Thou hast to saturate thyself with pure Alaya, become as one with Nature’s Soul Thought. At one with it thou art invincible; in separation thou becomest the playground of Samvritti, origins of all the world’s delusions.”

- The Voice Of The Silence

“To see the World in a Grain of Sand
And a Heaven in a Wild Flower,
Hold Infinity in the palm of your Hand,
And Eternity in an Hour.”

- William Blake

“What is this life if full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.
No time to stand beneath the boughs
And stare as long as sheep or cows

-W.H. Davies

“My book is the world of all created things; and whenever I wish to read the words of God in it, it lies open before me.”

- St Anthony

“We must seek for knowledge where we may expect to find it. He who wants to study the Book of Nature must wander with his feet over the leaves. Every part of the world represents a page in this book, and all the pages together form the book that contains her great revelations.”

- Paracelsus

“Sweet are the uses of Adversity
Which like the toad, ugly and venomous
Bears yet a precious jewel in his head:
And thus our life, exempt from public haunt,
Finds tongues in the trees, books in the running brooks,
Sermons in stones, and good in everything.”

- “As You Like It” Act V Sc 1 -
William Shakespeare

“The trinity of Nature is the lock; the trinity of Man is the key.”

“As above, so below: Man is the Microcosm of the Macrocosm.”

- Hermes Trismegistus

BOOK OF NATURE QUOTES

‘The world is the world’s signature. Signature is a term taken from the tradition of nature mysticism, referring to hidden correspondences between different realms of nature, for example the inner and the outer.’

‘As all things are and originate in the One, by mediation of the One, so all things are born of this unique Thing by adaptation (or God).

-Hermes Trismegistus

‘Nature is the greatest teacher. Nature is the ultimate muse, as well as a bridge to the spiritual.’

‘Nature is so much more powerful than us, so we should collaborate with it.’

‘A subtle chain of countless rings
The next unto the farthest brings;
The eye reads omens where it goes
And speaks all languages the rose;
And, striving to be man the worm
Mounts through all the spires of form.’

- Ralph Waldo Emerson on Nature

‘The stars awaken a certain reverence, because though always present, they are inaccessible; but all natural objects make a kindred impression, when the mind is open to their influence.[...] The wisest man never extorts her secret or loses his curiosity by finding out all her perfection. Nature never became a toy to a wise spirit. The flowers, the animals, the mountains, reflected the wisdom of his best hour, as much as they had delighted the simplicity of his childhood.[...].

-Chapter 1 from Nature by Ralph Waldo Emerson

‘Nature and morality should go together; i.e. the world of morality should have an effect and influence on the world of nature.’

-Emmanuel Kant (P.G.)

‘There must be a ground of the unity of the supersensible that grounds nature.’

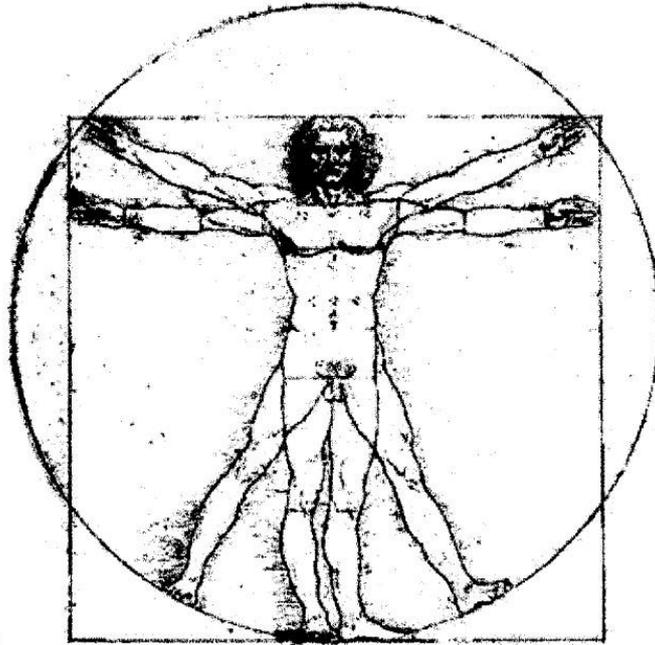
- Kant

‘The infinite power of Providence, being comprehensive of all the powers of the natures, which are the subjects of its providential energies, generates as well as contains them according to the most profound union in the infinite depths of Itself, just as it imparts to all things a union commensurate to each.’

- Proclus

Leonardo's Vitruvian Man

"We know very little about Leonardo's apprenticeship in Verrocchio's workshop, but the short account provided by Vasari confirms that it included architectural and technological design, according to a concept that was being revived on the model of Vitruvius, as repropoed by Alberti" (Pedretti 14). Having had access to Alberti's and Vitruvius' treatises, it is no surprise that Leonardo produced his own version of the Vitruvian man in his notebooks.



This rendering of the Vitruvian Man, completed in 1490, is fundamentally different than others in two ways: The circle and square image overlaid on top of each other to form one image. A key adjustment was made that others had not done and thus were forced to make disproportionate appendages:

"Leonardo's famous drawings of the Vitruvian proportions of a man's body first standing inscribed in a square and then with feet and arms outspread inscribed in a circle provides an excellent early example of the way in which his studies of proportion fuse artistic and scientific objectives. It is Leonardo, not Vitruvius, who points out that 'If you open the legs so as to reduce the stature by one-fourteenth and open and raise your arms so that your middle fingers touch the line through the top of the head, know that the centre of the extremities of the outspread limbs will be the umbilicus, and the space between the legs will make an equilateral triangle' (Accademia, Venice). Here he provides one of his simplest illustrations of a shifting 'centre of magnitude' without a corresponding change of 'centre of normal gravity'. This remains passing through the central line from the pit of the throat through the umbilicus and pubis between the legs. Leonardo repeatedly distinguishes these two different 'centres' of a body, i.e., the centers of 'magnitude' and 'gravity' (Keele 252)."

This image provides the perfect example of Leonardo's keen interest in proportion. In addition, this picture represents a cornerstone of Leonardo's attempts to relate man to nature. Encyclopaedia Britannica online states, "Leonardo envisaged the great picture chart of the human body he had produced through his anatomical drawings and Vitruvian Man as a *cosmografia del minor mondo* (cosmography of the microcosm). He believed the workings of the human body to be an analogy for the workings of the universe."