



Berruguete 15th
C.

Painting of an
Auto da fé
of the Spanish
Inquisition

Saint Dominic
as 13th C
Inquisitor

Lucas Cranach the Elder
1472-1553

Cranach, Lucas

Caritas, or
Charity feeding
her young

Germany early
1500'



Cranach, The Fountain of Youth





Cranach Melancholy whittling on a stick, with witches flying



For Art History students and others: (not required reading)

A note on the witch images of Durer and Baldung-Grien:

All of their witch images come from the early 1500's when there were almost no actual witch trials. There is a debate about whether these images reflect German witch beliefs or instead reflect the Renaissance interest in ancient Roman and Greek beliefs about witches and magical powers. It is clear that both artists were interested in images of naked women, which is a Renaissance art theme taken from antiquity (actually naked men as well, especially in Italy). Here is a reference to a learned article written by a classical scholar arguing that both of these artists were trying to depict images drawn from their reading of ancient authors, rather than reflecting 16th C. German witch imagery.

Margaret A. Sullivan, The Witches of Dürer and Hans Baldung Grien, *Renaissance Quarterly*, Vol. 53, No. 2 (Summer, 2000), pp. 333-401 Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2901872>
(You may have to log into JSTOR from UW Library page to access this.)

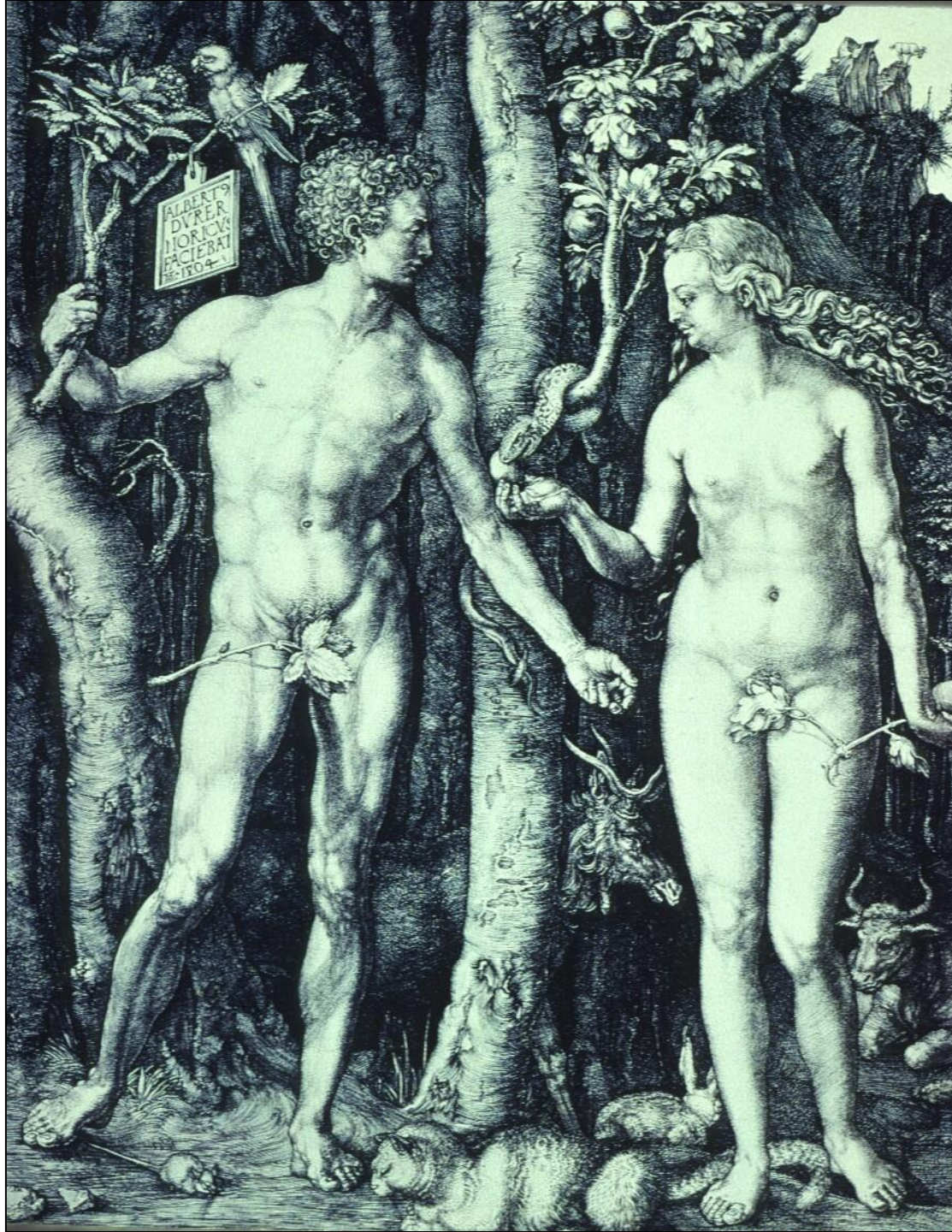
Albrecht Durer
1471-1578

Albrecht
Durer

Adam
and
Eve

Woman as
cause
of the
Fall of
Mankind

Note the
Horned
Animal
behind
Even





Avarice
as old woman

Avaritia =
Latin for greed

All abstract
Latin nouns
are feminine,
so both virtues
and vices
depicted as
women



Durer1497

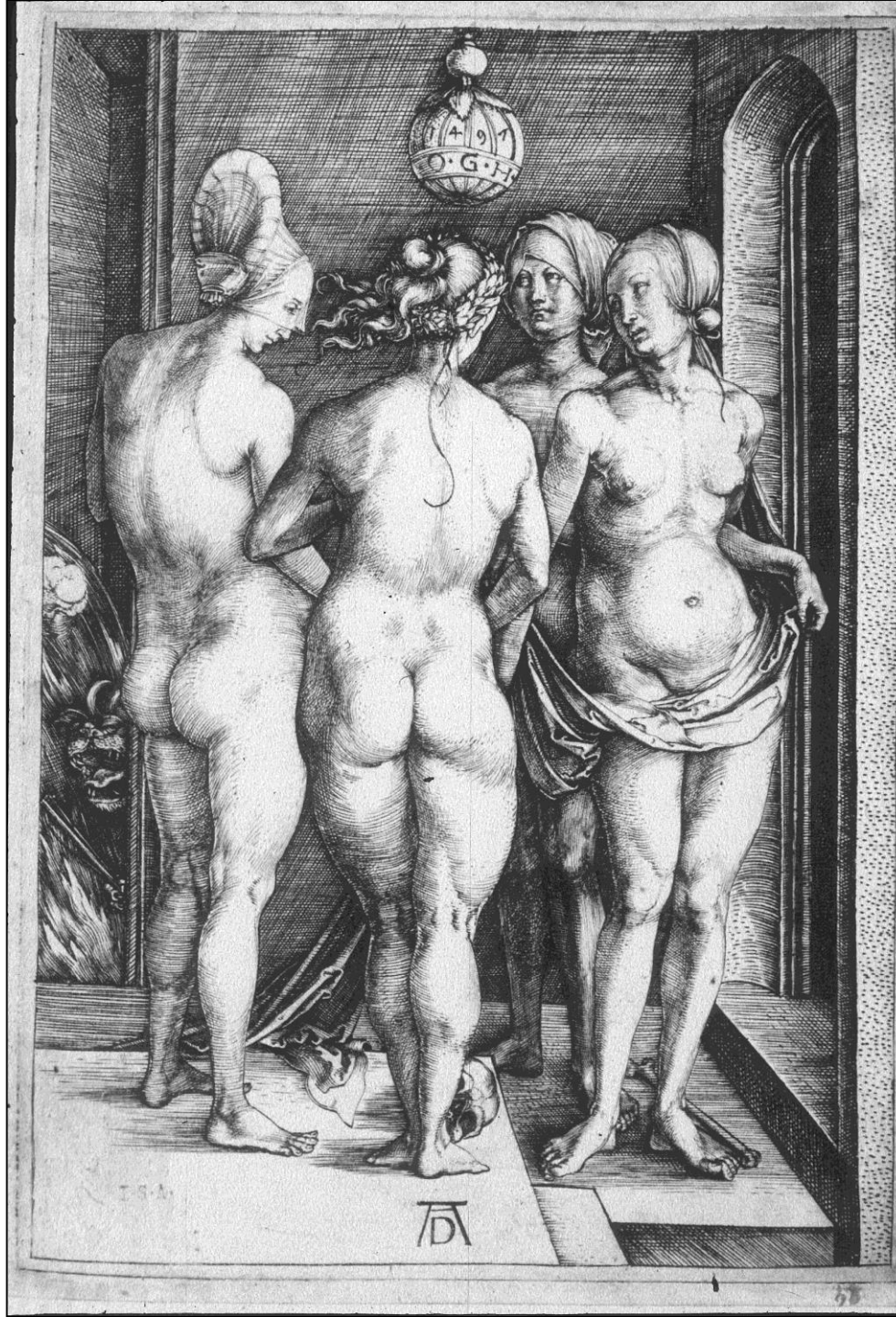
Four
Witches

(Demon and
mouth of
Hell on left)

OGH =

Odium
Humani
Generis

“Hatred of
the Human
Race”

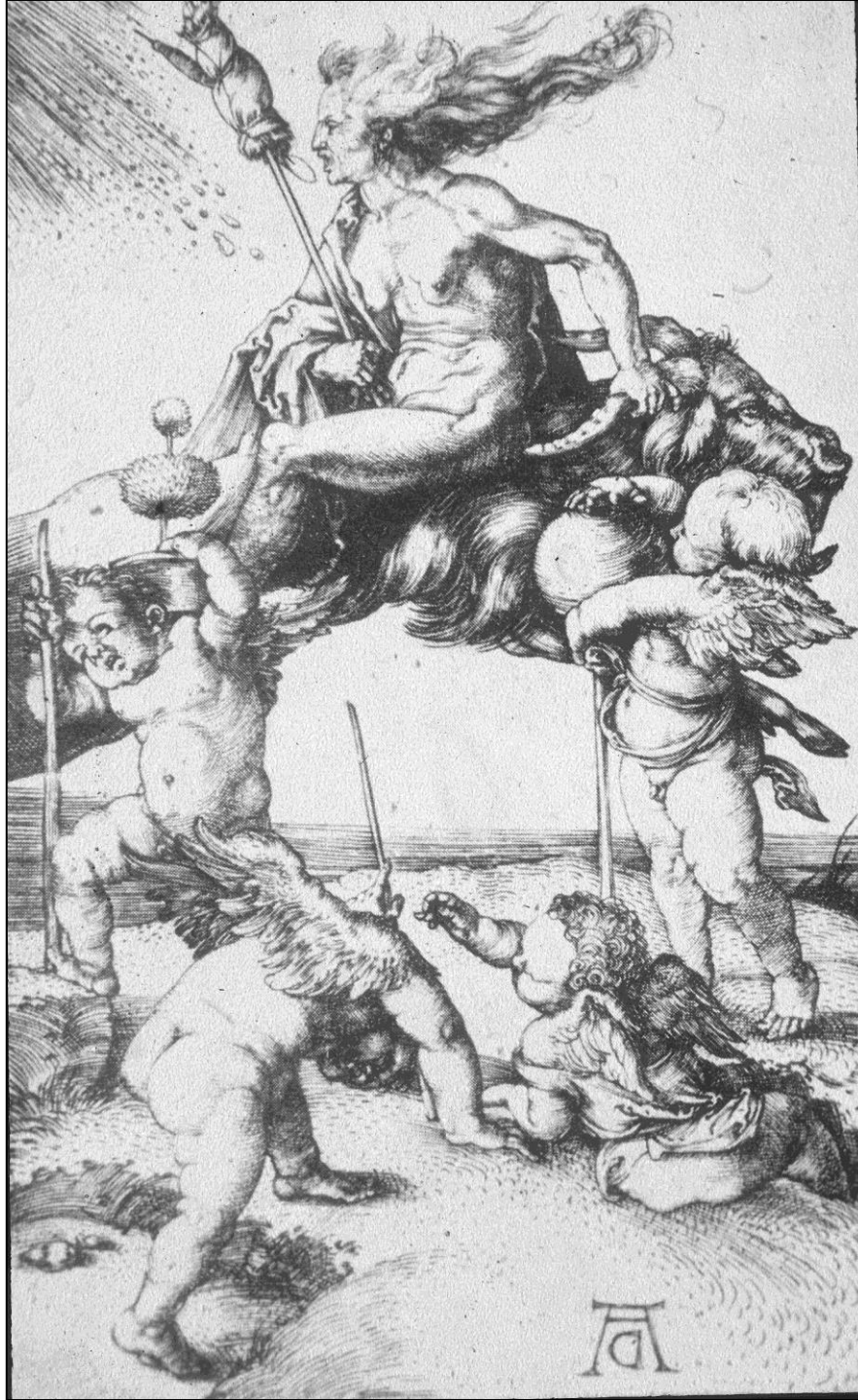


Woman
Attacked
by the Devil



Witch
Riding
backward on a
goat with a
broomstick

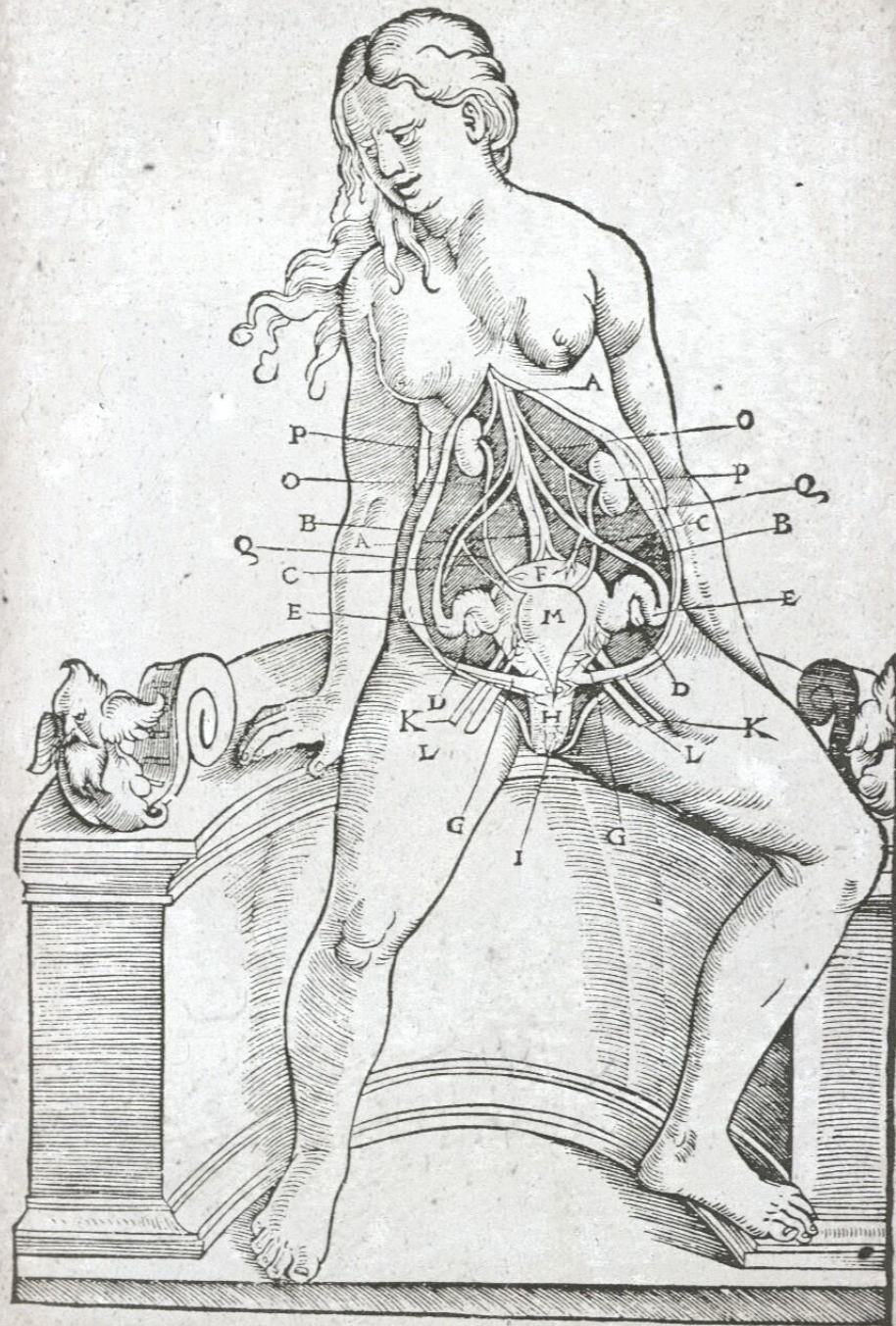
1500



Hans Baldung Grien
1480-1545

Hans
Baldung
Grien

Anatomic
al
drawing
of female
body



Baldung
Grien

The Holy
Family

St. Anne,
Mary, Jesus

with Joseph
asleep
behind the
wall

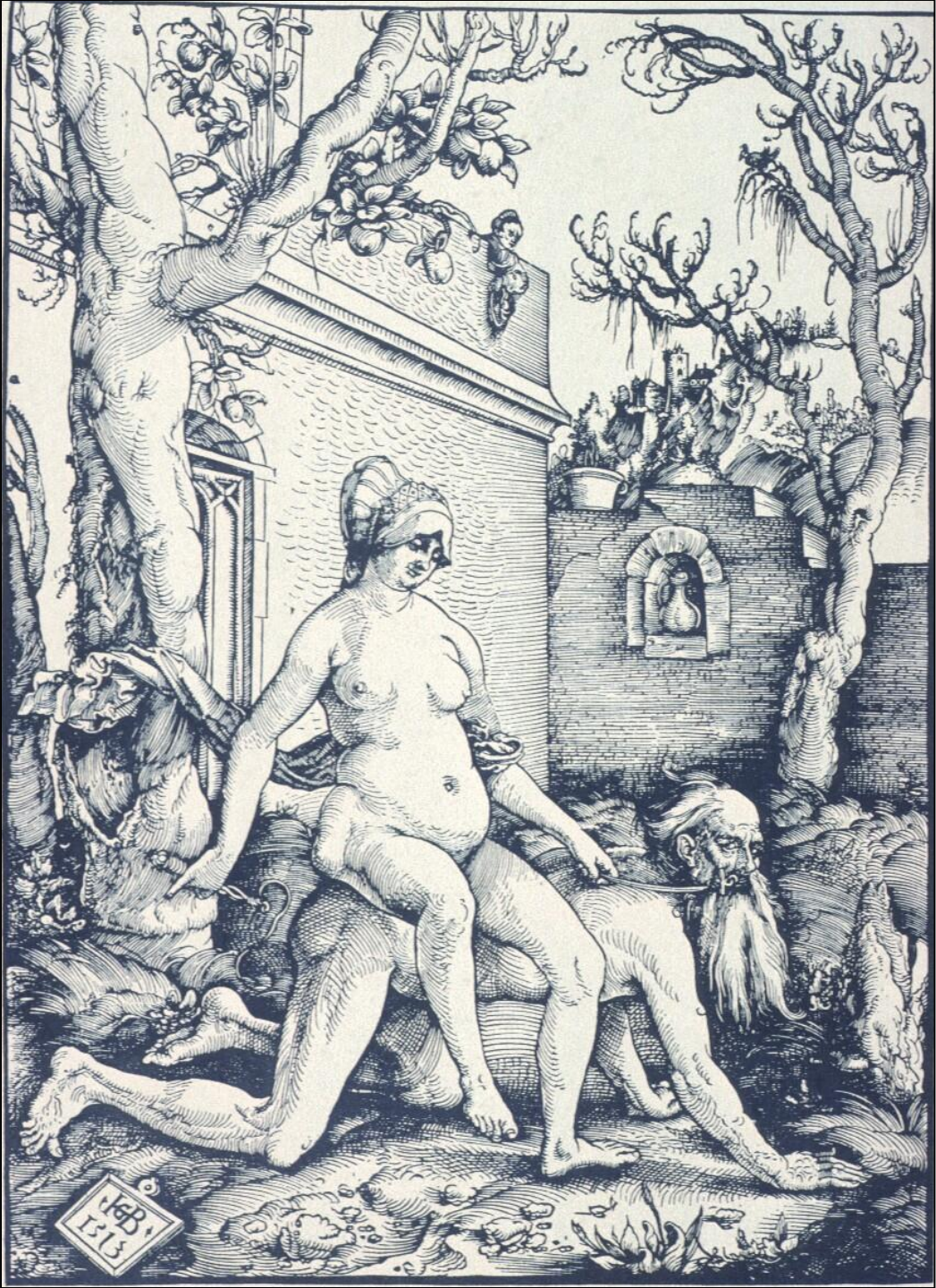




Baldung Grien

Phyllis riding
Aristotle

(metaphor for
inversion of the
correct order,
& for domination
of the flesh over
the mind)



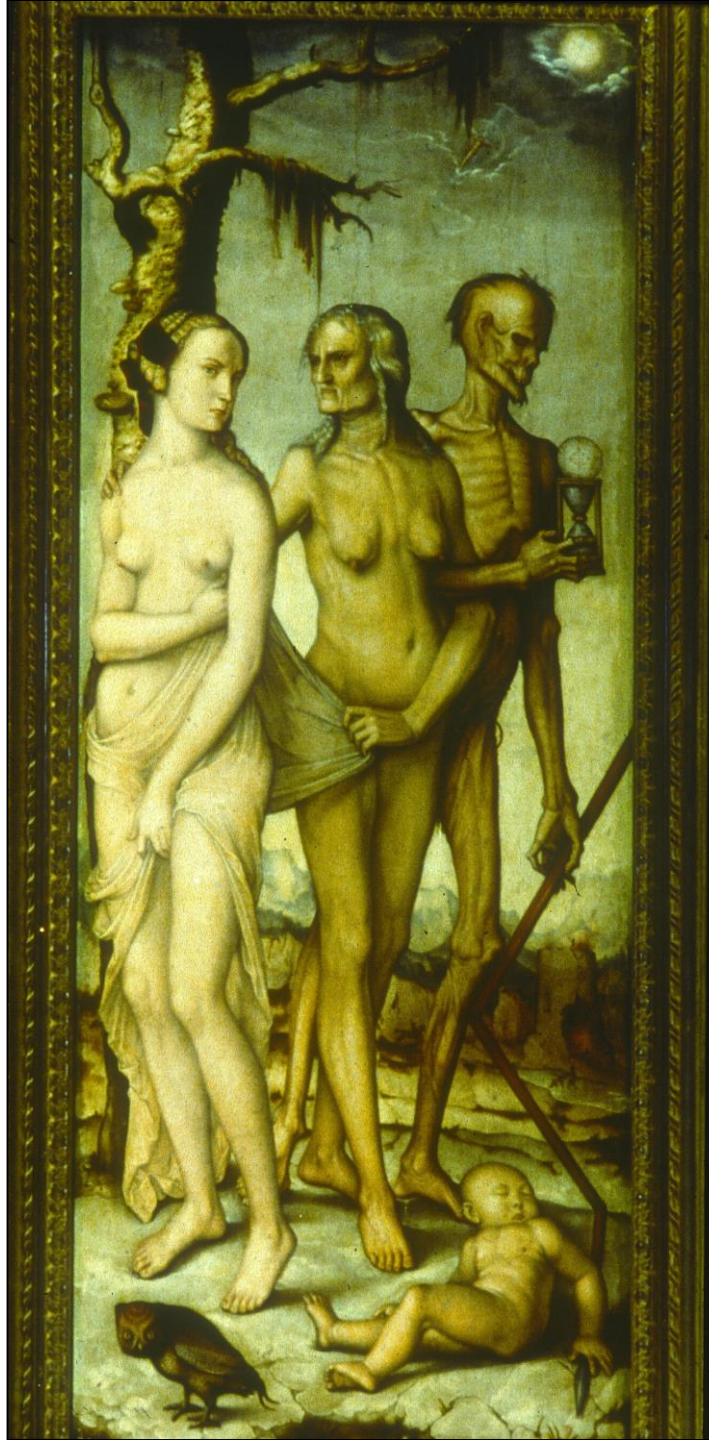
Baldung
Grien

Seven
ages
of woman



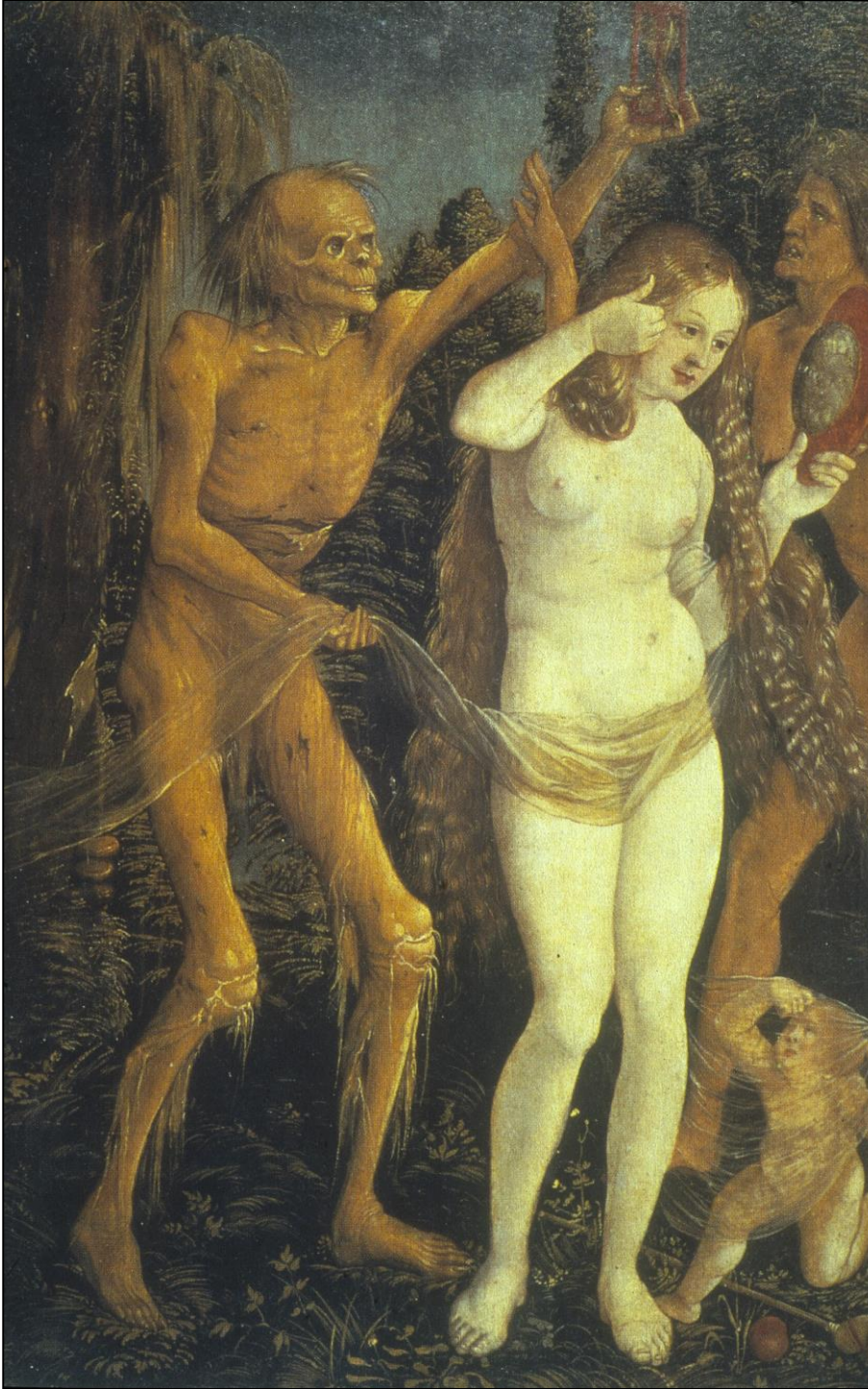
Baldung Grien

Three ages of
woman and
death

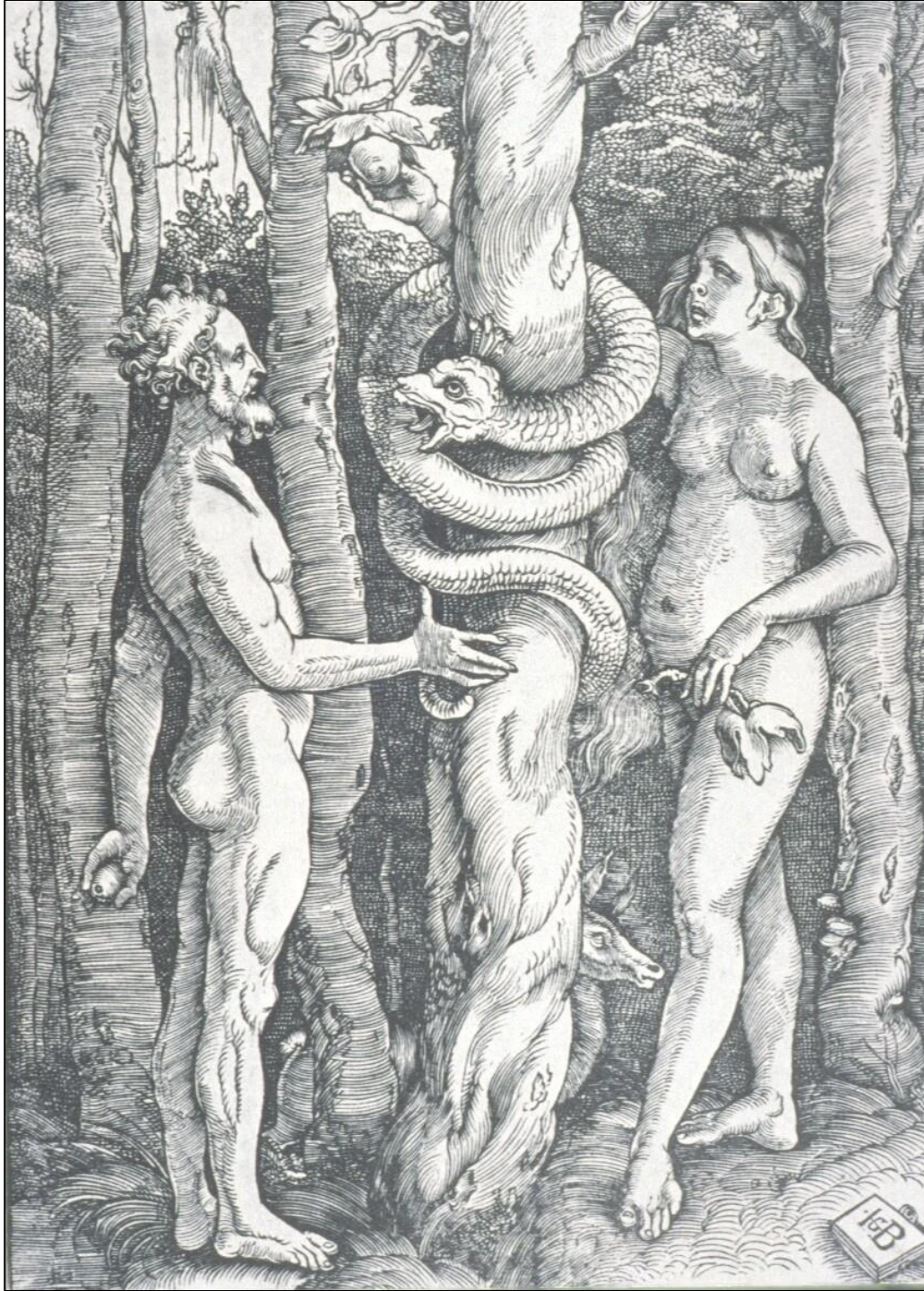


Baldung
Grien

Vanity and
Death



Adam and
Eve

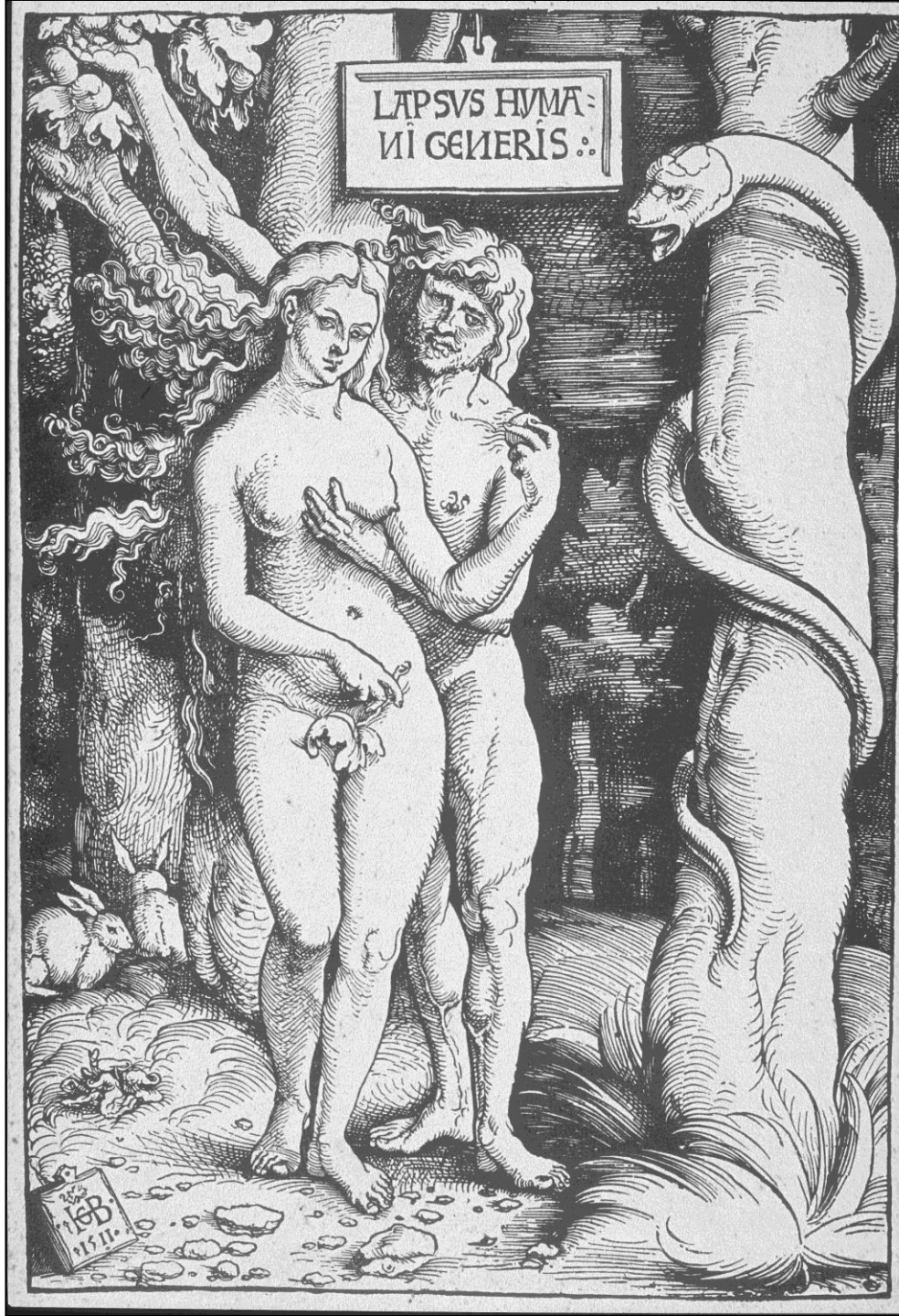


Adam &
Even

Lapsus
Humani
Generis

(fall of
the human
race)

Note the
rabbits

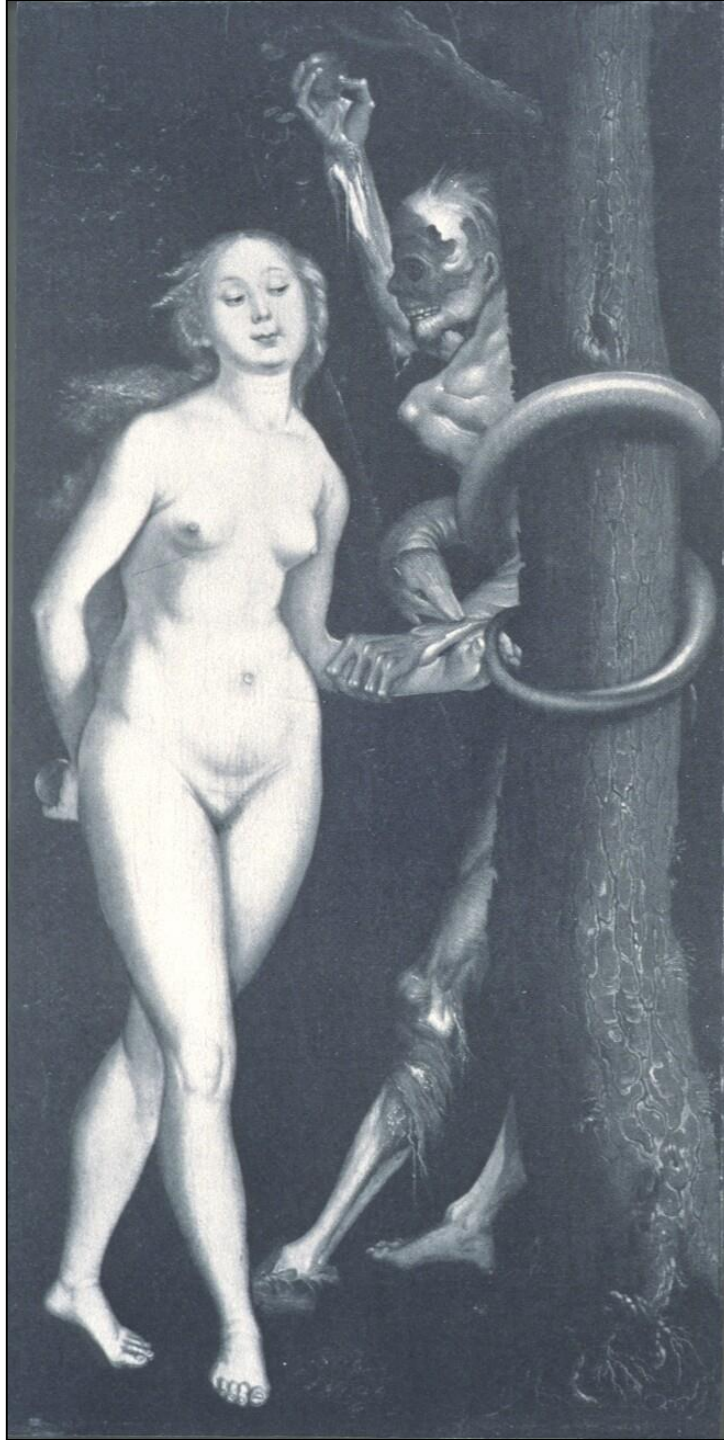


Adam and
Eve

(after
biting the
apple)

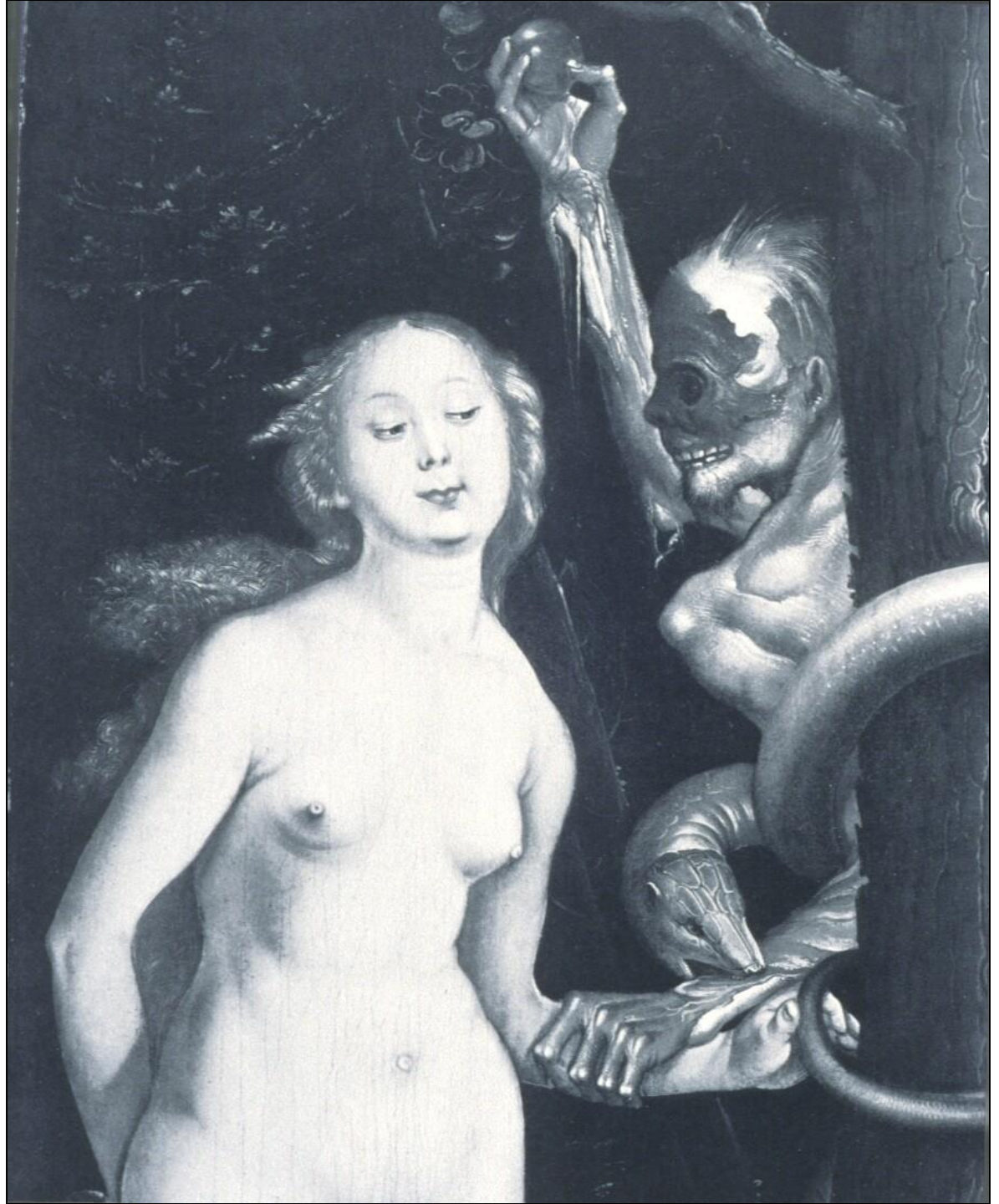


Woman and the devil



She's flirting with
the devil !

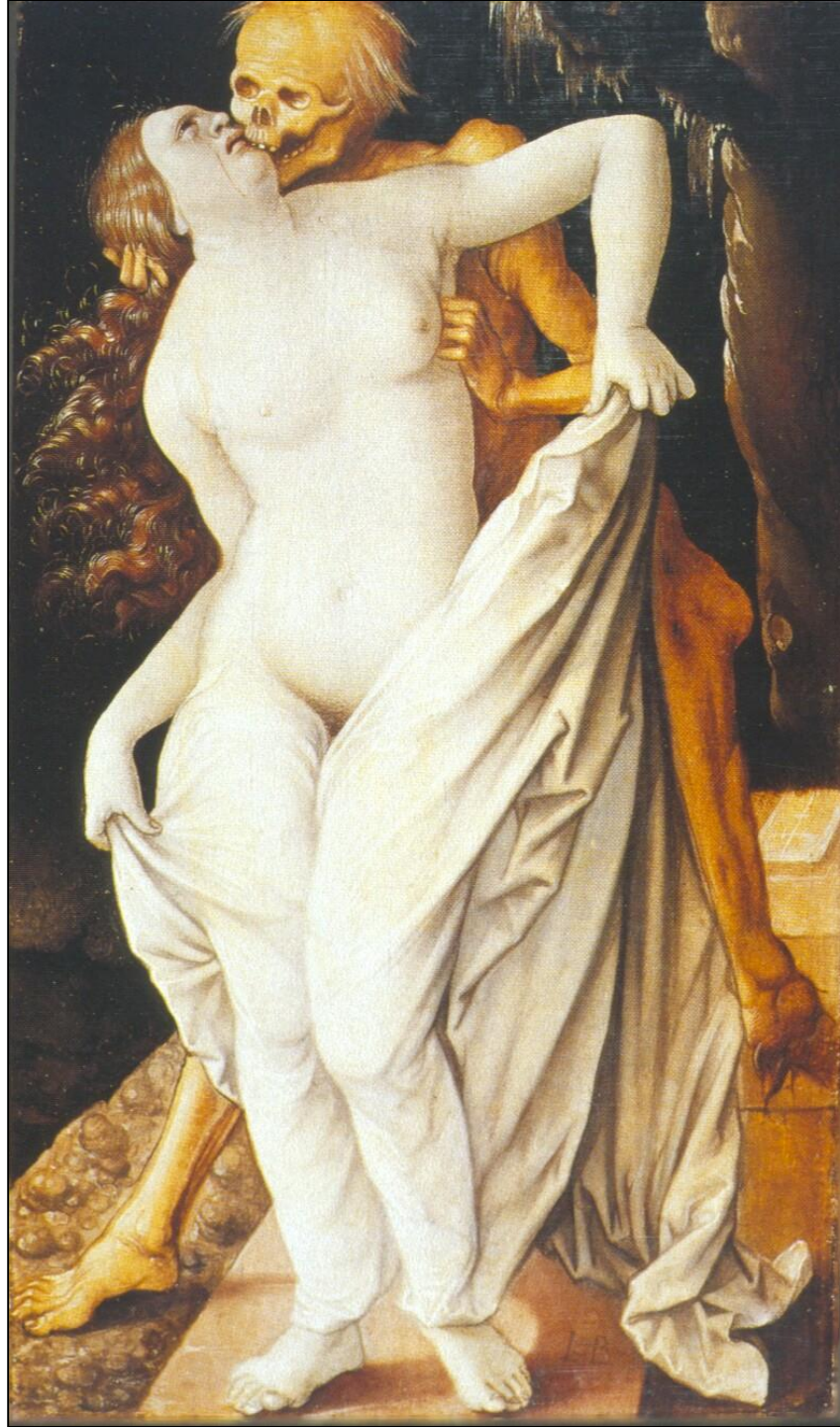
This has to be
Eve given the
tree, the snake
and the apple in
the devil's hand.



Hans
Baldung
Grien

Woman &
death



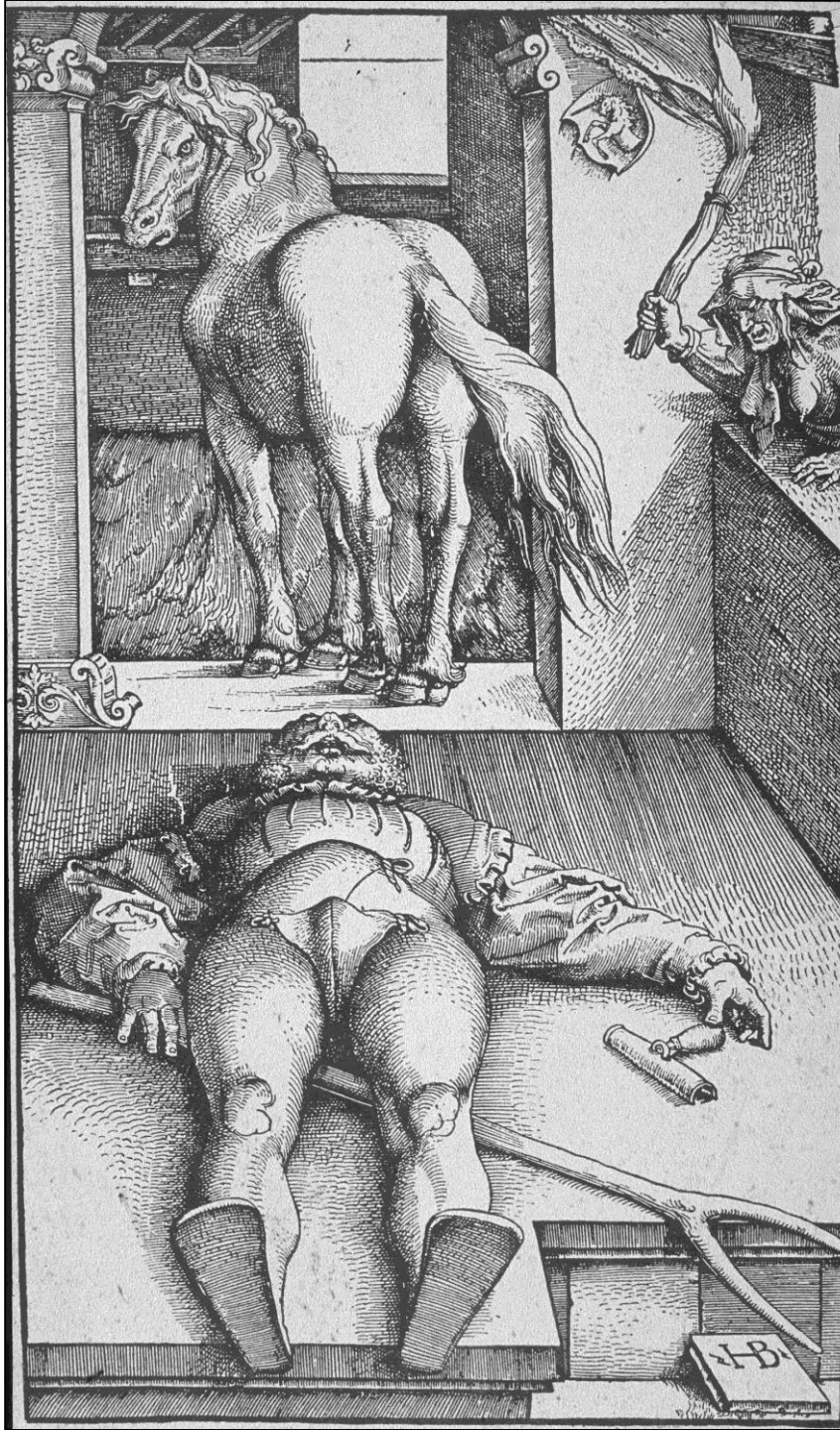


Vanity

(on the
precipe)



The
Bewitched
Stable Boy



Demons
With
Names



Weather Witches

(note the demon
in the jar)



Witches
Raising
Storms

(note quasi
Hebrew
characters)





Botticelli court painter in Florence for Lorenzo de' Medici



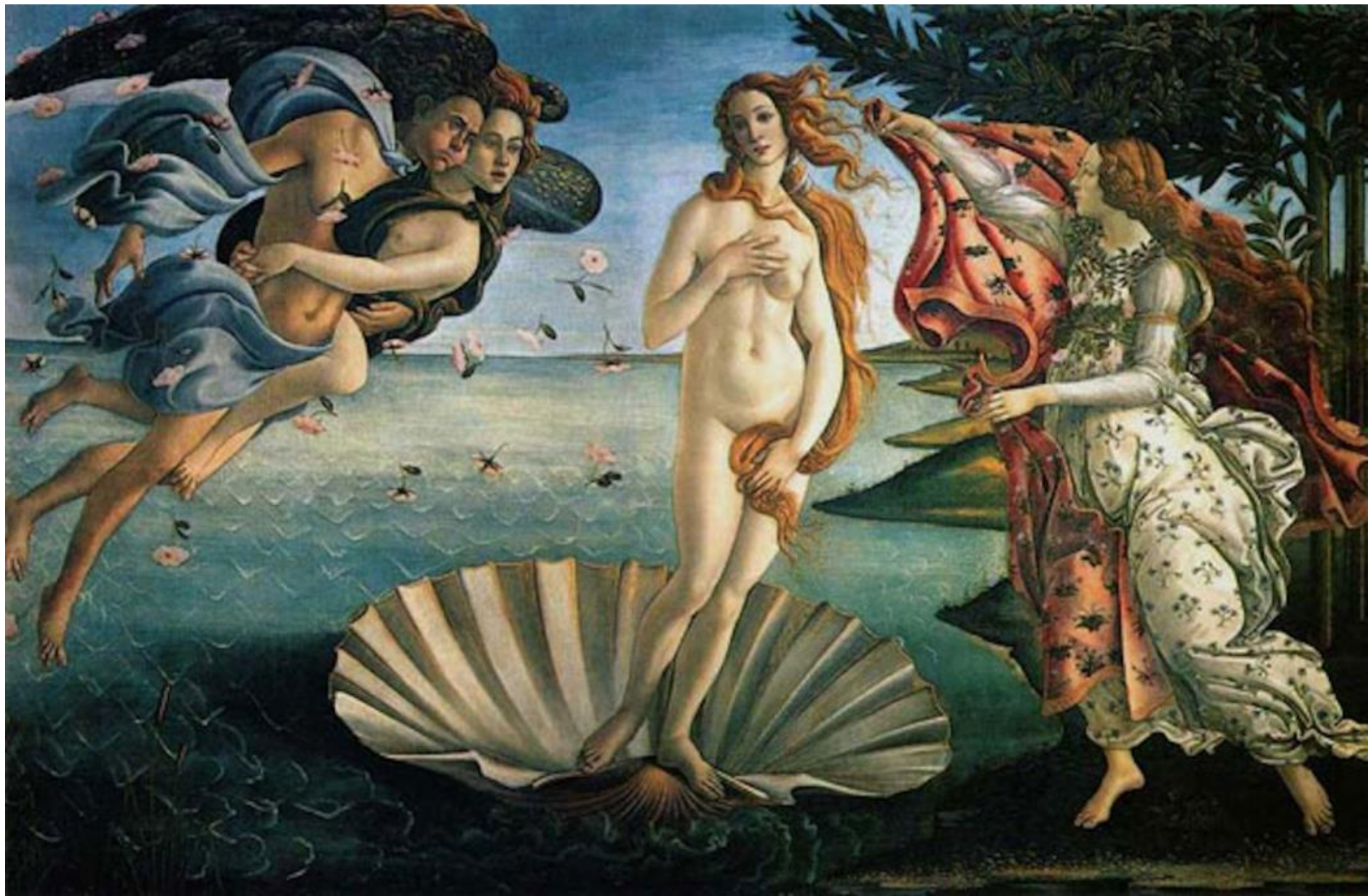
The three graces



Flora, symbol of spring flowers



Botticelli The Birth of Venus 1485



Marsilio Ficino physician to the Medici in Florence
translator of Plato's Dialogues & the Hermetic corpus
author of Libri di Vita (Books of Life) 1489:

presents an elevated “natural” astrological magic (no demons) &
describes how to make “talismans” or magical objects to draw
down powers of the benevolent planets:
Venus, Jupiter and the Sun

Botticelli's paintings of Venus & Primavera as “Ficinian talismans” – painted on
instructions from Ficino to Botticelli for Lorenzo de' Medici



See Frances
Yates,
Giordano
Bruno and
the Hermetic
Tradition

Francisco Goya: Witch paintings from 1790's

Late 18th C. after witch beliefs have declined;
his witch paintings are already historical nightmares,
not a current threat





















