

Diary of Leonardo Da Vinci

Dear Diary,

I have been apprenticed as a studio boy to Andrea del Verrocchio. Today, at the age of 14, I am overwhelmed with feelings. I am happy, but on the other hand, I am sad. I am happy to be apprenticed to such a knowledgeable artist, he is the leading painter and sculptor in Florence right now. But I am sad to leave my family and friends behind. They mean so much to me, it's tough to think that I won't be seeing them for a while. Florence is a lot different than Vinci. There is so many people in Florence. I never imagined there were so many people in the world. Hopefully, I will be introduced to many new activities. Maybe, I will be able to paint an altarpiece, or make a sculpture! I hope this turns out well.

Fall,
1466

Dear Diary,

As of today, I am now under the service of Ludovico Sforza, the duke of Milan. He said I will be serving as both an architect and engineer. I hope this turn out well with the duke. He seems like a nice guy, but I'm still not sure. He will hopefully use my skills to his advantage. I believe that this dutie will improve, and test my engineering skills. Maybe my inventions are good but I want to make them great. My inventions should please the duke, but I'm not certain.

1482

Dear Diary,

My anatomical discovery drawing, the Vitruvian Man, has been completed today. Vitruvius is the man inside the circle and the square on my drawing. I chose to draw him inside of a circle because all of the human body's limbs are equal in distance from the center of the body when stretched out. But when he stands straight legged, his head, legs, and arms create a box. It shows the proportions of the ancient Roman architect Vitruvius. Like most of my drawings, or sketches, this is written in mirror script. This way it will be harder to read for others. This is so no one can steal my theories. While I was in Milan, other jealous scientists tried to steal my military drawings. My autopsy on his body was what I drew the sketch from. My discovery, this drawing, is a real breakthrough for me. I think this will help my knowledge of the human body, along with my studies.

1492

Dear Diary,

The Mona Lisa has been put on to a gallery wall today. I knew this day would come. I worked so long, and so hard. My emotions is what I can't handle. My Florence workshop was a great place to work. It was great because I had access to richer and more expensive paint. The lighting in the room was a lot brighter, so I could tell the colors better. Along with that, I could change the light from bright to dark. I am so proud of myself. I didn't think my inspiration would turn out so well. My saint self-portrait was a real hit. I did it! I still can't believe it. I can picture it now, the Mona Lisa, on a gallery wall, everyone around it, admiring my work. I think my new technique, realism, helped my painting look more real not so flat and cartoonish. Now that I'm out of the service of the duke, I could do anything. I think the Mona Lisa is my best so far.

1503

Dear Diary,

Today, my dad has died. His cause of death is still unknown. He was 77 years old. It is hard to think after all of these years, he is actually gone. It hurts a lot. I wish I could of been there, at his side. I know that life goes on but this one will be hard to get over. Hopefully, he is in a better place right now. Let him rest in peace.

July 9,
1504