

The Utopia Project



What is it?

- an imagined place or state of things in which everything is perfect.
- YOU are the only person that this Utopia has to satisfy.
- BUT that does not mean utopia is: *Where I have like all the money and I don't have to get up in the morning and do things. Oh and I also get to date Joseph Gordon-Levitt*

The big questions for Utopia

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- Who should run things? Or... Should anyone?

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- Who should run things? Or... Should anyone?
- How do you treat other people? (Don't worry, not as boring as it sounds)
- How do you deal with faith and knowledge?

Politics

- defined as: the activities associated with the governance of a country or other area, especially the debate or conflict among individuals or parties having or hoping to achieve power
- Groan. Sigh. Vomit. Repeat.... But wait...
- The BIG (Legit big) question is:
 - **What is the ultimate justification for the existence of any form of government?**

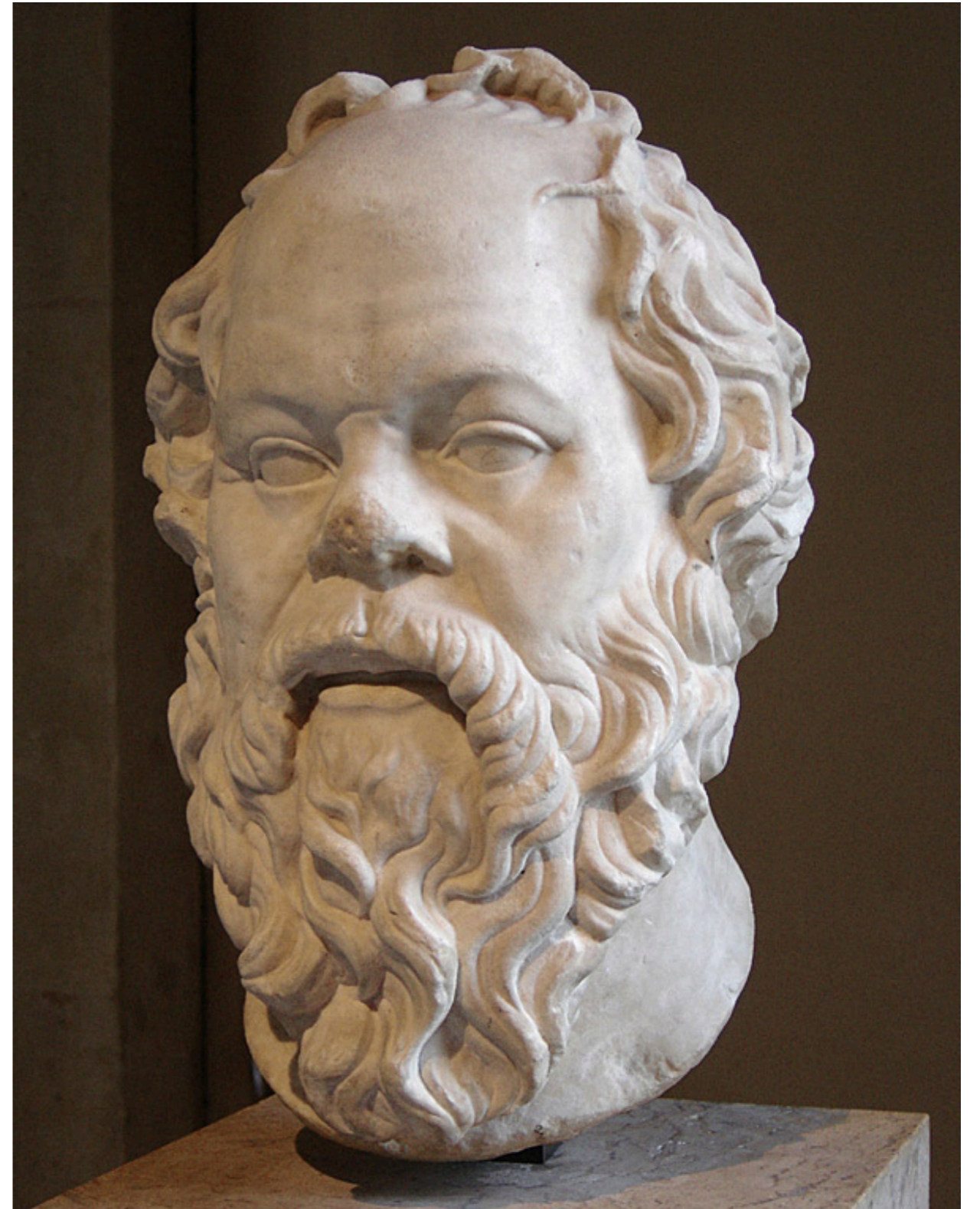
What is the ultimate justification for the existence of any form of government?

- Part of philosophy is a way of thinking.
- Another part is a way of analytical thinking, specifically examining questions.

Big Questions of Politics

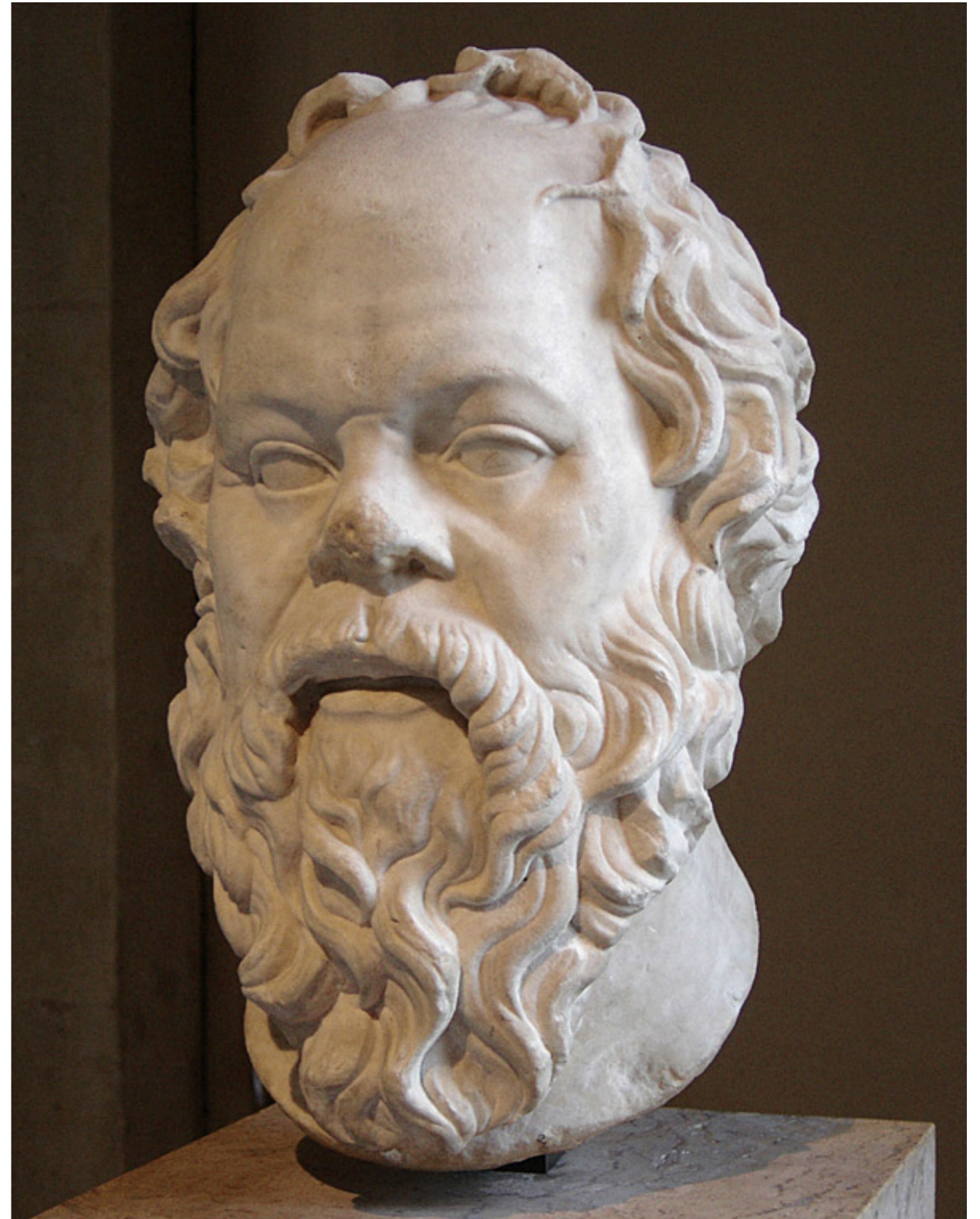
- What are the proper limits of government power over individuals?
- Can you control the economy without controlling people?
- What is the best way to choose a government?
- What is the “Canadian” answer to these questions?

But before we move on, let's move back



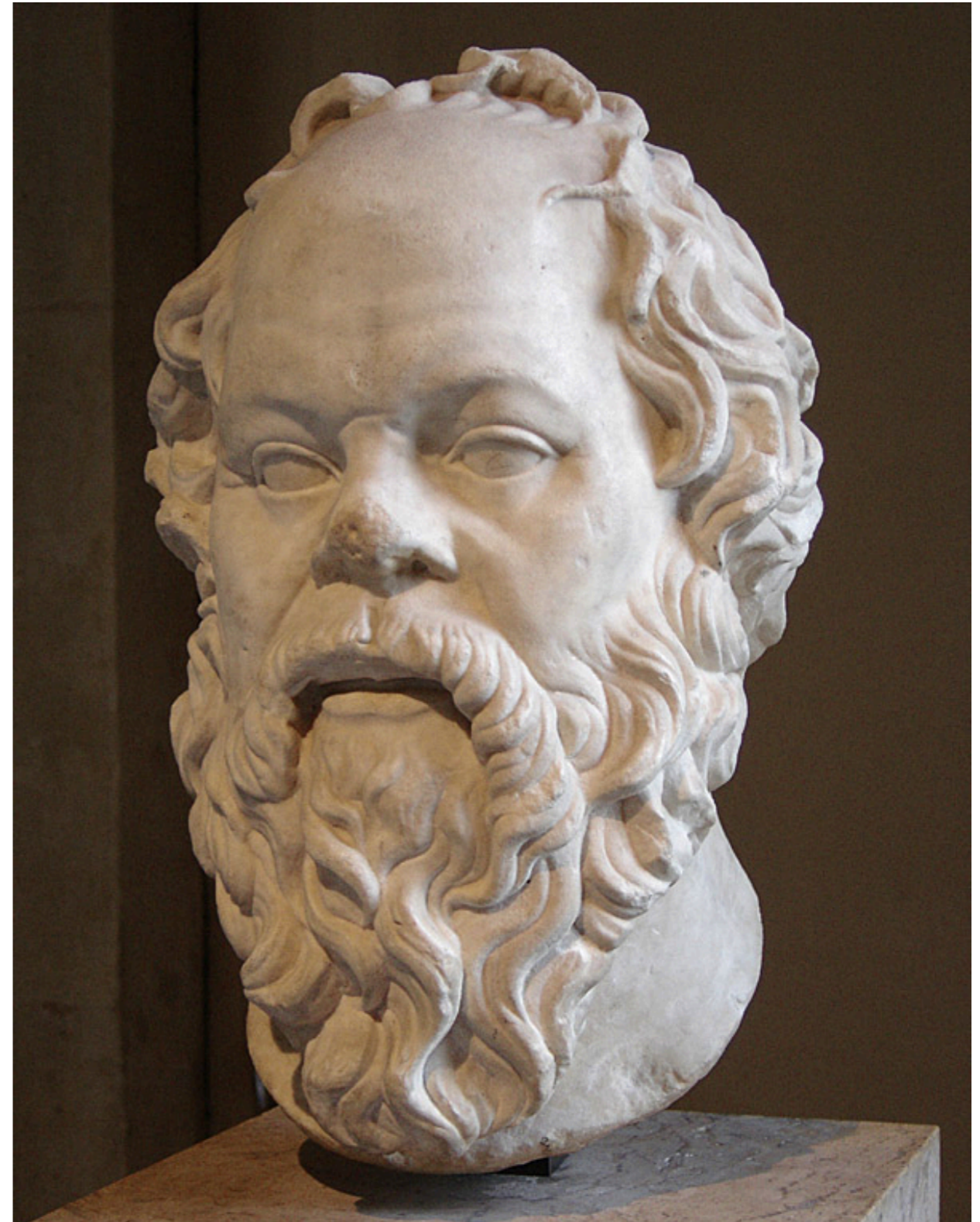
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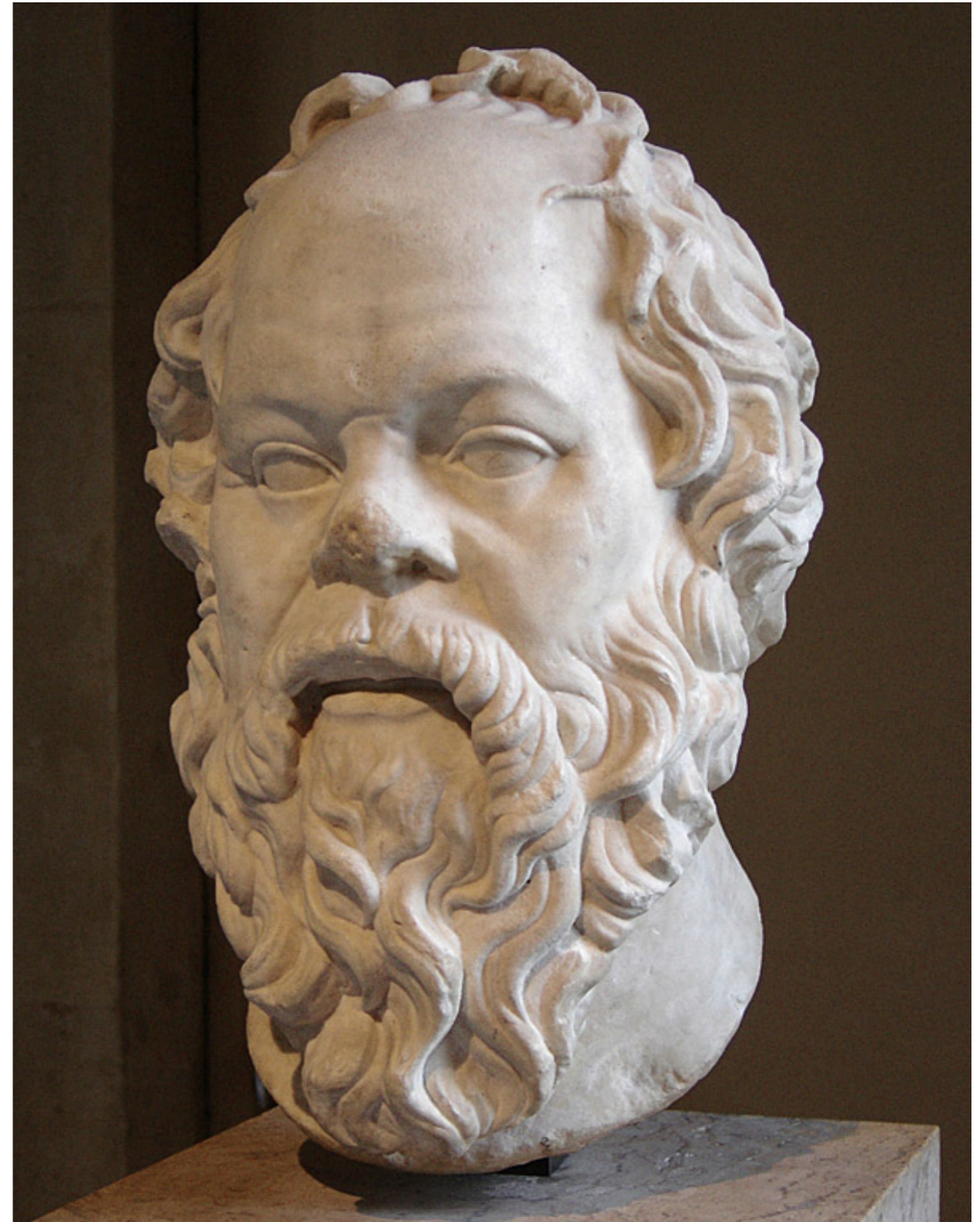
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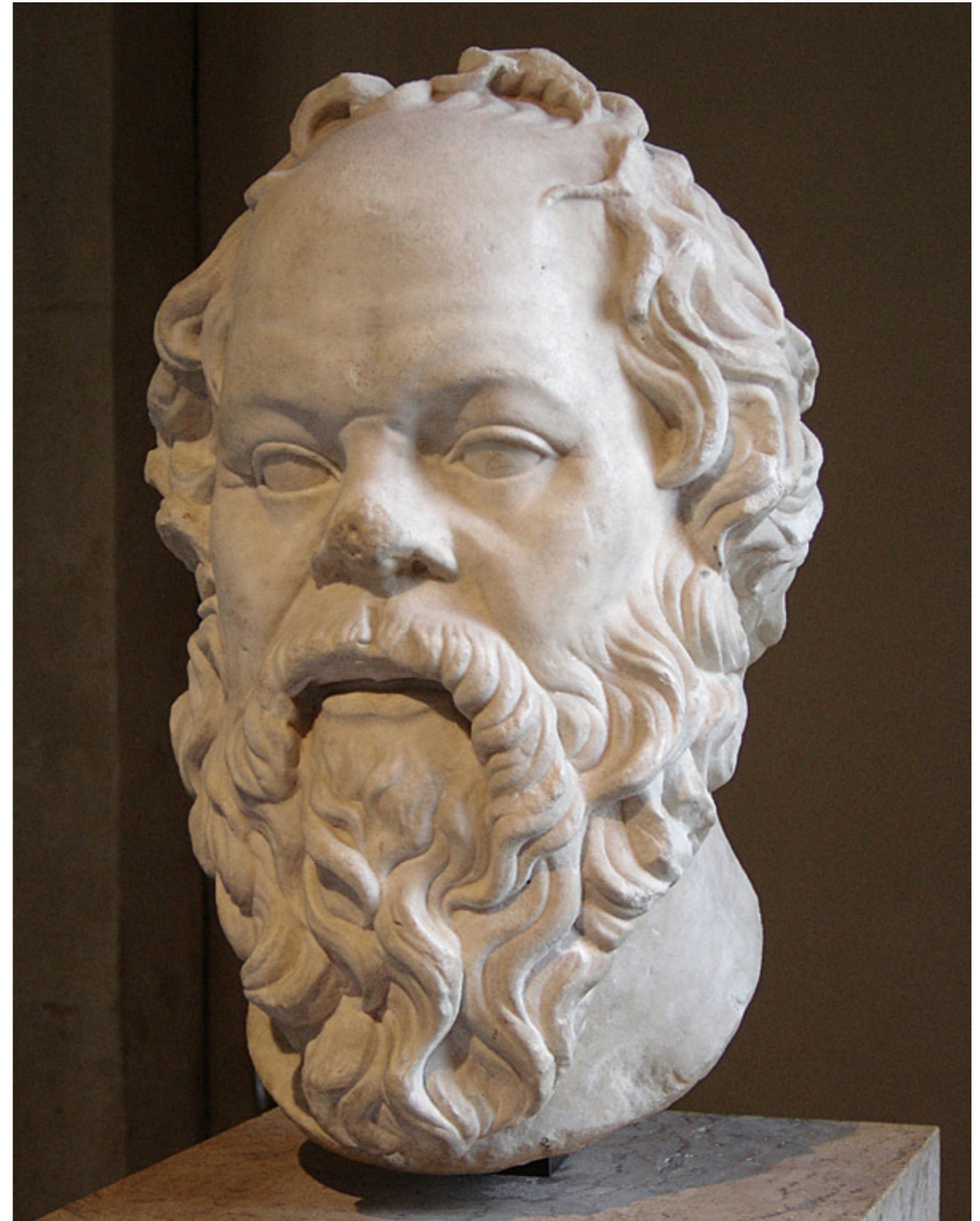
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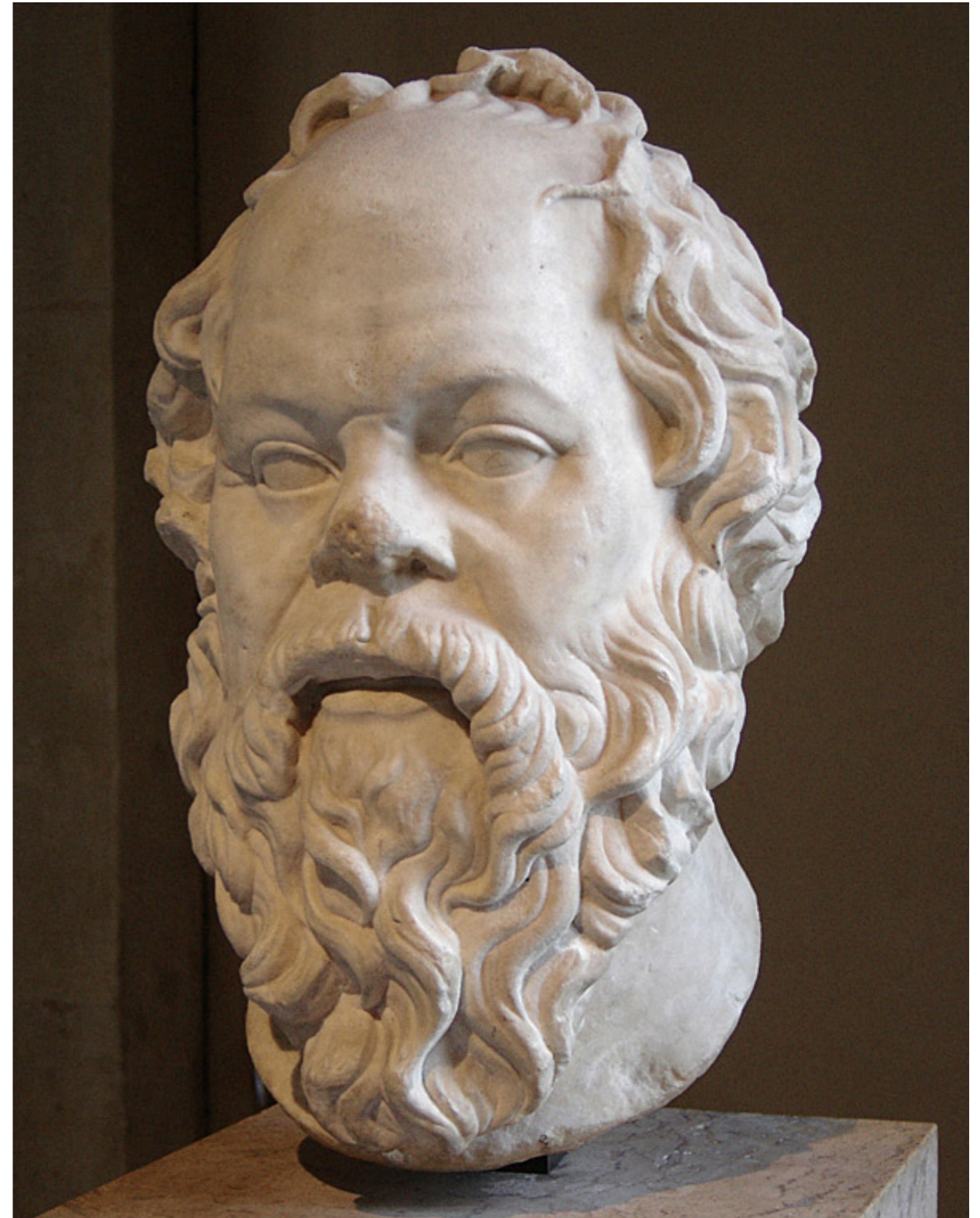
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 - Ignore your senses

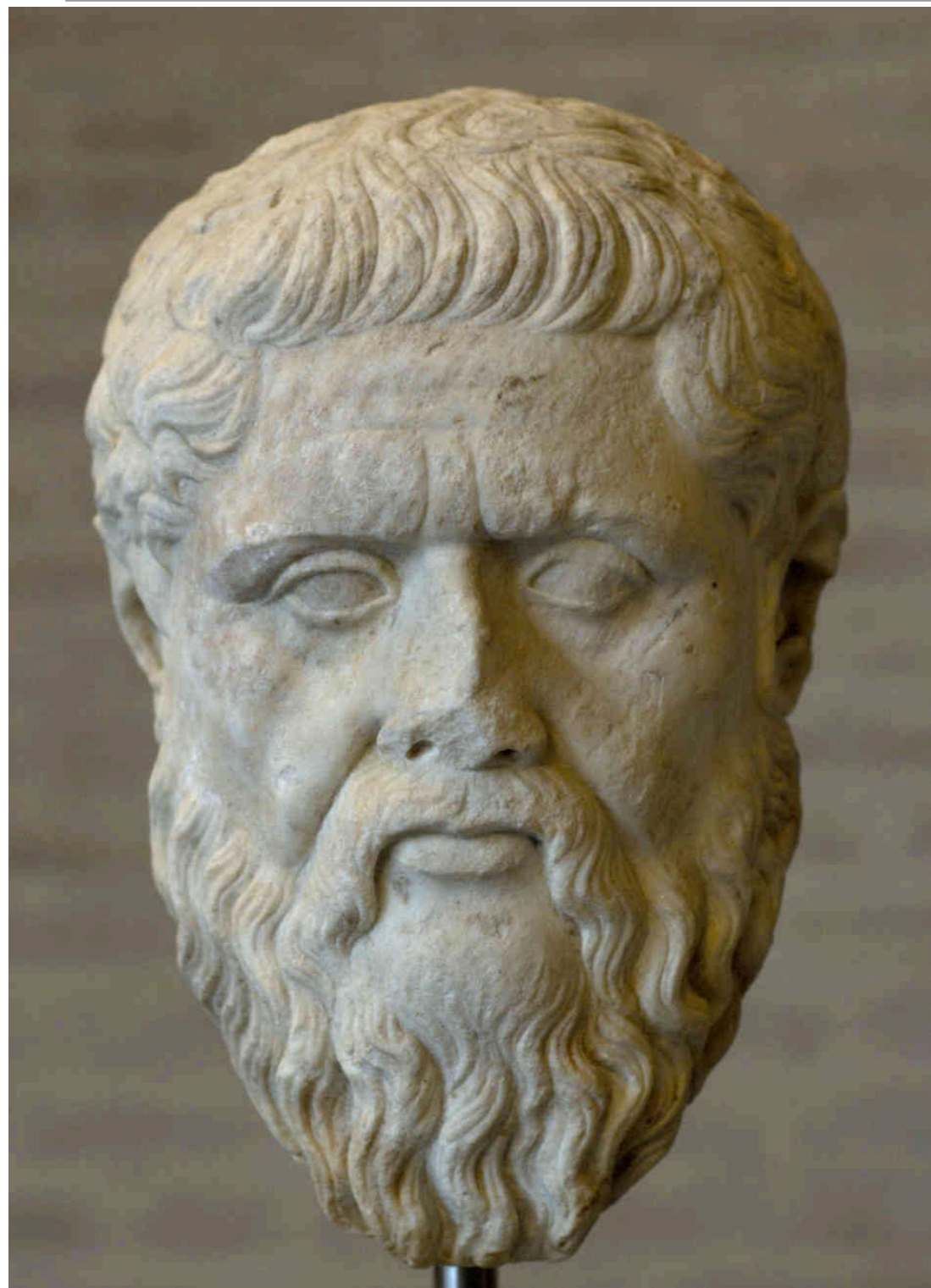


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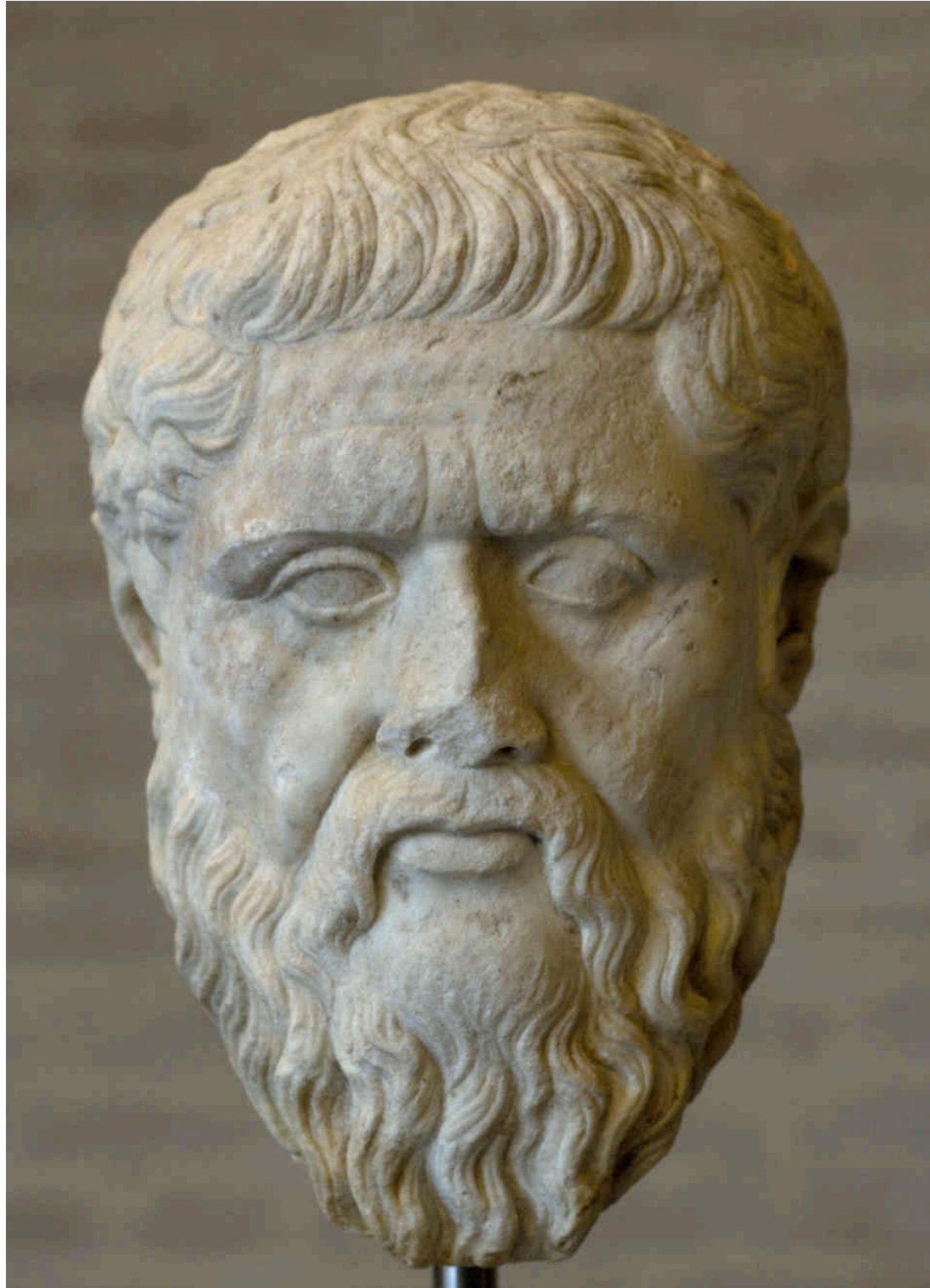
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- Discussed the idea of “True Knowledge”
 - Ignore your senses
 - Use reason to “recollect” the “truth”



Plato don't play

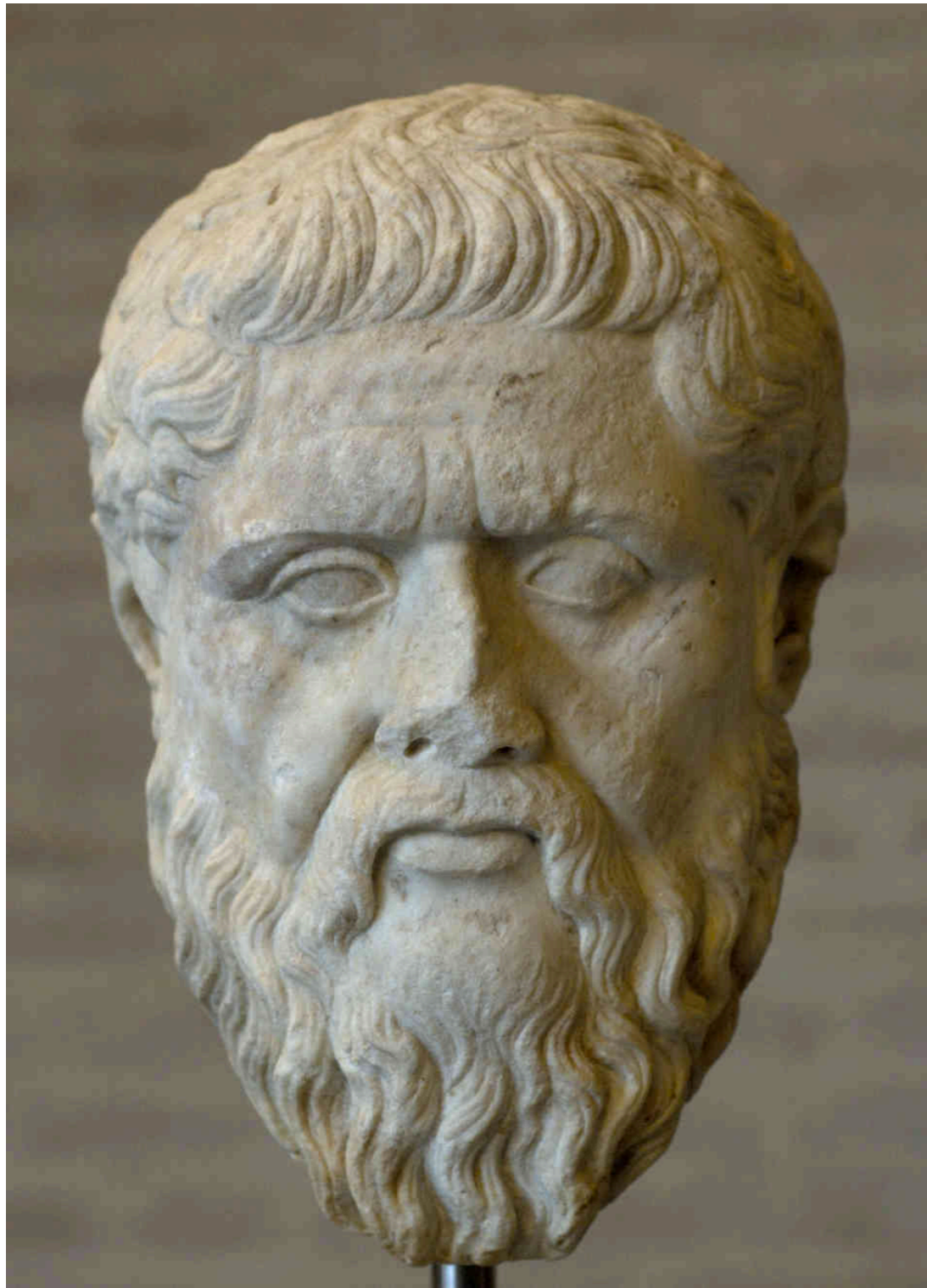


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★Plato (428 - 347 BCE)

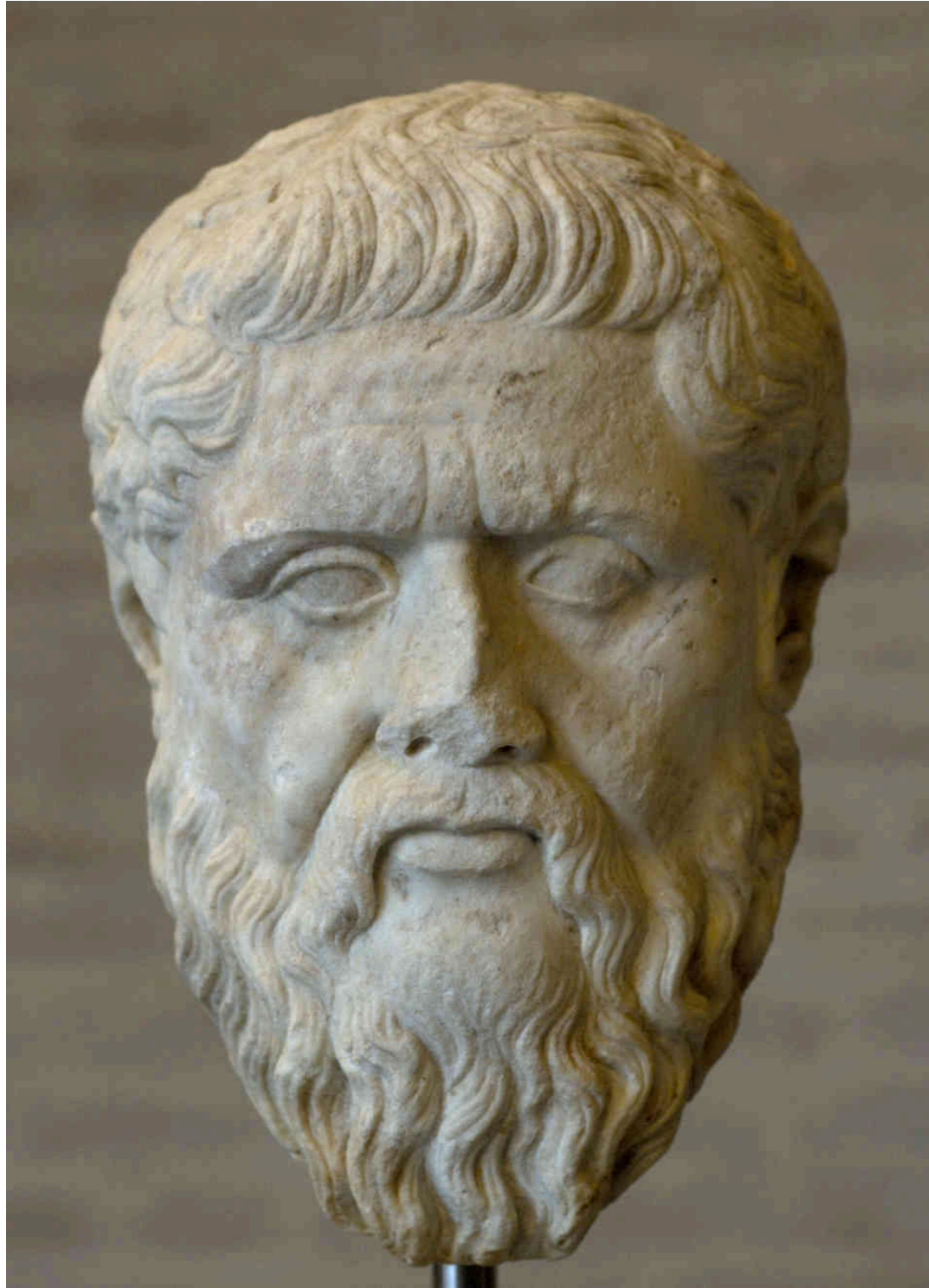
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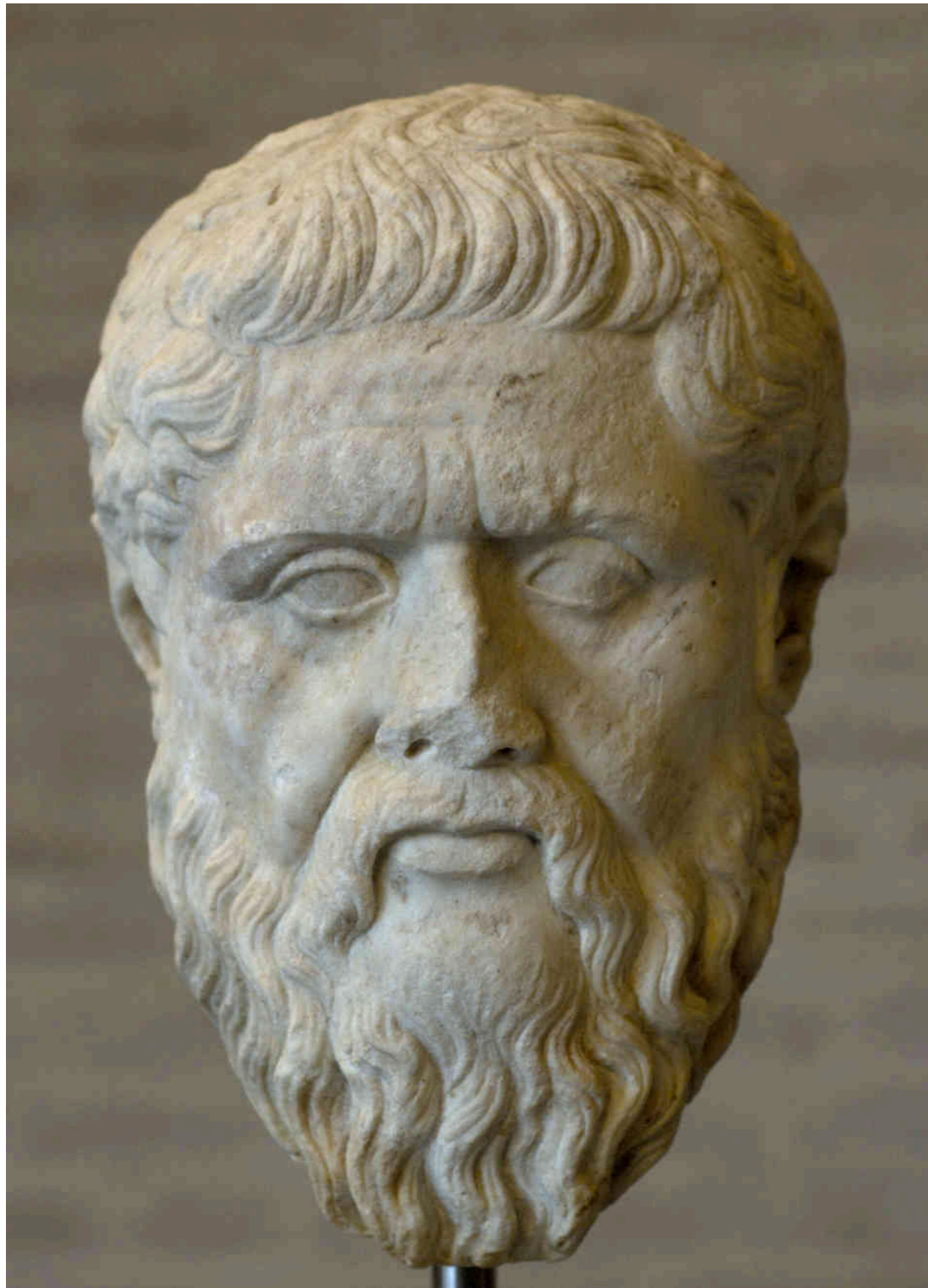
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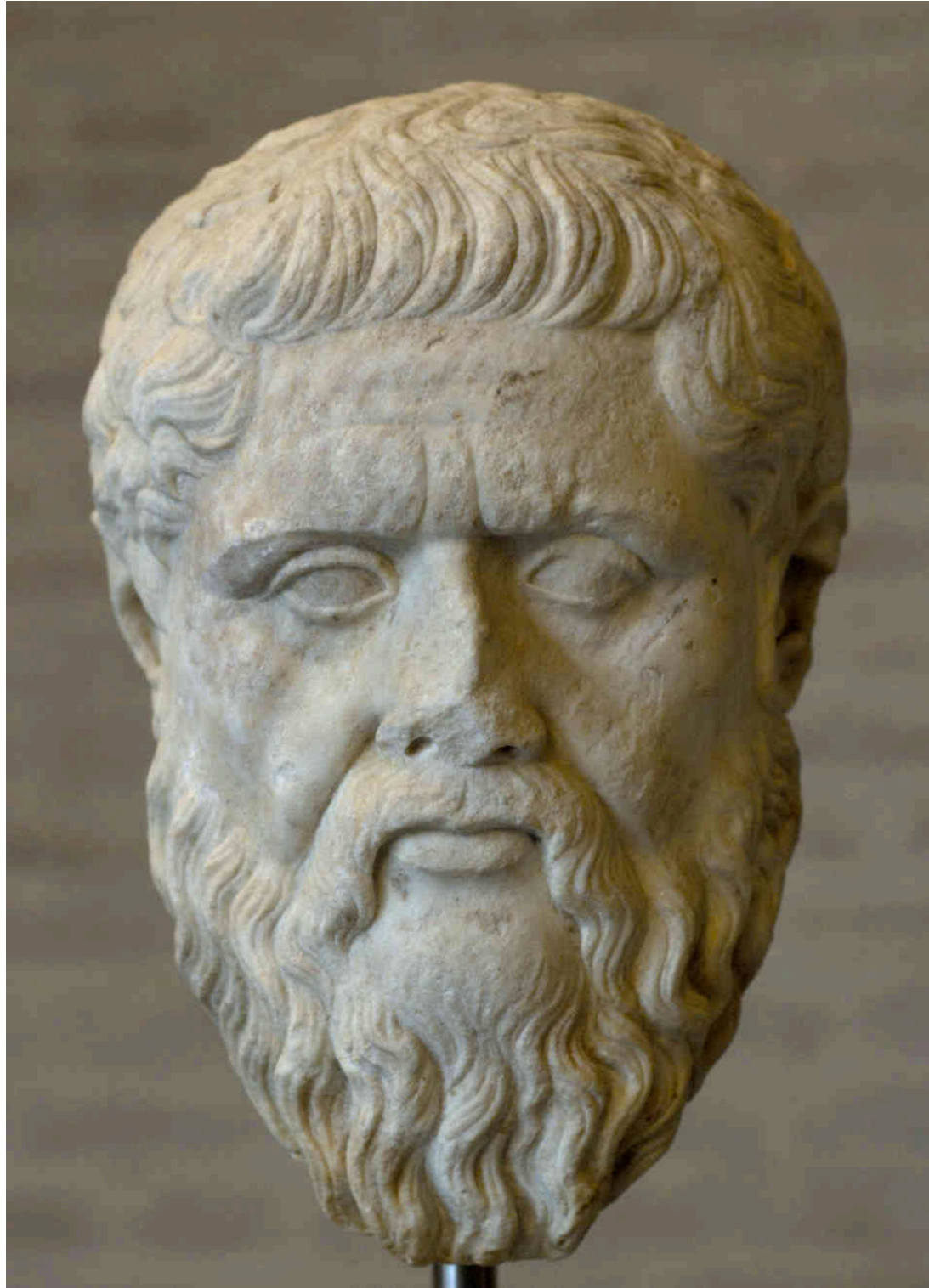
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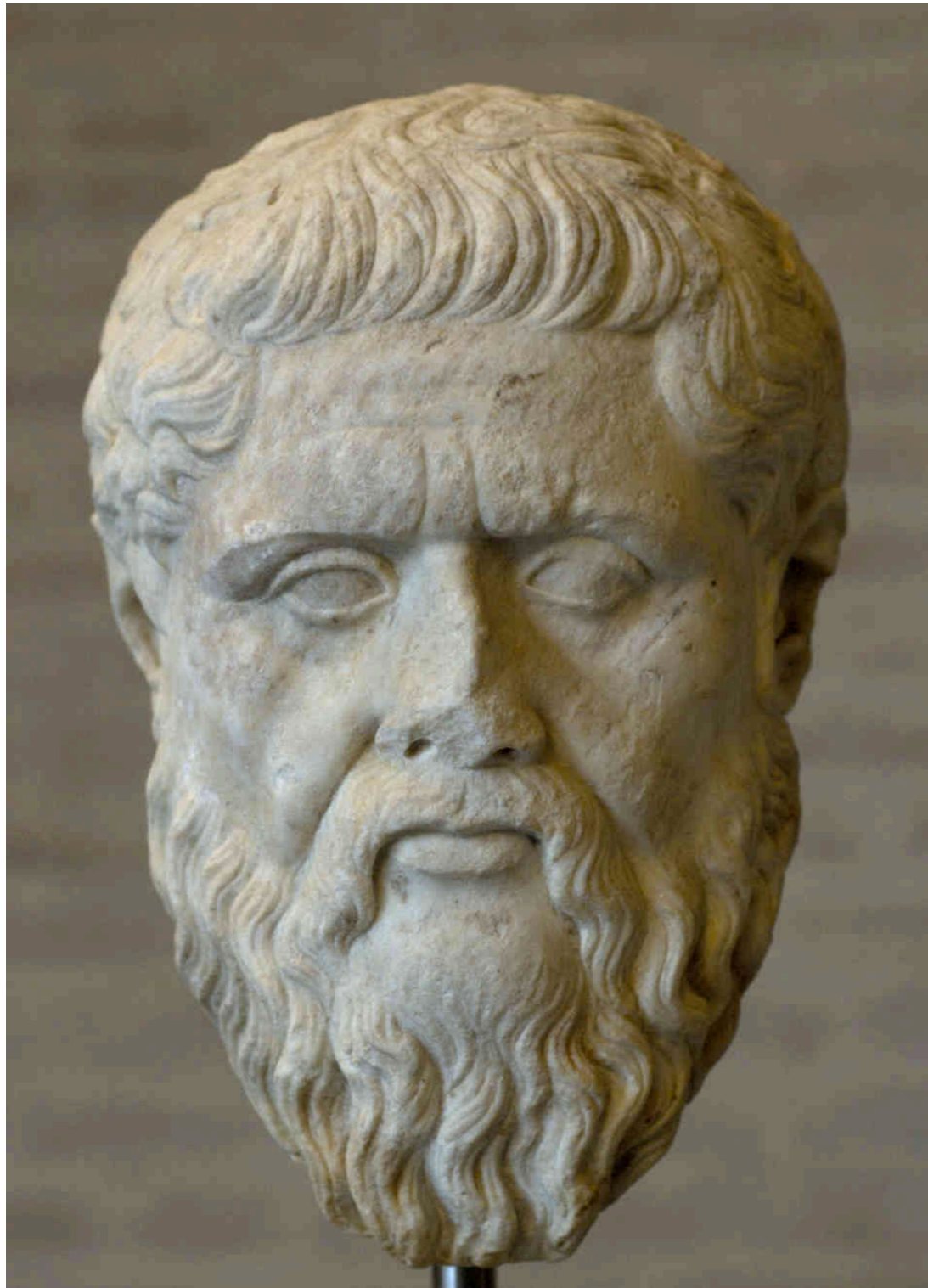
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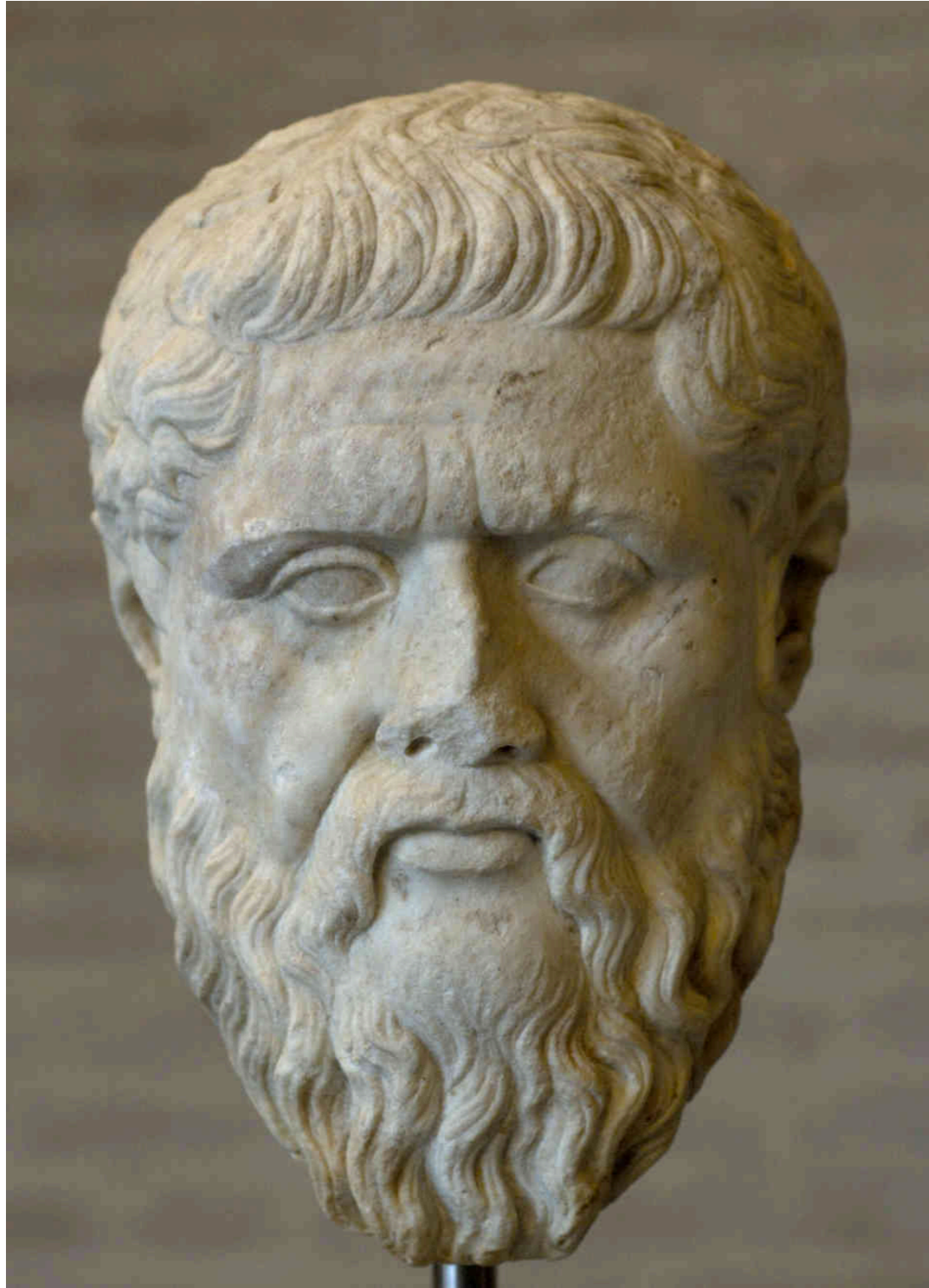
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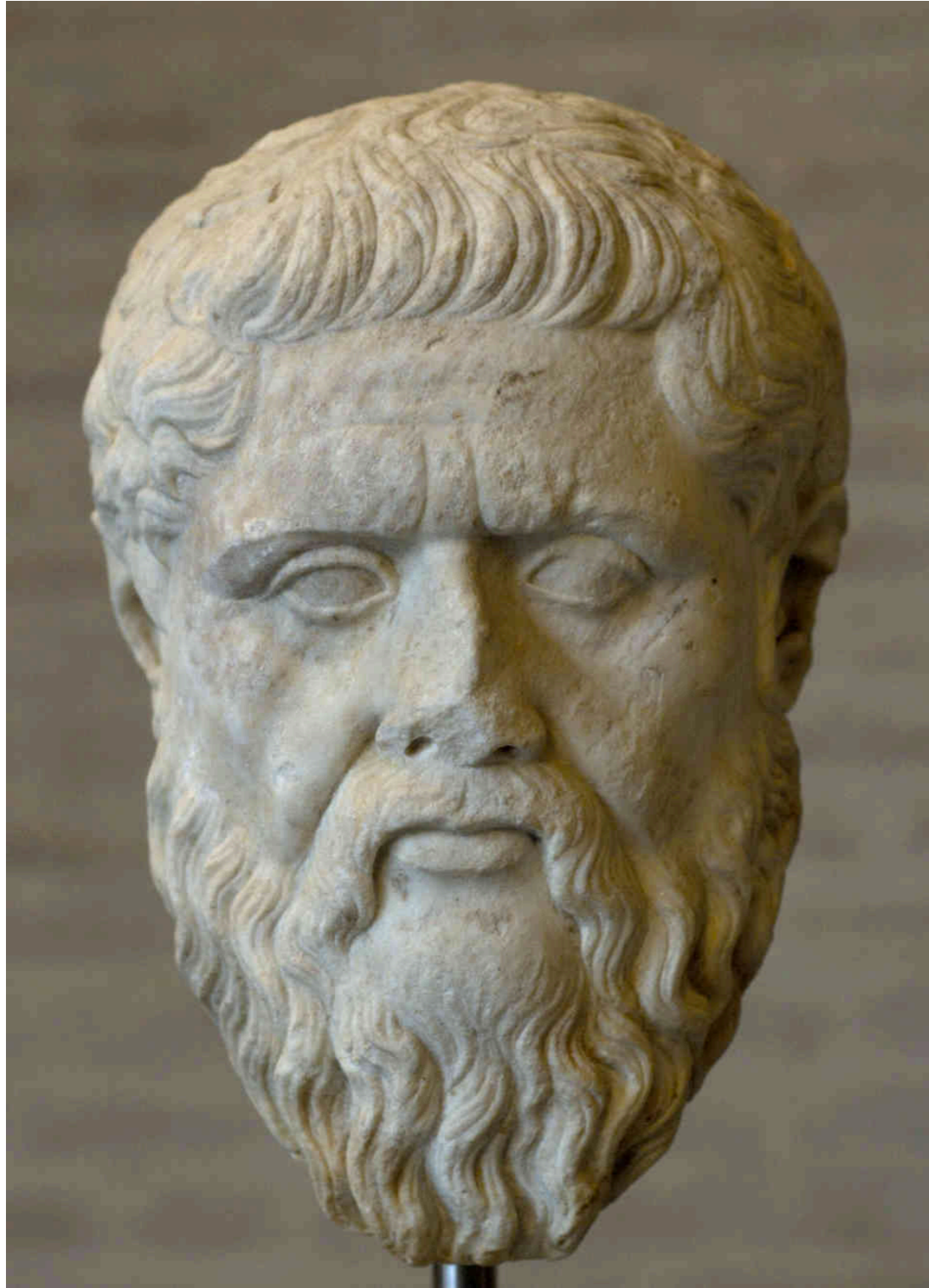
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 - Sensible World
 - World of Ideas

Duality of Reality

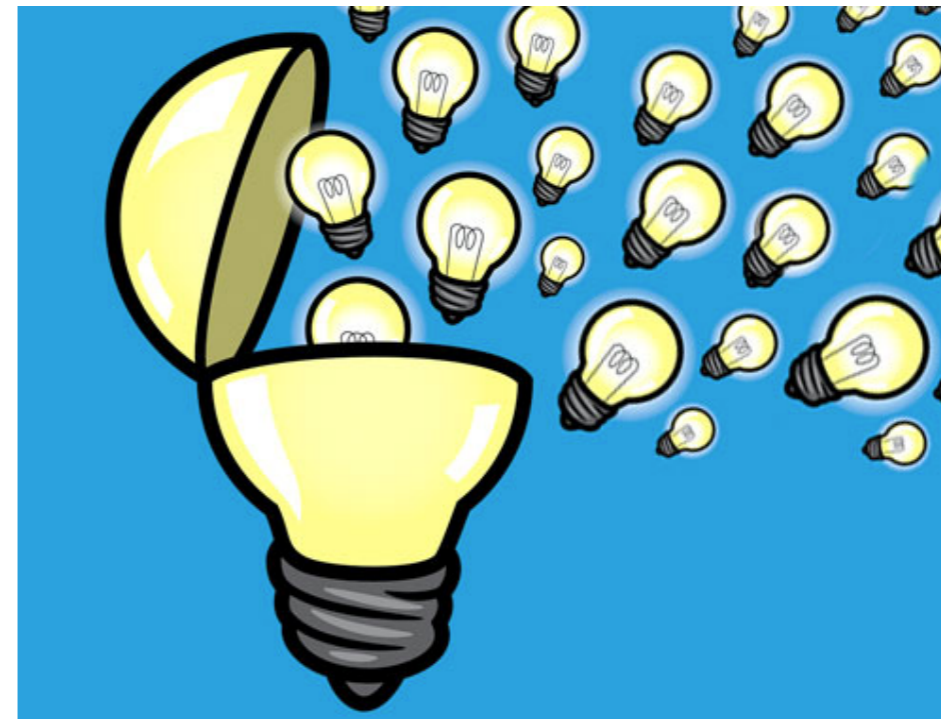
- **Sensible World**

- Changing, creating, destroying
- Informed by senses



- **World of Ideas**

- Eternal, “immutable”, exist universally
- Informs “reality”



What is an “idea”

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- Think of your ideal cookie.

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- Did it look like this?

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Let's try again

- Volunteer who is good with words.
- 8 Volunteers who are good with drawing.
- The rest of you can play at home (in your desk, a piece of scrap paper)

Did any of them look like this?

Which one of these is a horse?

Did any of them look like this?



Which one of these is a horse?

Did any of them look like this?



Which one of these is a horse?

Forms inform Reality

What we sense in our reality is the world of the senses.

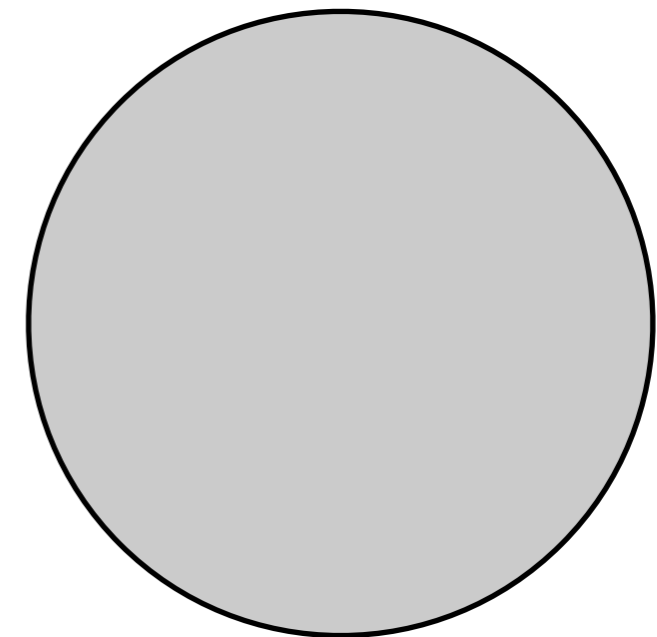
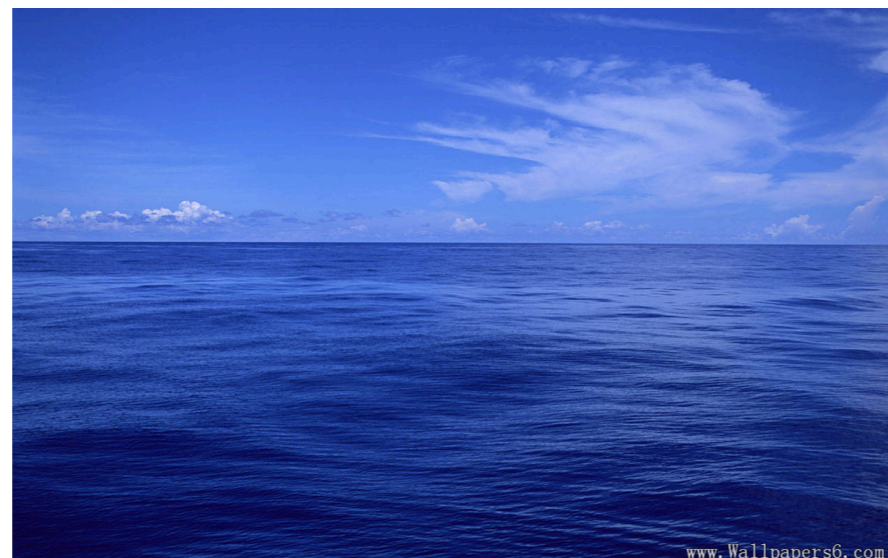
But the “ideas” in reality come from the world of ideas.



Can you prove/disprove this?



Science



So... What does this have to do with Politics?

- Not much... BUT it shows the power of philosophy which is why Socrates proposed that the head of a state should be a “philosopher-king”
- Becoming a philosopher-king requires use of the **Dialectic** method of arguing
- The method operates as follows:
 - A **thesis** is proposed
 - An **antithesis** is proposed to counter the **thesis**
 - The reconciliation of the **thesis & antithesis** produces a **synthesis**
 - The **synthesis** itself becomes a **thesis** at a more advanced level

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In **Plato's “ideal state,”**

- rulers and warriors are not allowed family life or private property.
- The rearing of children is considered too important to be left to the individual and should be the responsibility of the state.
- Moreover, **Plato** asserted that women have exactly the same powers of reasoning as men, provided they get the same training and are “*exempt from child rearing and housekeeping.*”

Plato's Ideal State

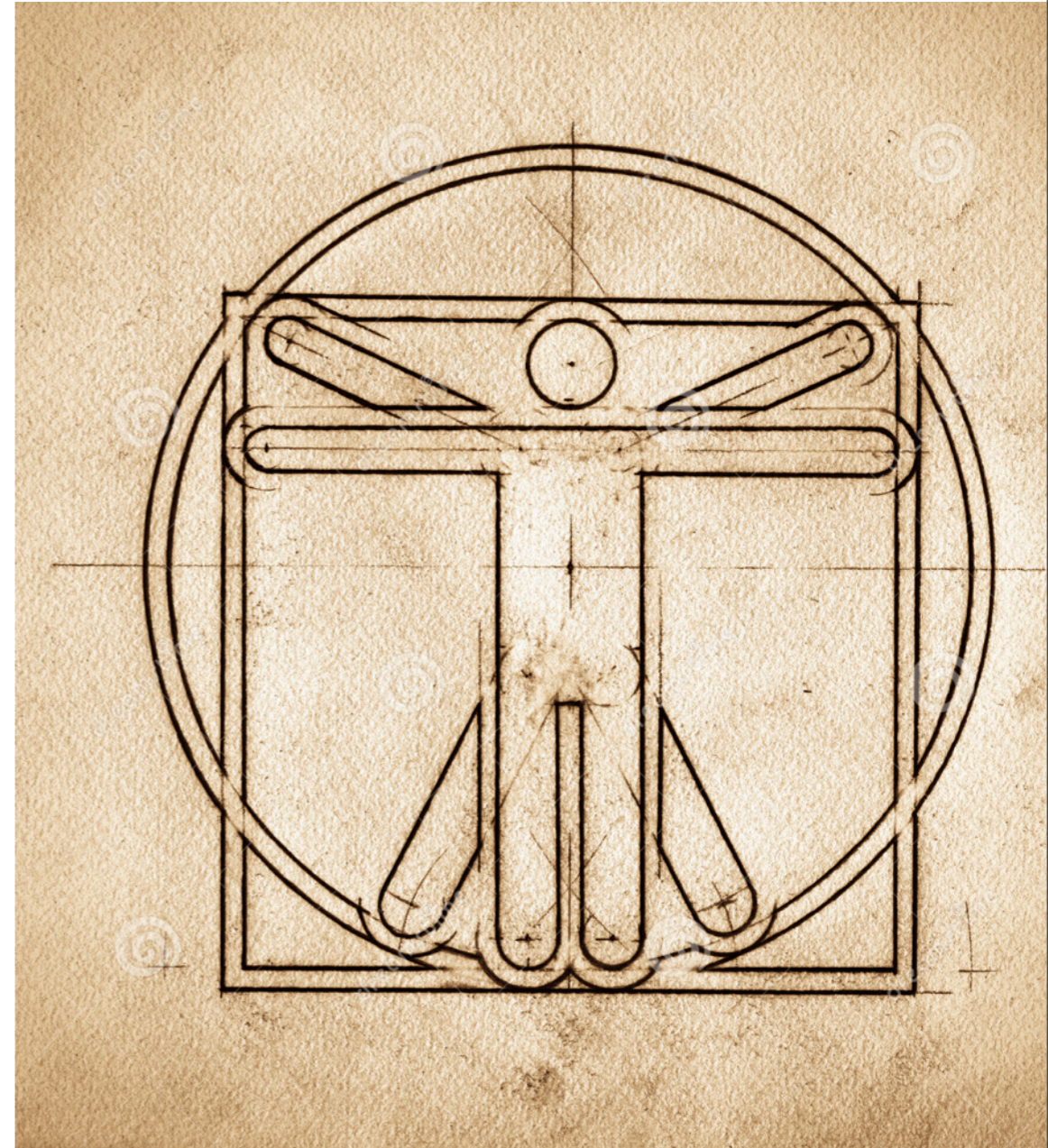
What do you think about Plato's ideal state?

And, what's the link between "child-rearing and running a state?"

Why does child-rearing and housekeeping reduce a woman's power of reasoning?



Mrs. and Mr. Perfect



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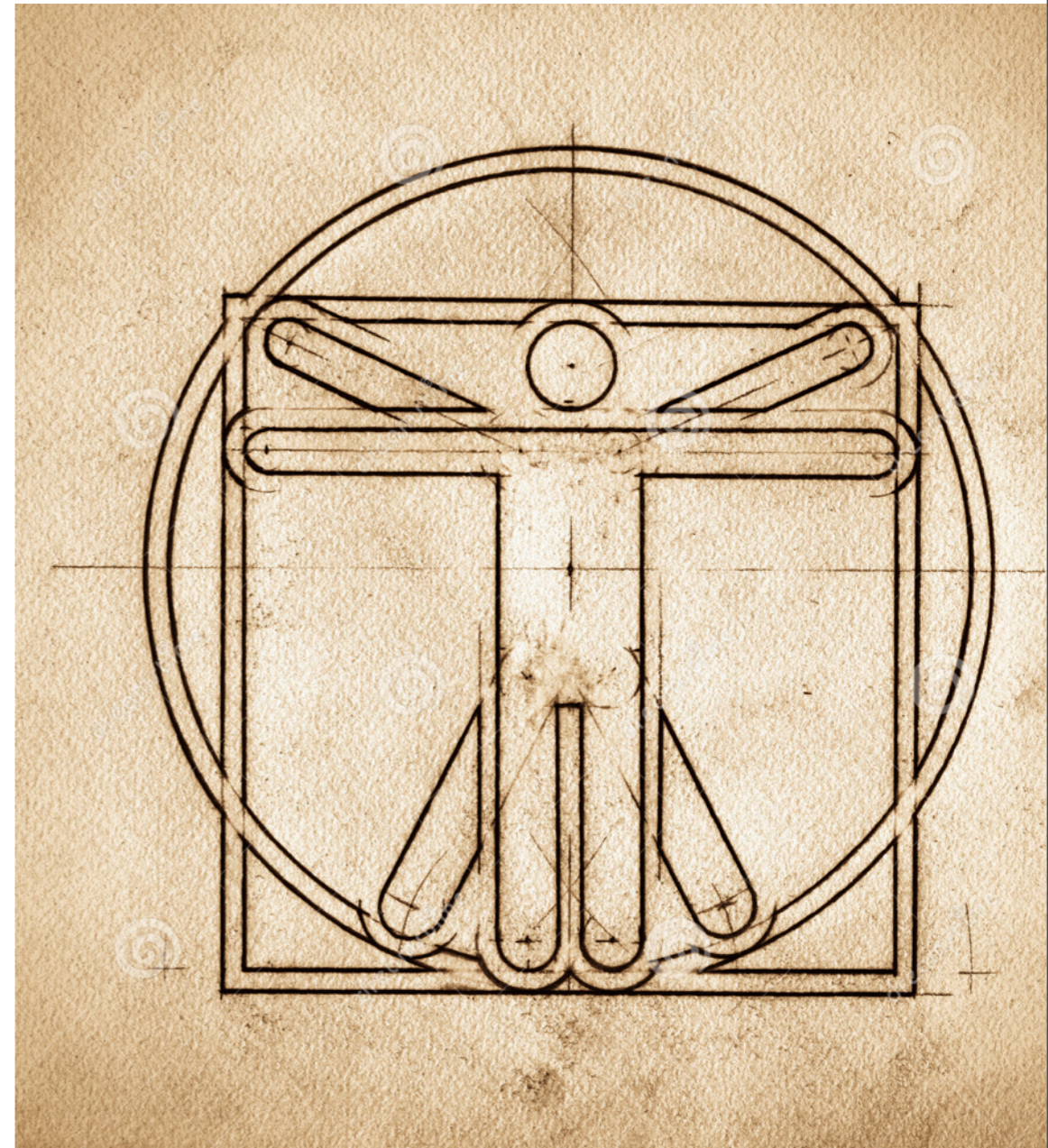
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His theory is authoritarian (i.e., granting absolute authority to a special group for the purpose of ruling the society.

Plato felt there was an analogy between an individual person and the society in which he lived. The only real difference was one of size - a society was nothing but “the individual writ large.”

If so, the question of what an “ideal society” would be like could be reinterpreted as the question “what makes an ideal or perfect man?”

WHAT MAKES AN IDEAL OR PERFECT PERSON?



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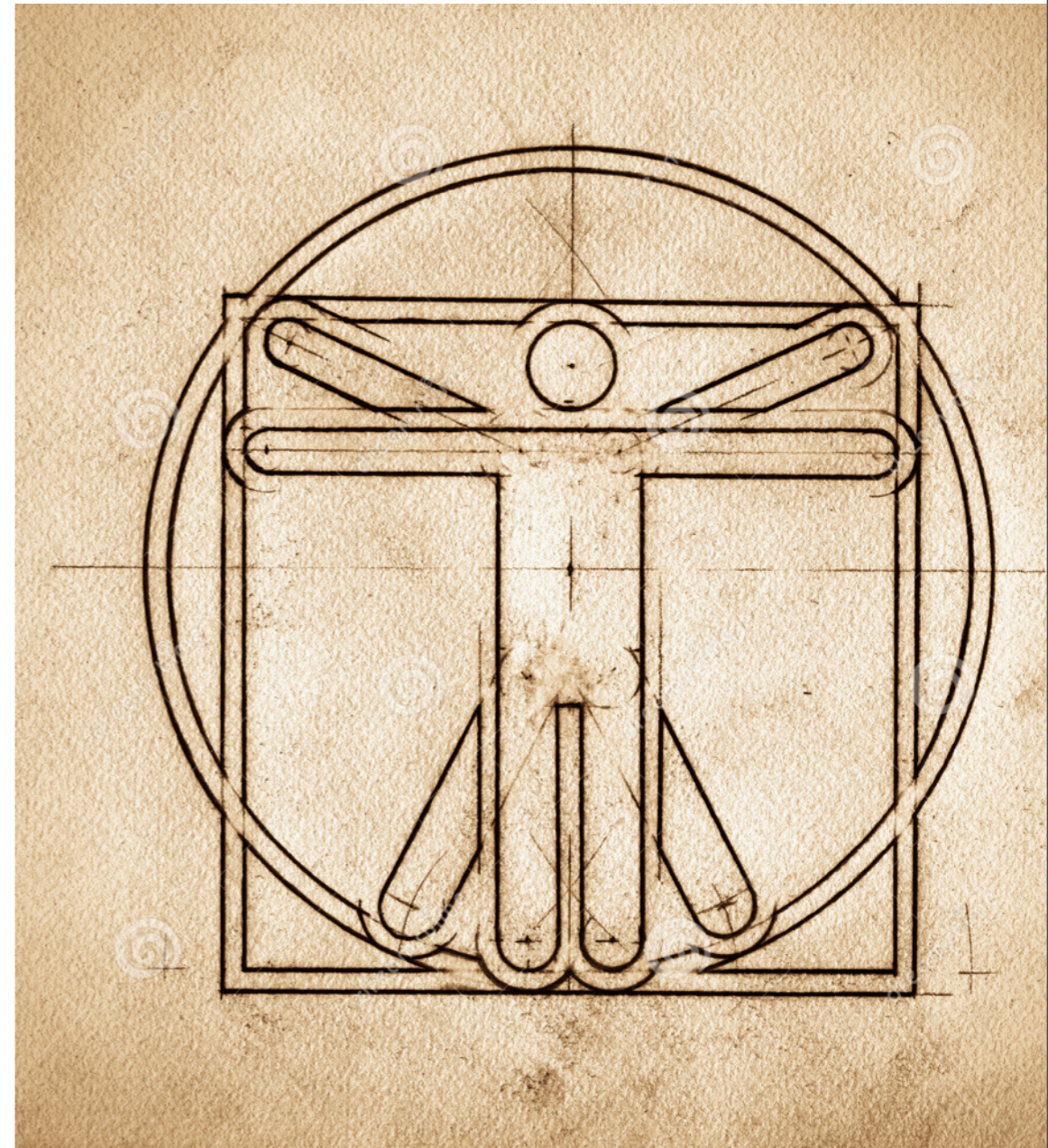
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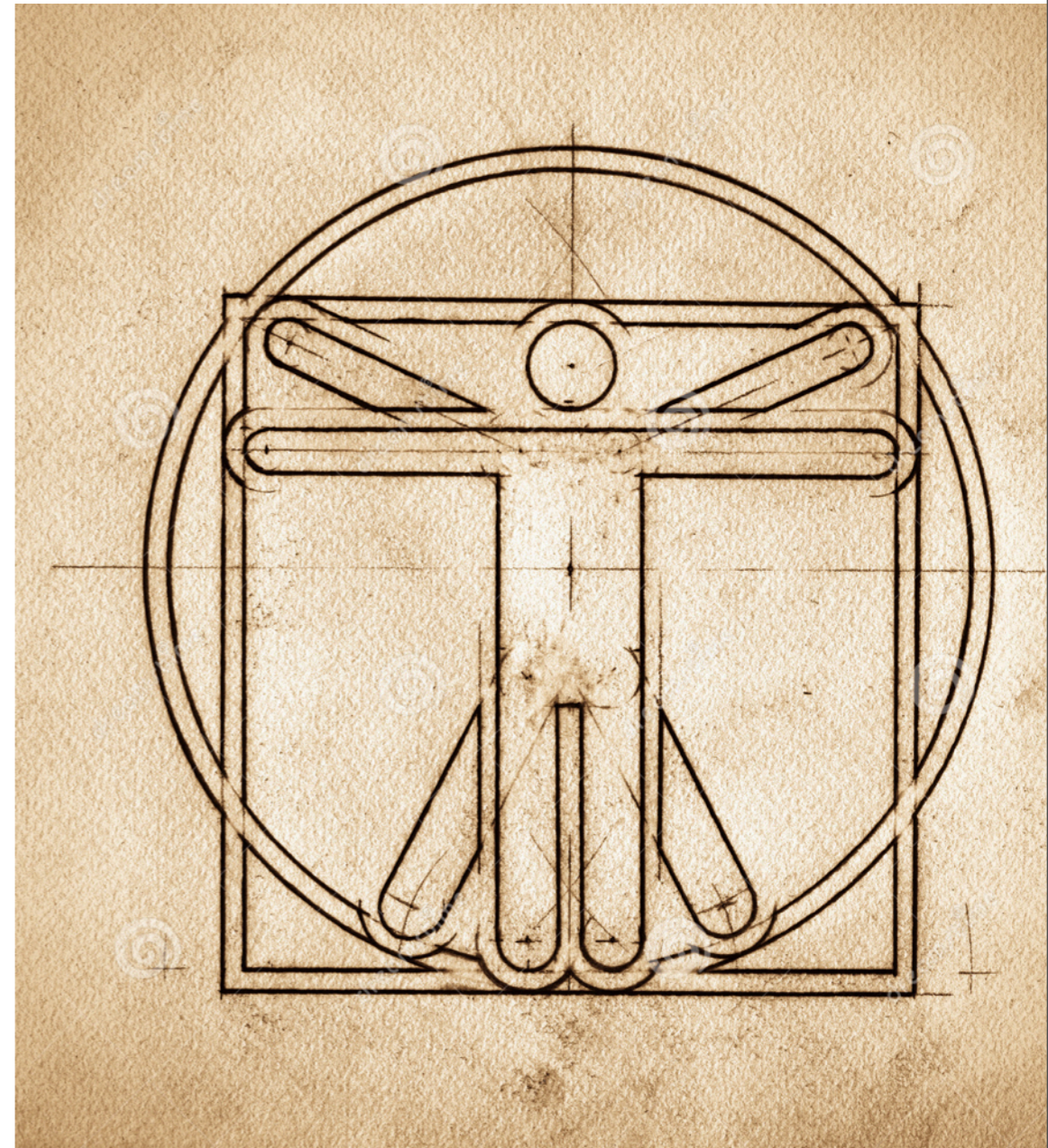
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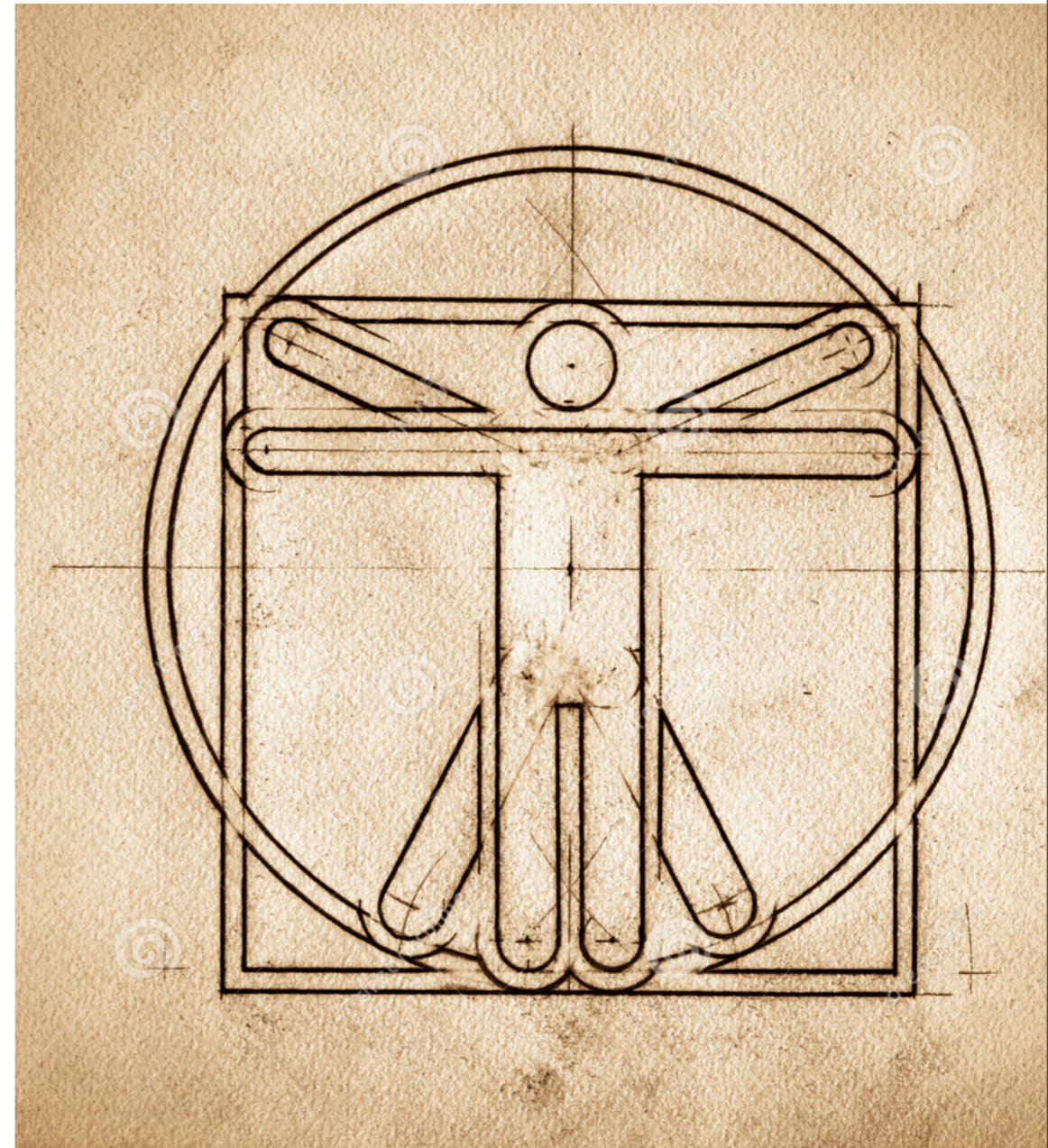
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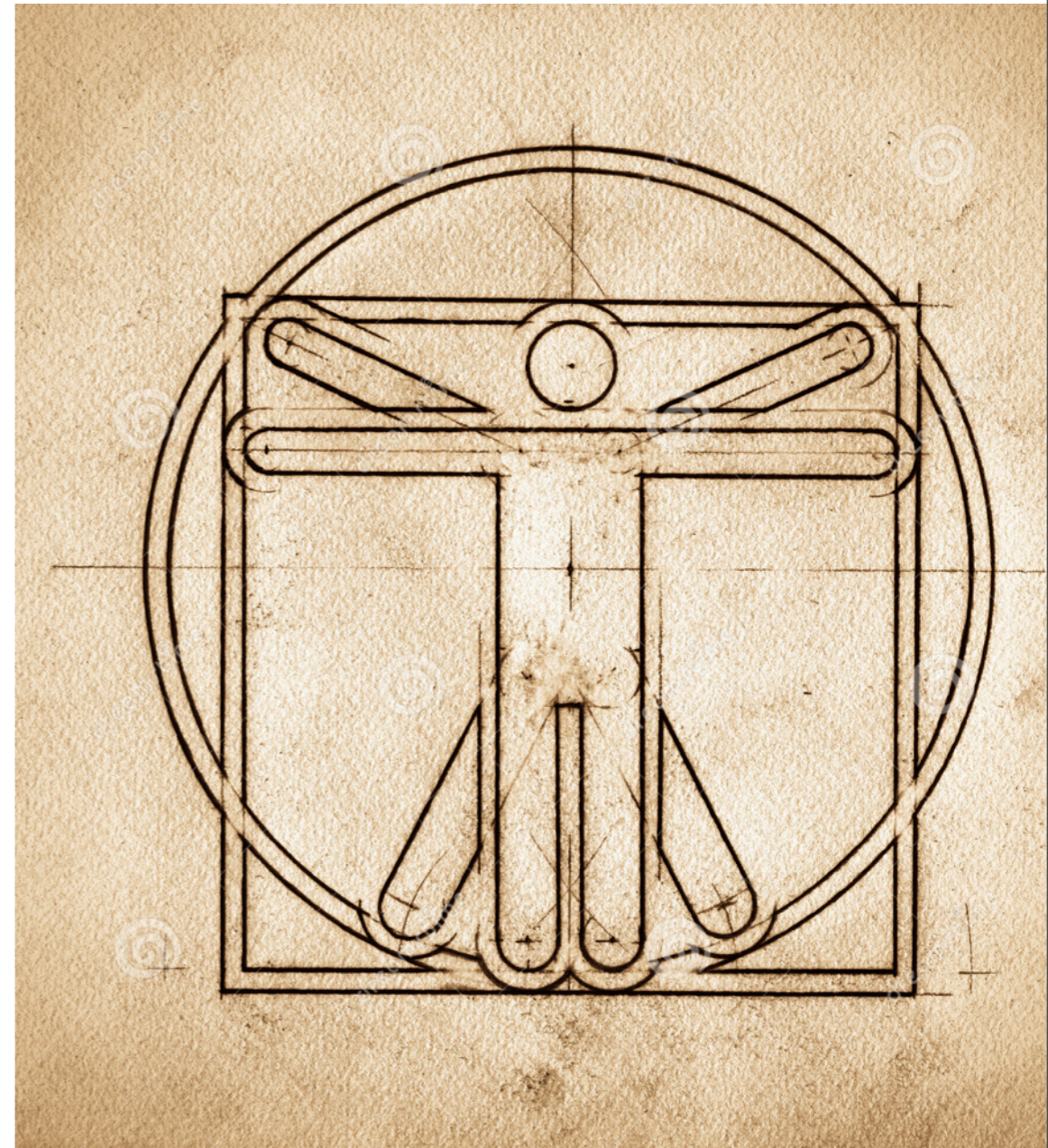
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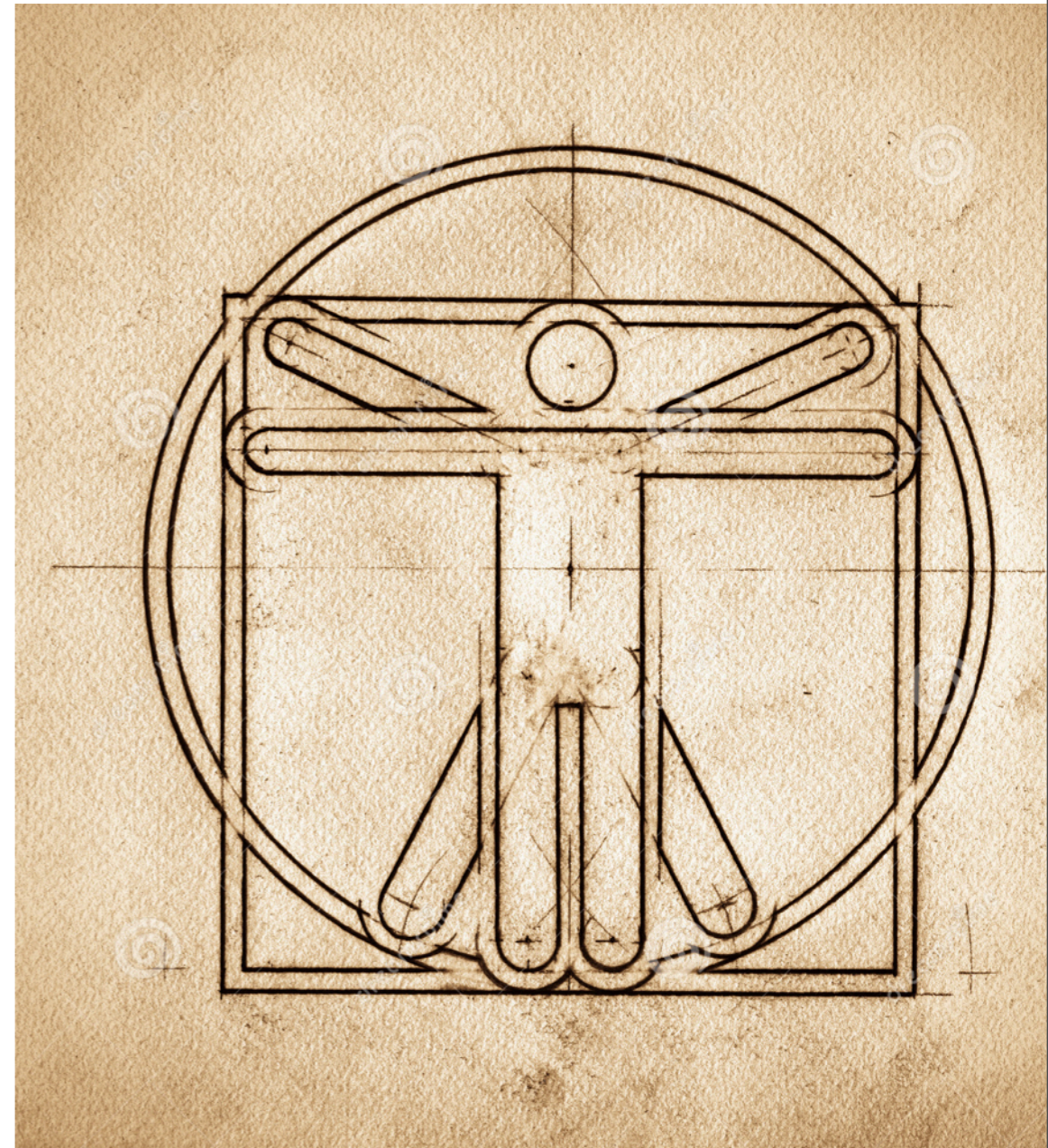
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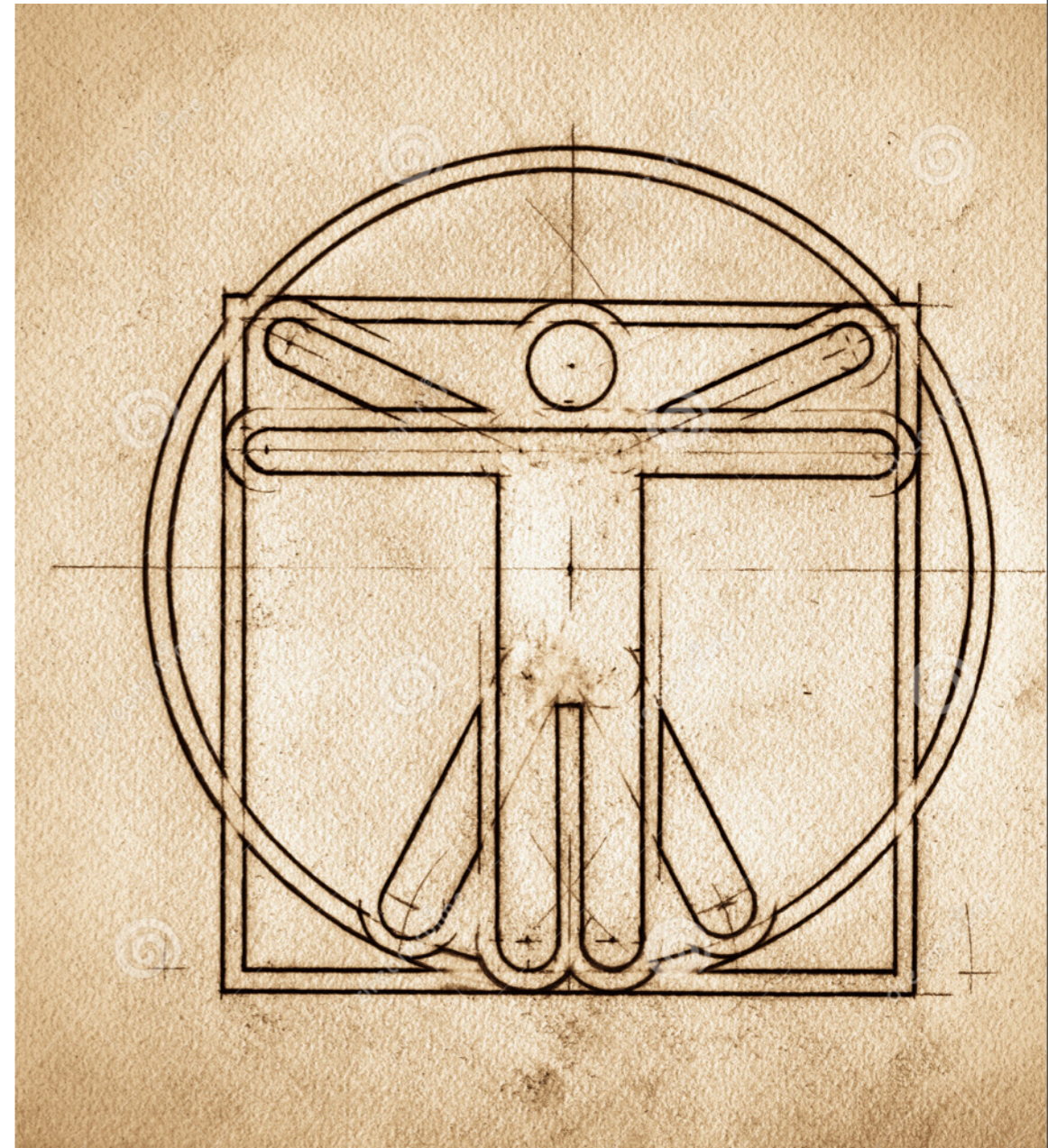
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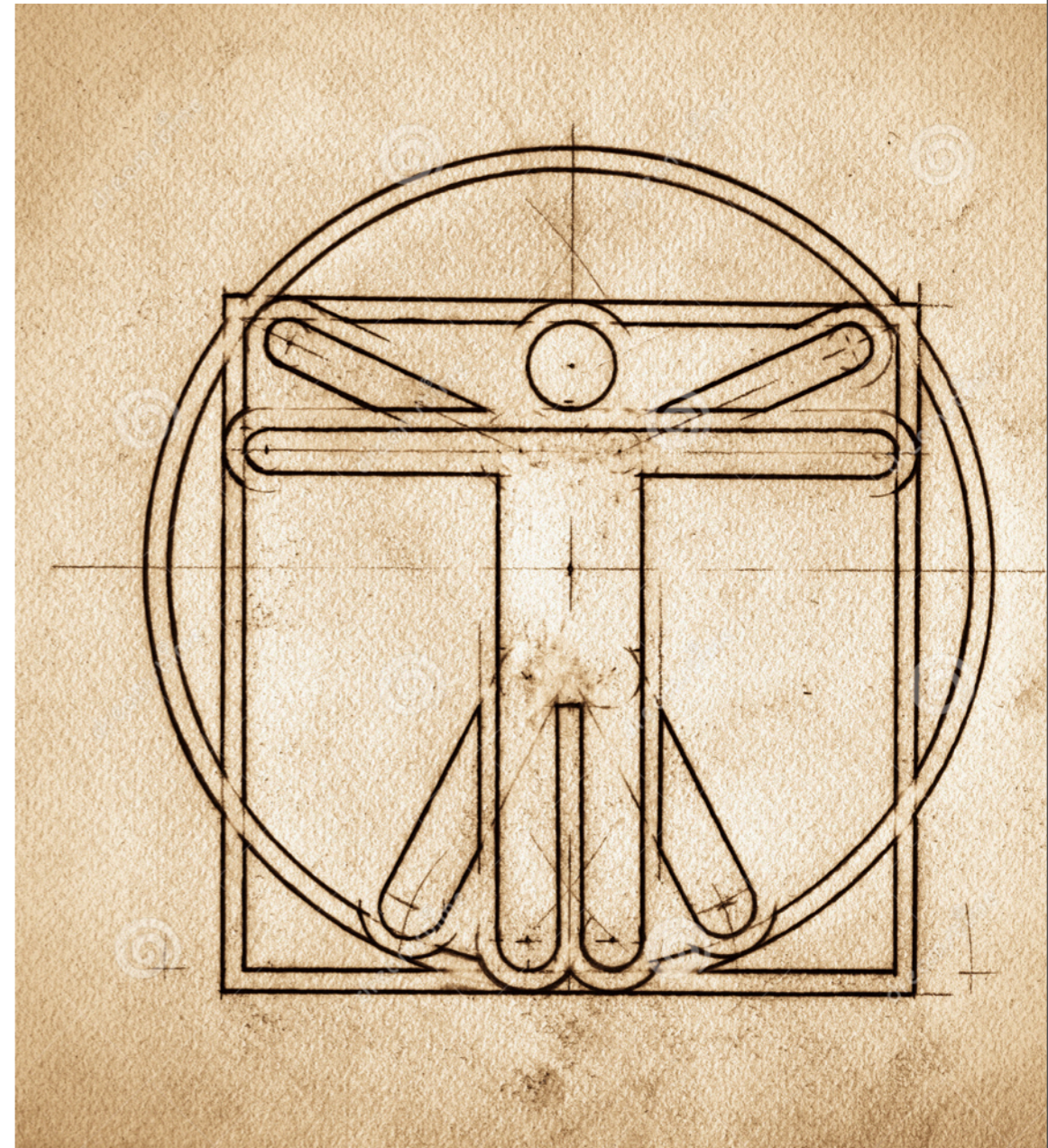
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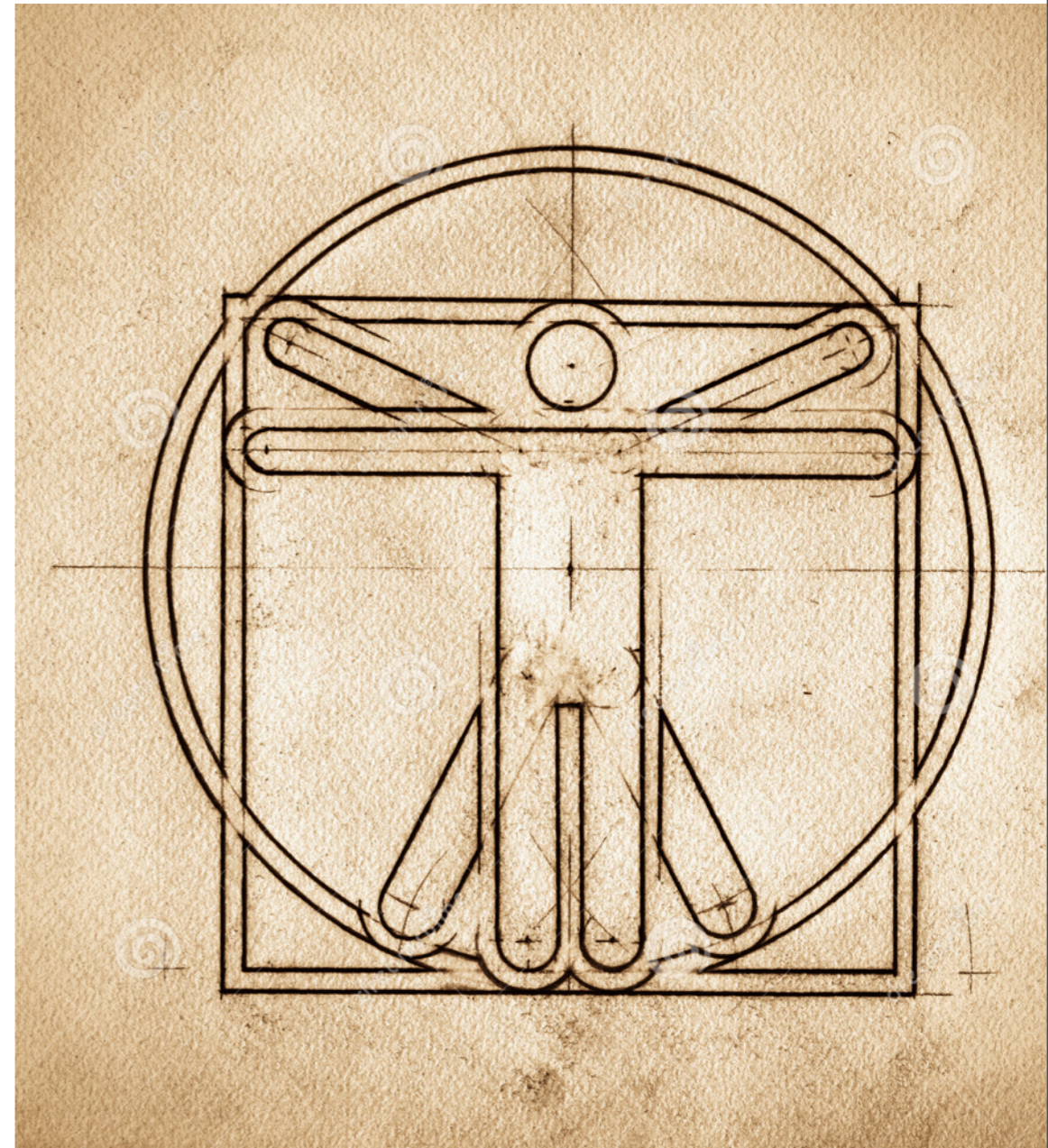
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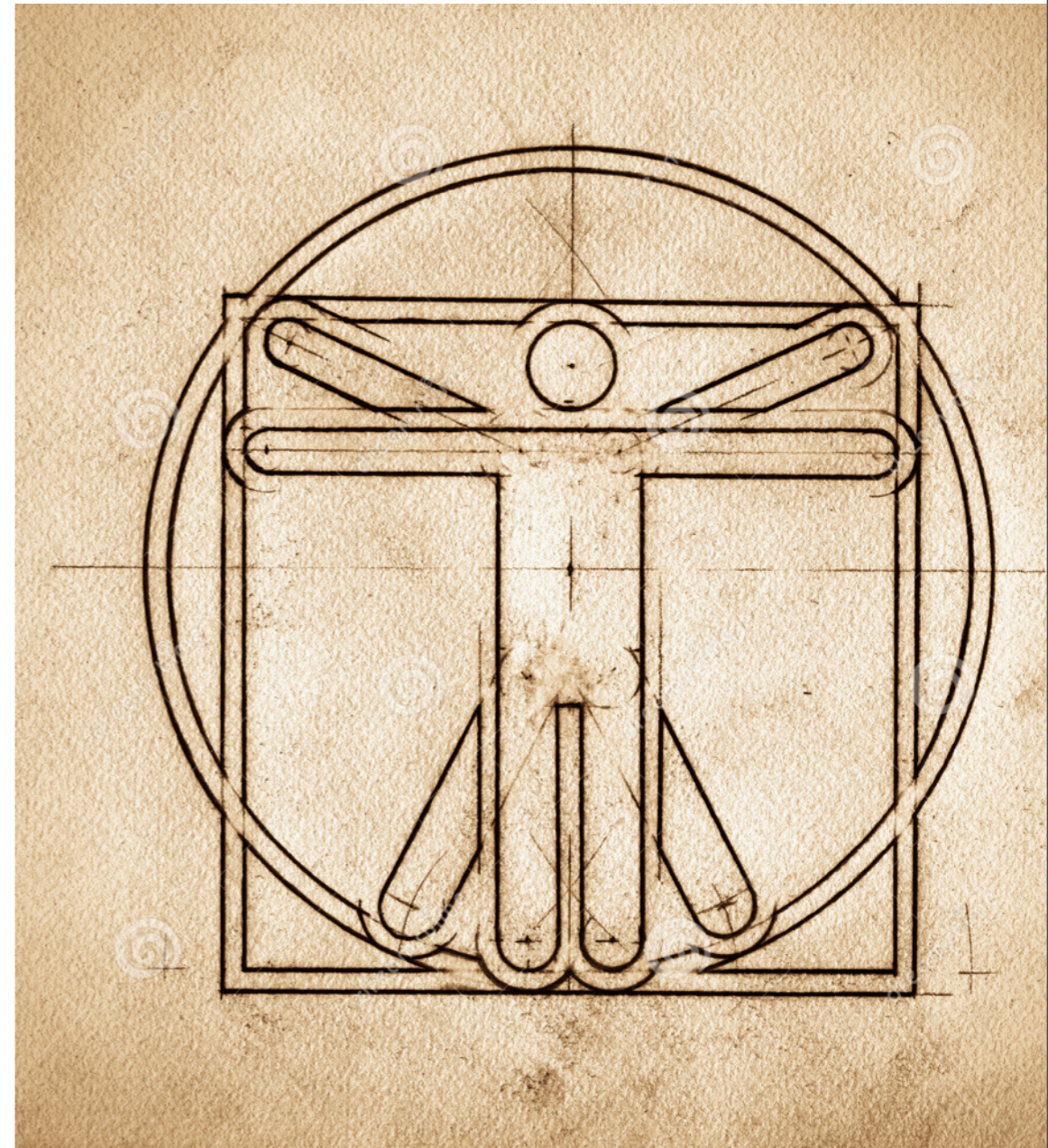
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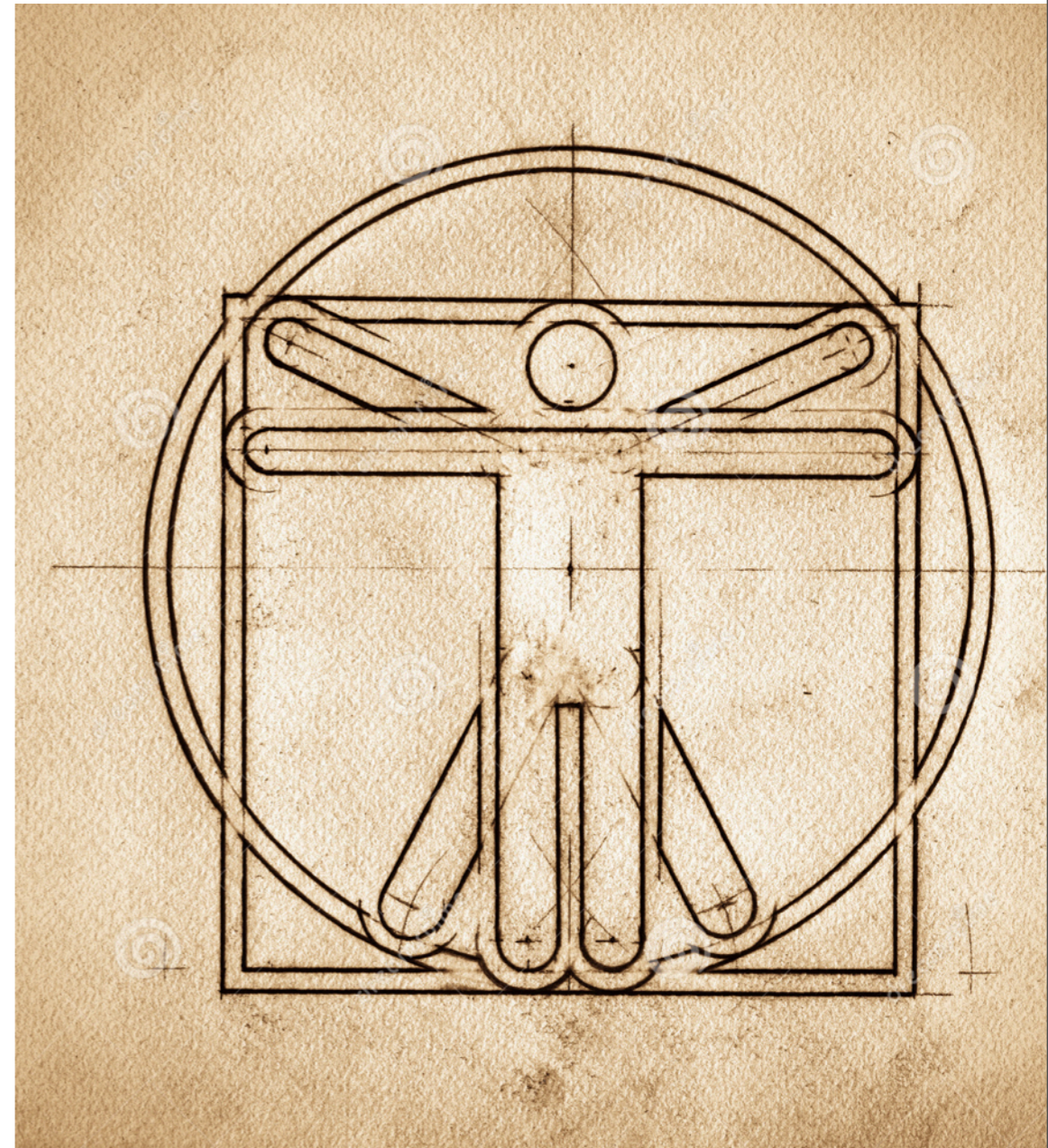
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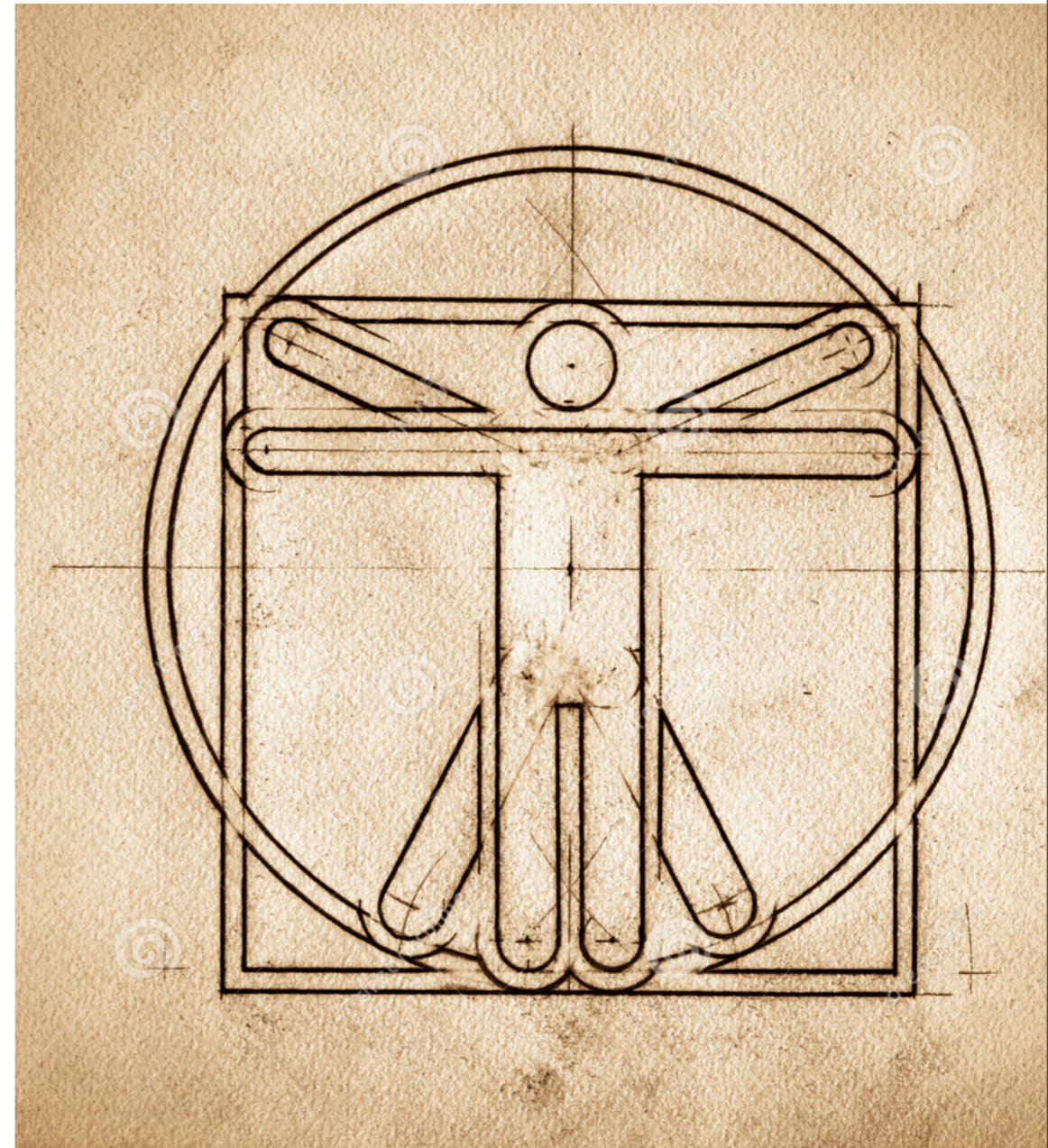
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- Humans are by nature “political animals”
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- Pointed out that the family and the village satisfy our primary needs of food, warmth, marriage, and child-rearing.
- **But the highest form of human fellowship is only to be found in the state.**

Digression: The State

- What is the State?



I am the state.
(Louis XIV)