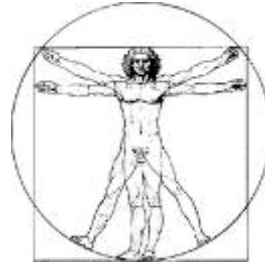


The Prison of Vitruvian Man



Leonardo Da Vinci's diagram of the perfect man encompassed by geometrical shapes is one of the defining examples of humanities journey from worshipping God to replacing its pre-eminence with that of the human being (in this case man). Man, instead of God, becomes the idol of worship. He becomes the statement and Being of perfection. He is Christ like in appearance with outstretched arms, long wavy hair and painful expression, suggesting that Man is the son of *Man only* and not, as previously believed, an imperfect reflection of Christ, who alone is the son of God. This figure of man as central importance has been used within science and art ever since in so many ways. It is used in countless science charts to map the various elements of the human body and within art to convey many messages, fashions and poses. The figure of the perfect man has become the mannequin upon which all humanities theories, ideas, truths and fads have been hung.

It is a signifier of the shift from religion to humanism during the Renaissance of which Da Vinci is considered a central figure. The human being becomes of central importance rather than a periphery of an omnipotent God's eternal plan. This shift places the fate of humanity firmly within its own evolutionary determinism. The metaphysical plan that guides humanism's future can be mapped out in this one single diagram – the Perfection of the Human Being. For since the Renaissance, every politic, every development and every thought has placed humanity at the centre of all things. And yet humanity now finds itself captured by its own sense of perfection. Just as Vitruvian man is encompassed and trapped by the geometrical shapes of the

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circle and square, so is modern humanity enslaved to its self-referential theories and ideas. The complex human being is forced to adapt to the metaphysical ideal of human perfection - a two dimensional man (of Reason and Body, ignoring the emotional and spiritual realities) enveloped, even entrapped within his own rational constructions. Man has created his own prison here on Earth. As the human body and its ideas become centrally important and nothing else exists let alone matters, we become slaves to our own conception as to what life is and should be; humanities self-guided evolution becomes humanities own prison.