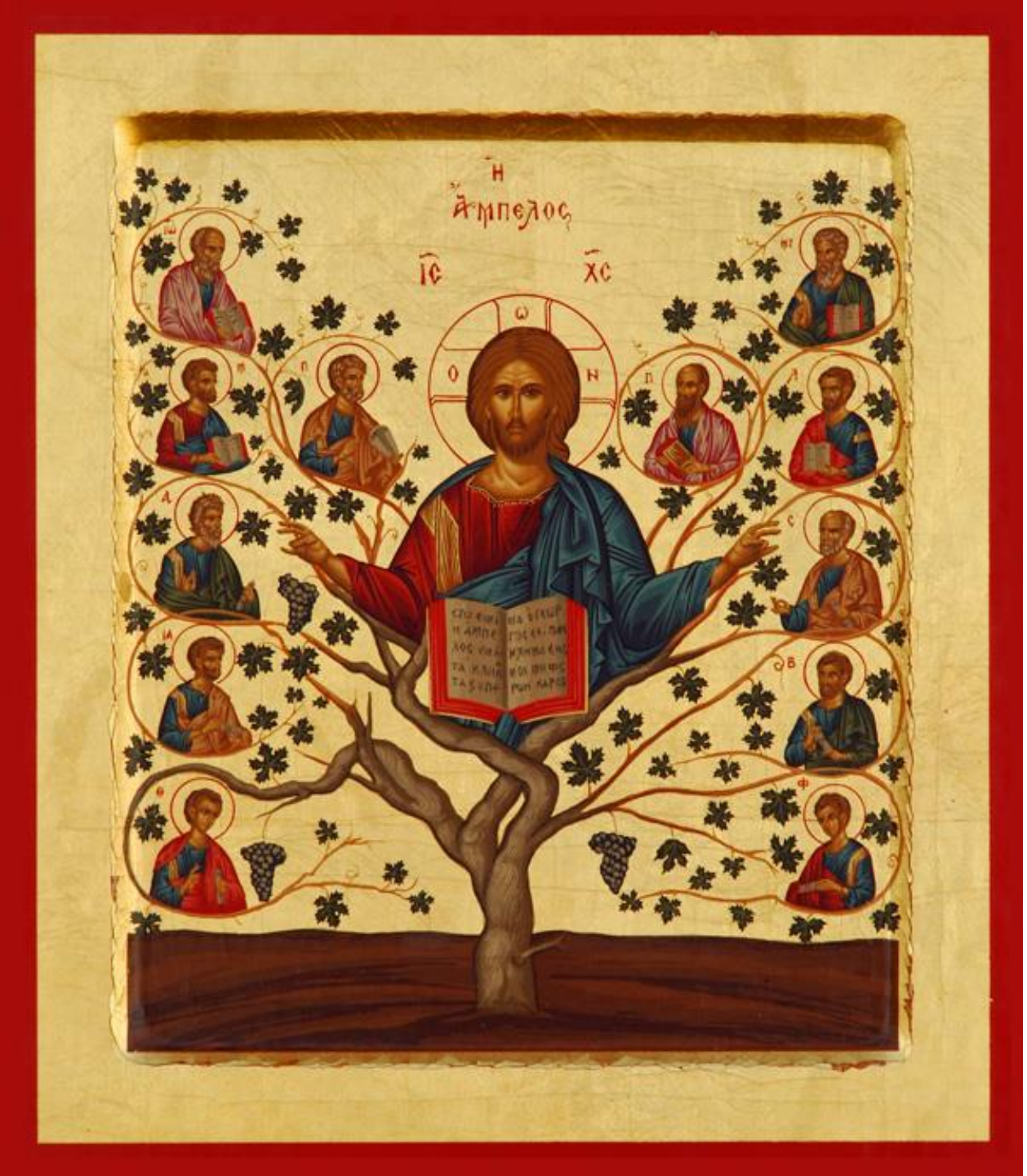


Fundamentals of Gnostic Art

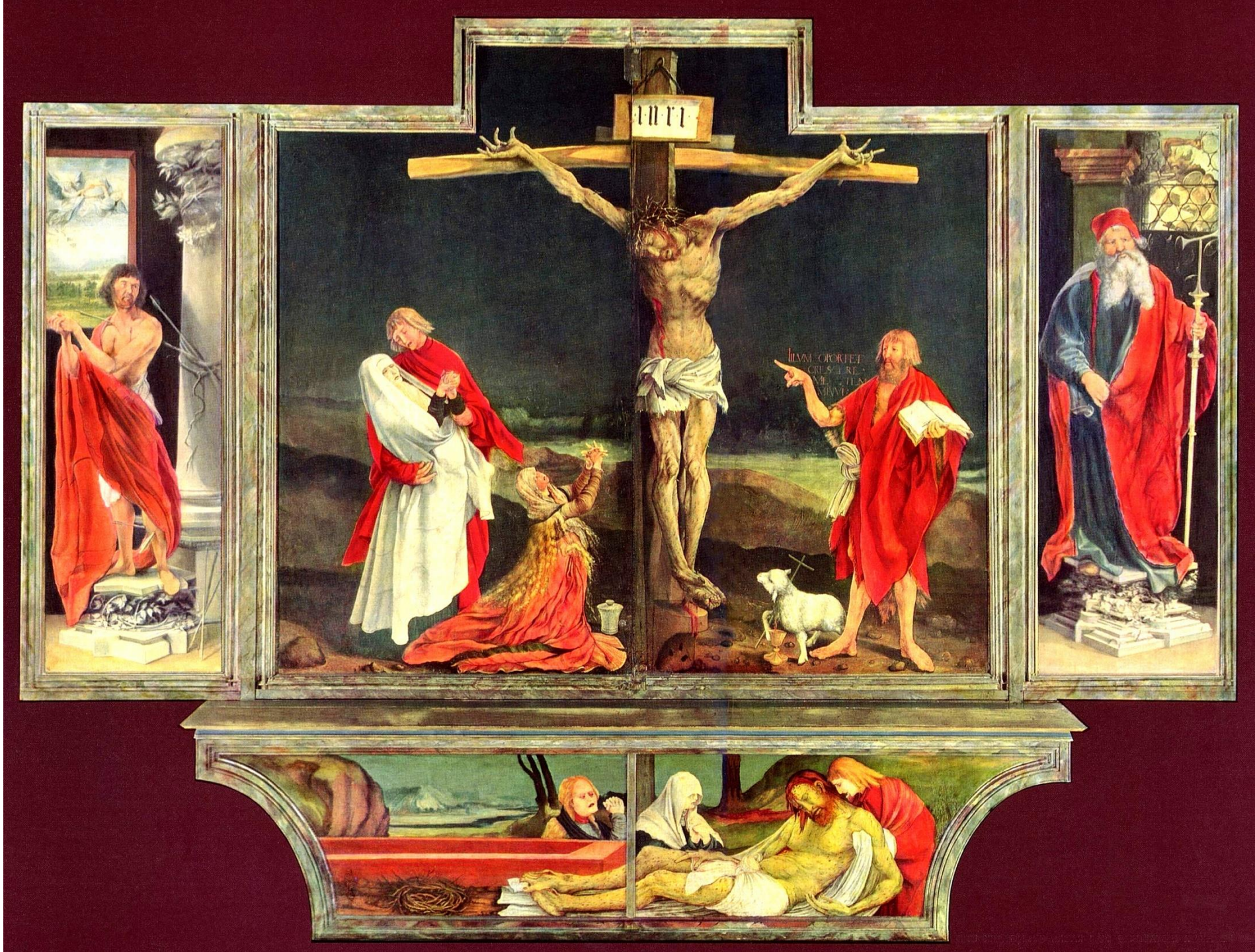
The Third Pillar of Gnostic Wisdom

chicago gnosis

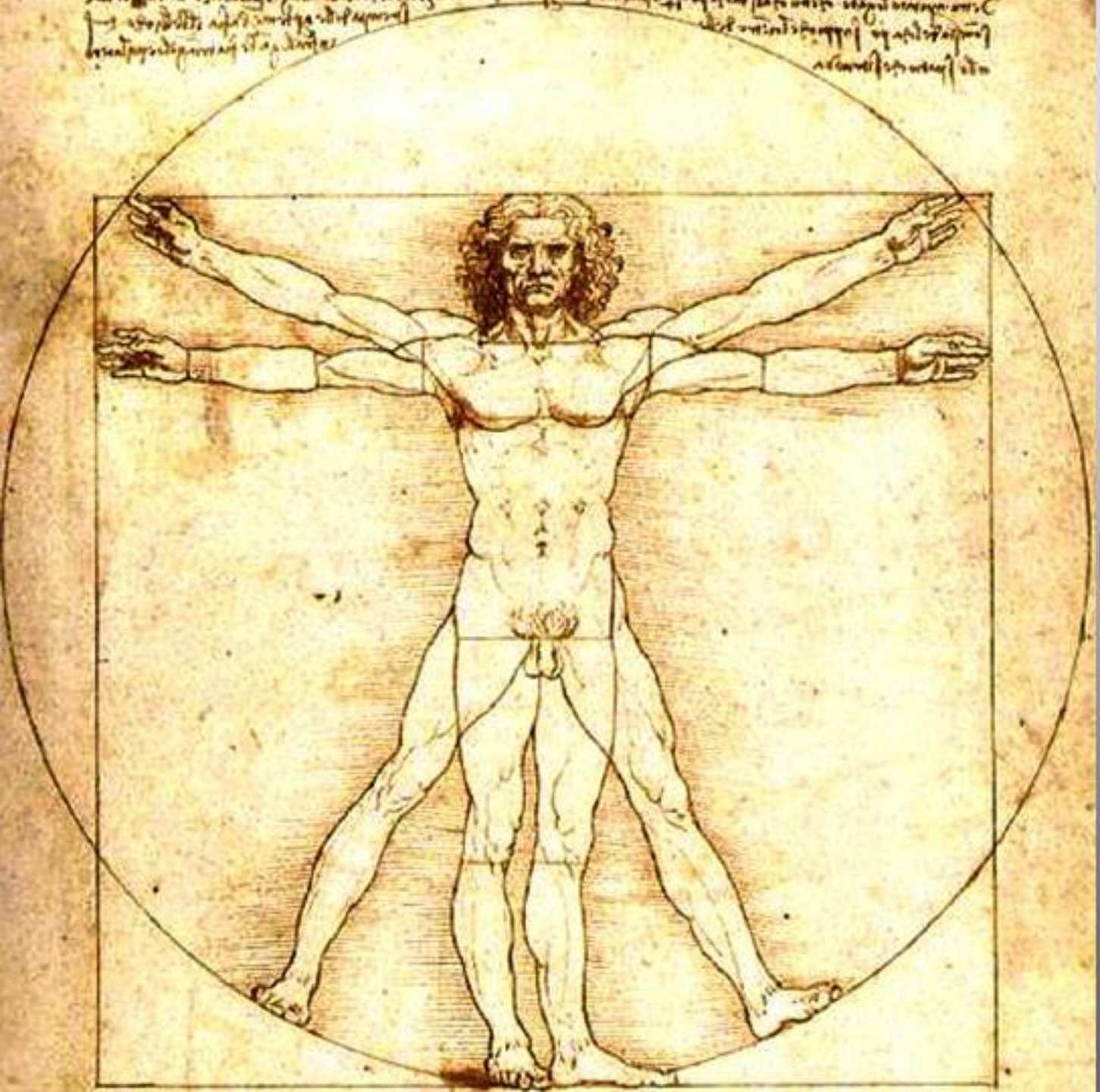
Art. Gk. *arti* "just," *artios* "complete, suitable," *artizein* "to prepare;" L. *artus* "joint;" Armenian *arnam* "make;" early 13c., "skill as a result of learning or practice," French, L. *artem* (nom. ars) "work of art; practical skill; a business, craft."

The ancients knew these powers so well, that, while concealing their true nature under various allegories, for the benefit (or to the detriment) of the uneducated rabble, they never departed from the multiple object in view, while inverting them. They contrived to throw a thick veil over the nucleus of truth concealed by the symbol, but they ever tried to preserve the latter as a record for future generations, sufficiently transparent to allow their wise men to discern that truth behind the fabulous form of the glyph or allegory. They are accused of superstition and credulity, those ancient sages; and this by those very nations, which, learned in all the modern arts and sciences, cultured and wise in their generation, accept to this day as their one living and infinite God, the anthropomorphic "Jehovah" of the Jews.

–H.P. Blavatsky, *The Secret Doctrine*, Volume I, iv. "The Four Elements"



THE PASSION OF CHRIST, ALESSANDRO BOTTICELLI, CIRCA 1500



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The Purpose of Music

In music it is well known that certain notes can produce happiness in the thinking (intellectual) center, other notes can produce sadness in the sensitive (emotional) center and other notes can produce religiosity in the motor center.

Indeed, the old Hierophants never ignored that integral knowledge can only be acquired through the three cerebrums. A single cerebrum cannot give complete information.

The sacred dance and the cosmic drama, wisely combined with music, served to transmit tremendous archaic teachings of a cosmogenetic, psychobiological, psychochemical, metaphysical type, etc., to the neophytes.

–Samael Aun Weor, *The Revolution of the Dialectic*

The Initiate loves great classical music and feels repugnance for the infernal music of vulgar people. Afro-Cuban music awakens the lowest animal instincts of the human being. The Initiate loves the music of the great composers.

—Samael Aun Weor, The Perfect Matrimony

We must comprehend the significance of music, happiness, and optimism.

One remains in ecstasy when listening to *The Magic Flute* of Mozart, which reminds us of an Egyptian Initiation.

One feels amazed when listening to the nine symphonies of Beethoven, or the ineffable melodies of Chopin and Liszt.

The ineffable music of the great classics comes from the exquisite regions of Nirvana where only happiness that is beyond love reigns.

All the great Children of the Fire distill the perfume of happiness and the exquisite fragrance of music and joy.

—Samael Aun Weor, *Igneous Rose*

The saffron is the plant of the apostolate.

The elemental population of the saffron is found to be intimately related with the apostolate.

The apostle is a martyr of the cosmic mind.

The mind of the authentic apostle is crucified.

The mind of the authentic apostle is intimately related with the elemental department of the saffron.

The mind of the arhat is intimately related with this elemental department of the saffron.

The apostle is a martyr.

Everyone in the world benefits from the works of the apostles. Everyone is the world reads their books [or listens to their music]. Everyone in the world pays the apostle with the coin of ingratitude because, according to popular concept, "the apostle has not the right to know."

However, all the great works of the world are due to the apostles.

The saffron is intimately related with the great apostles of art: Beethoven, Mozart, Berlioz, Wagner, Bach, etc.

The planet related to saffron is Venus, the star of love.

—Samael Aun Weor, *Igneous Rose*

Ludwig Van Beethoven

There is no loftier mission than to approach the Divinity nearer than other men, and to disseminate the divine rays among mankind.
—Letter to Archduke Rudolph, August 1823

Music is the one incorporeal entrance into the higher world of knowledge which comprehends mankind but which mankind cannot comprehend.
—Quoted by Bettina von Arnin, letter to Goethe, 1810

When I open my eyes I must sigh, for what I see is contrary to my religion, and I must despise the world which does not know that music is a higher revelation than all wisdom and philosophy.

—Quoted by Bettina von Arnin, letter to Goethe, 1810

Music is indeed the mediator between spiritual and sensual life.

He who understands my music can never know unhappiness again.

When religion becomes artificial, art has a duty to rescue it. Art can show that the symbols which religions would have us believe literally true are actually figurative. Art can idealize those symbols, and so reveal the profound truths they contain…

…I believe in God, Mozart and Beethoven, and likewise their disciples and apostles; —I believe in the Holy Spirit and the truth of the one, indivisible Art; —I believe that this Art proceeds from God, and lives within the hearts of all illumined men; —I believe that he who once has bathed in the sublime delights of this high Art, is consecrate to Her for ever, and never can deny Her;—I believe that through Art all men are saved.

—Richard Wagner

The tenebrous ones have stolen the theatre and the stage. They have miserably profaned it. They have totally prostituted it.

The Sabbath, the day of the theatre, the day of the mysteries, was very popular in the ancient temples. Marvelous cosmic dramas were then presented.

Drama served to transmit valuable teachings to the Initiates. Different ways to experience the Being and the manifestations of the Being were transmitted to the initiates by means of drama.

Among the dramas, the most ancient one is that of the Cosmic Christ. The Initiates knew very well that each of us must become the Christ of such a drama if we indeed aspire to the Kingdom of the Superman.

The cosmic dramas are based on the Law of Seven. Certain intelligent deviations of such a law were always utilized in order to transmit transcendental teachings to the neophyte.

–Samael Aun Weor, *The Revolution of the Dialectic*

In addition to this, it is suitable here to mention sculpture. The latter was grandiose in bygone times. The allegorical beings chiseled on hard rock reveal to us that the ancient Masters never ignored the Law of Seven.

Let us remember the Sphinx of Giza, in Egypt. The sphinx depicts for us the four elements of nature and the four basic conditions of the Superman.

–Samael Aun Weor,

The Revolution of the Dialectic

Michelangelo

Every block of stone has a statue inside it and it is the task of the sculptor to discover it.

I saw the angel in the marble and carved until I set him free.

The best artist has that thought alone which is contained within the marble shell; the sculptor's hand can only break the spell to free the figures slumbering in the stone.

If people knew how hard I worked to get my mastery, it wouldn't seem so wonderful at all.

The marble not yet carved can hold the form of every thought the greatest artist has.

My soul can find no staircase to Heaven unless it be through Earth's loveliness.

I live in sin, to kill myself I live; no longer my life my own, but sin's; my good is given to me by heaven, my evil by myself, by my free will, of which I am deprived.

Trifles make perfection, and perfection is no trifle.

Death and love are the two wings that bear the good man to heaven.

It is necessary to keep one's compass in one's eyes and not in the hand, for the hands execute, but the eye judges.

Lord, grant that I may always desire more than I can accomplish.

Pyramid of Kukulkán

The Pyramid at Chichén Itza

- Four sides contain 365 steps (depicting the solar year)
  - 52 panels (for each year in the Mayan century as well as each week in the solar year)
  - 18 terraces (for the 18 months in the religious year)
- Designed by astronomers, astrologers, and mathematicians
  - Maya and Toltec people worshipped Kukulkan, the feathered serpent or Quetzacoatl.
  - Snake of Light appears on the pyramid during the vernal and autumnal equinoxes, when day and night are in equilibrium

Sacred dances were authentic informative books which were deliberately transmitting certain transcendental cosmic teachings.

The Whirling Dervishes do not ignore the mutually equilibrated seven temptations of living organisms.

The ancient dancers knew the seven independent parts of the body and knew very well what the seven different lines of movement are. The sacred dancers knew very well that each of the seven lines of movement possesses seven points of dynamic concentration.

The dancers of Babylon, Greece, and Egypt did not ignore that all of this crystallized in the whirling atom and on the gigantic planet that dances around its center of cosmic gravitation.

If we could invent a machine that would imitate with exactness all the movements of the seven planets of our solar system around the sun, we would then discover with amazement the secret of the Whirling Dervishes. Indeed, the Whirling Dervishes perfectly imitate all of the movements of the planets around the Sun.

–Samael Aun Weor, *The Revolution of the Dialectic*

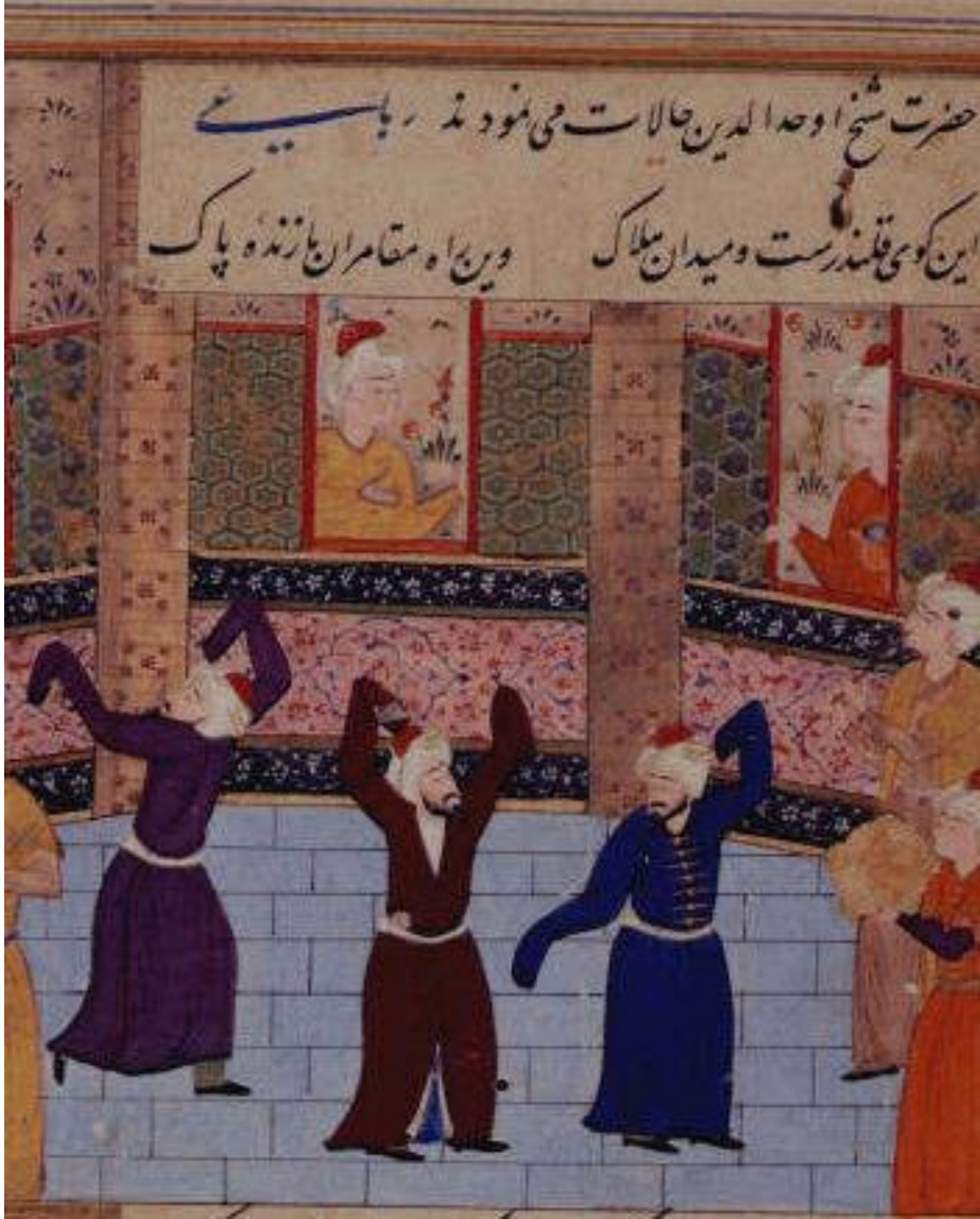
Know that listening to poetry with beautiful melodies and delightful intonation—when the one who listens does not believe it to be forbidden, does not hear anything that is blamable according to the divine Command, is not driven by the reins of his lust, and does not gather with others for the sake of lusts—is wholly permissible.

There is no denying that poetry was recited before the Messenger of God, and that he listened to it and did not censure those who recited it. So if hearing it without beautiful melody is licit, how should the rule be altered by hearing it with melody?

This is the obvious side of the matter. What comes next is that the one who listens should find his wish to perform acts of devotion increased. He should remember the degrees that God Most High has prepared for his servants who fear Him. This should lead him to guard against sins, and immediately convey to his heart the purity of feeling and impression required by the religion and preferred in the divine Law.

I heard Abu Ali al-Daqqaq say, "The spiritual concert is forbidden to ordinary people because of the continued maintenance of their egos. It is permissible for renunciates because of their pursuit of inner struggle. It is recommended for our companions, for the sake of the life of their hearts.

—Al-Qushayri, *Al-Risalah: Principles of Sufism*



When the first symptoms of atheism, skepticism, and materialism began to appear in Babylon, the degeneration of the five senses accelerated in a frightening manner.

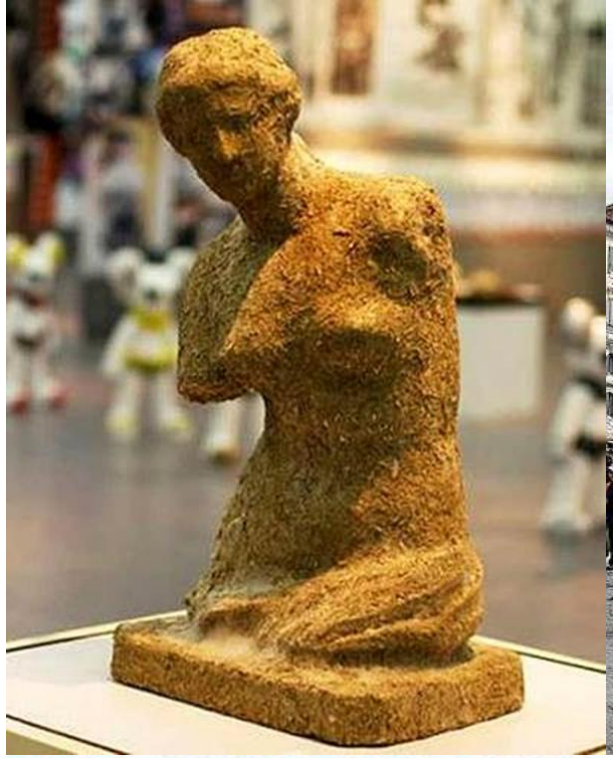
It is perfectly demonstrated that we are what we think. Therefore, if we think as materialists, we degenerate and fossilize ourselves.

Karl Marx committed an unforgivable crime. He took away the spiritual values of humanity. Marxism has unleashed religious persecution. Marxism has precipitated humanity to its total degeneration.

Materialistic Marxist ideas have infiltrated everywhere, in schools and in the home, in the temple and in the office, etc.

The artists of each new generation have become true apologists of dialectical materialism. Every breath of spirituality has disappeared in ultramodern art.

Modern artists no longer know anything about the Law of Seven. They no longer know anything about the cosmic dramas. They no longer know anything about the sacred dances of the ancient mysteries.
–Samael Aun Weor, *The Revolution of the Dialectic*



Salvador Dali

Have no fear of perfection—you'll never reach it.

Surrealism is destructive, but it destroys only what it considers to be shackles limiting our vision.

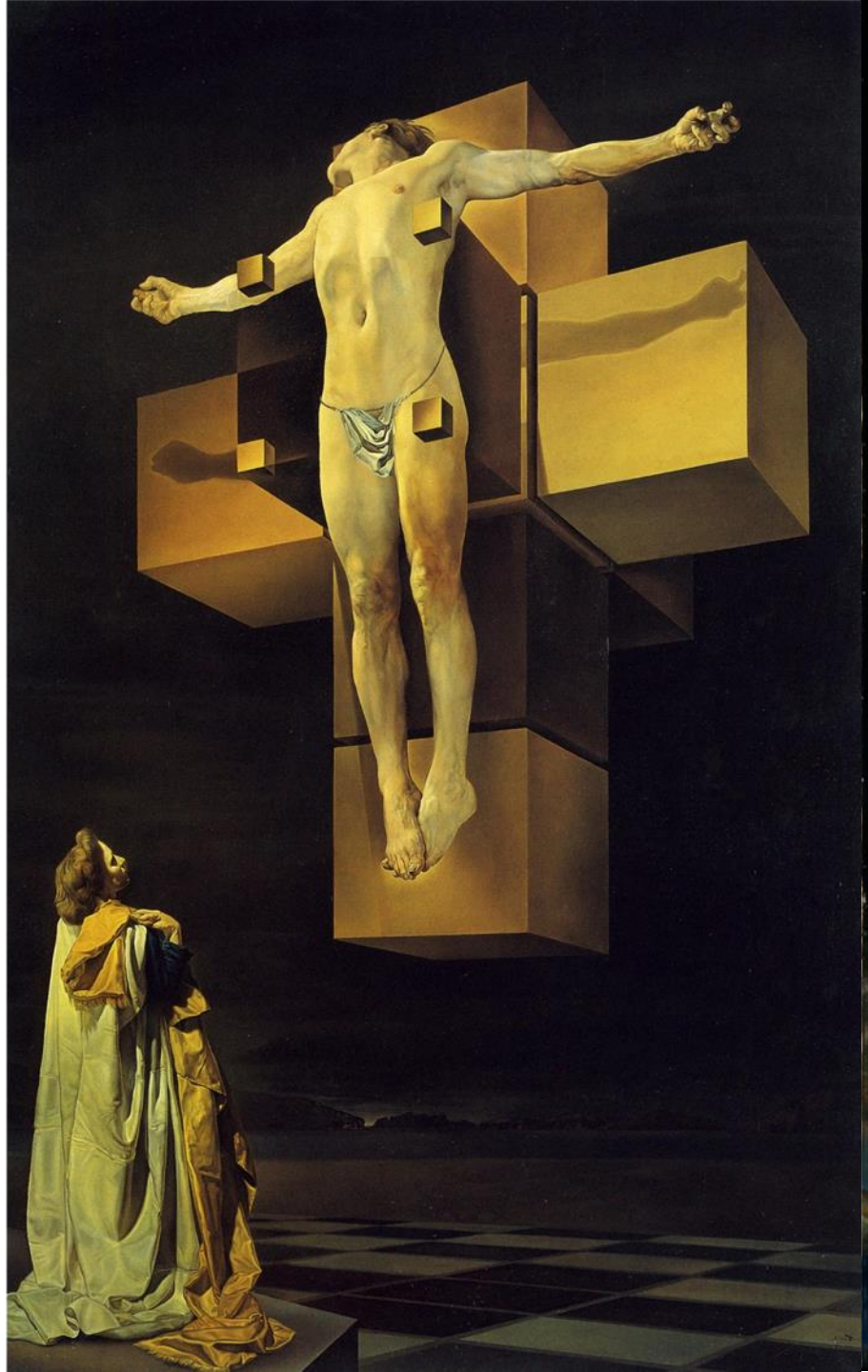
The difference between false memories and true ones is the same as for jewels: it is always the false ones that look the most real, the most brilliant.

I don't do drugs. I am drugs.

There is only one difference between a madman and me. The madman thinks he is sane. I know I am mad.

Take me, I am the drug; take me, I am hallucinogenic.

Liking money like I like it, is nothing less than mysticism. Money is a glory.



It is already proven by observation and experience that the absence of spiritual values produces degeneration.

The paintings of this day and age, as well as the music, the sculptures, etc., are nothing but the product of degeneration.

The initiates of ancient times, the sacred female dancers, the true artists of ancient great times, no longer appear on the stage. Now, only sick automatons, degenerated singers, rebels without a cause, etc. appear on the stage.

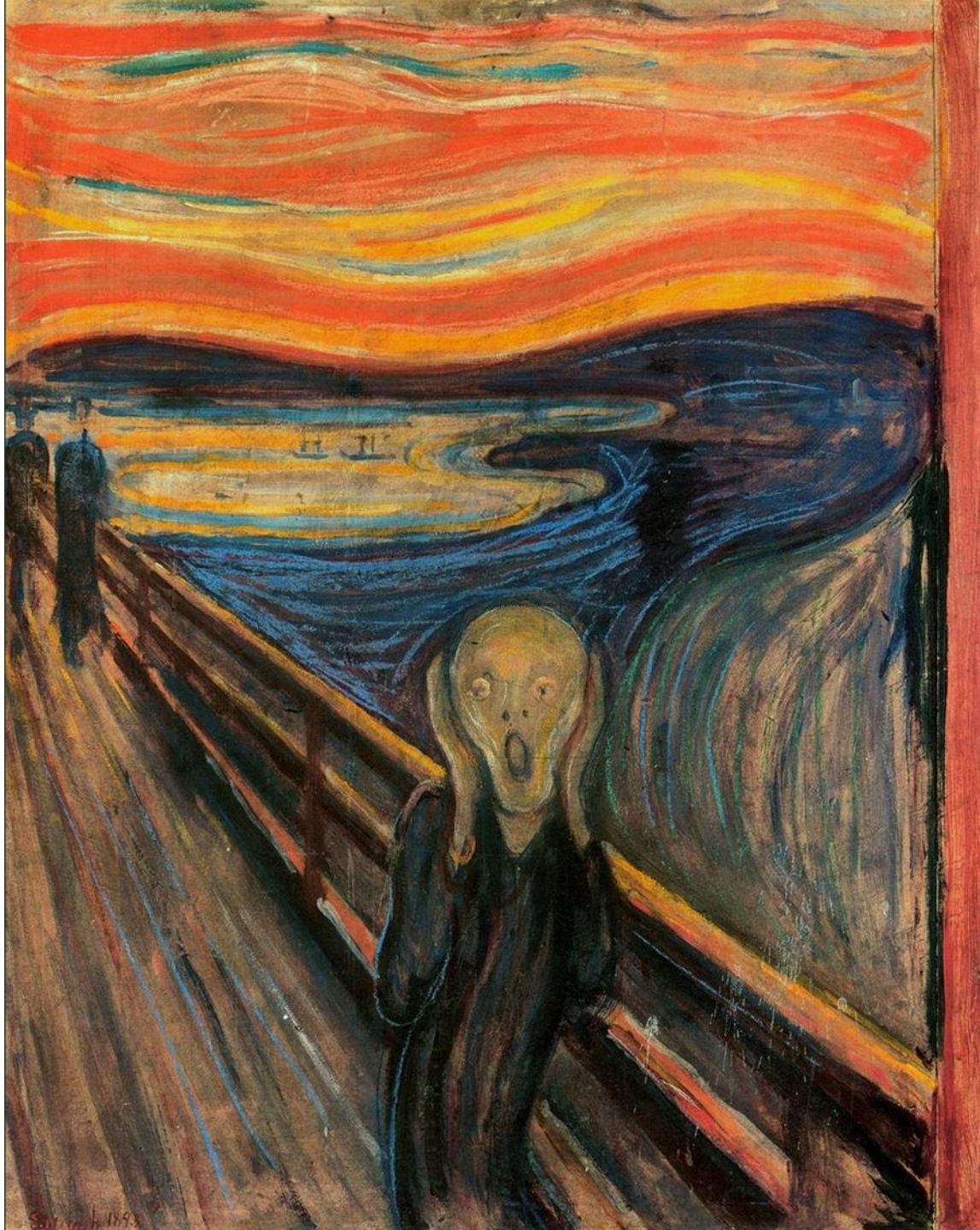
Ultramodern theatres are the antithesis of the sacred theatres of the great mysteries of Egypt, Greece, India, etc.

The art of this day and age is tenebrous; it is the antithesis of Light. Modern artists are tenebrous as well.

Surrealistic and Marxist paintings, ultramodern sculpture, Afro-Cuban music and the modern female dancers are the outcome of human degeneration.

The young men and women of the new generations receive by means of their three cerebrums data which is sufficient to convert them into swindlers, thieves, assassins, bandits, homosexuals, prostitutes, etc.

–Samael Aun Weor, *The Revolution of the Dialectic*

After the Second World War, existentialist philosophy and art were born. When we have seen the existentialist actors on stage, we have arrived at the conclusion that they are truly maniacal and perversely sick people.

If Marxism continues to be disseminated, then the human being will end up totally losing his five senses (which are in the process of degeneration).
–Samael Aun Weor, *The Revolution of the Dialectic*