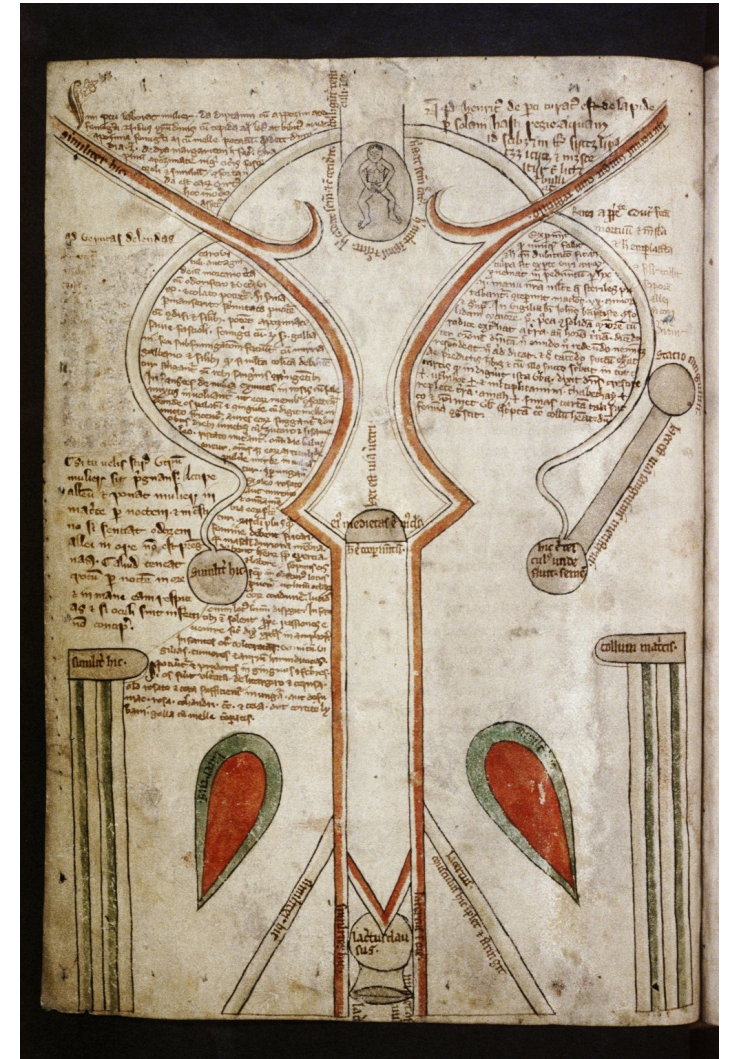


# Medieval Gender: Ideology and Practice

# Uterus, i (m.)

- Womb
- Belly
- Cavity
- Fruit of the womb
- Child
- Fetus



Late 13<sup>th</sup> c., England



# Today's focus...

- Gender ideologies
    - Influences: Ancient Greece and Rome; Christian doctrine
  - How did patriarchal society affect the lives of men and women?
    - Nobility and townspeople
-

# Gender Ideologies: Roots

Ancient Greece and Rome



Women as mentally and physically weaker than men

Jewish and Christian Scripture



Women as morally weaker than men

**Women:** morally, physically, mentally weak

**Men:** Rational, strong, morally superior

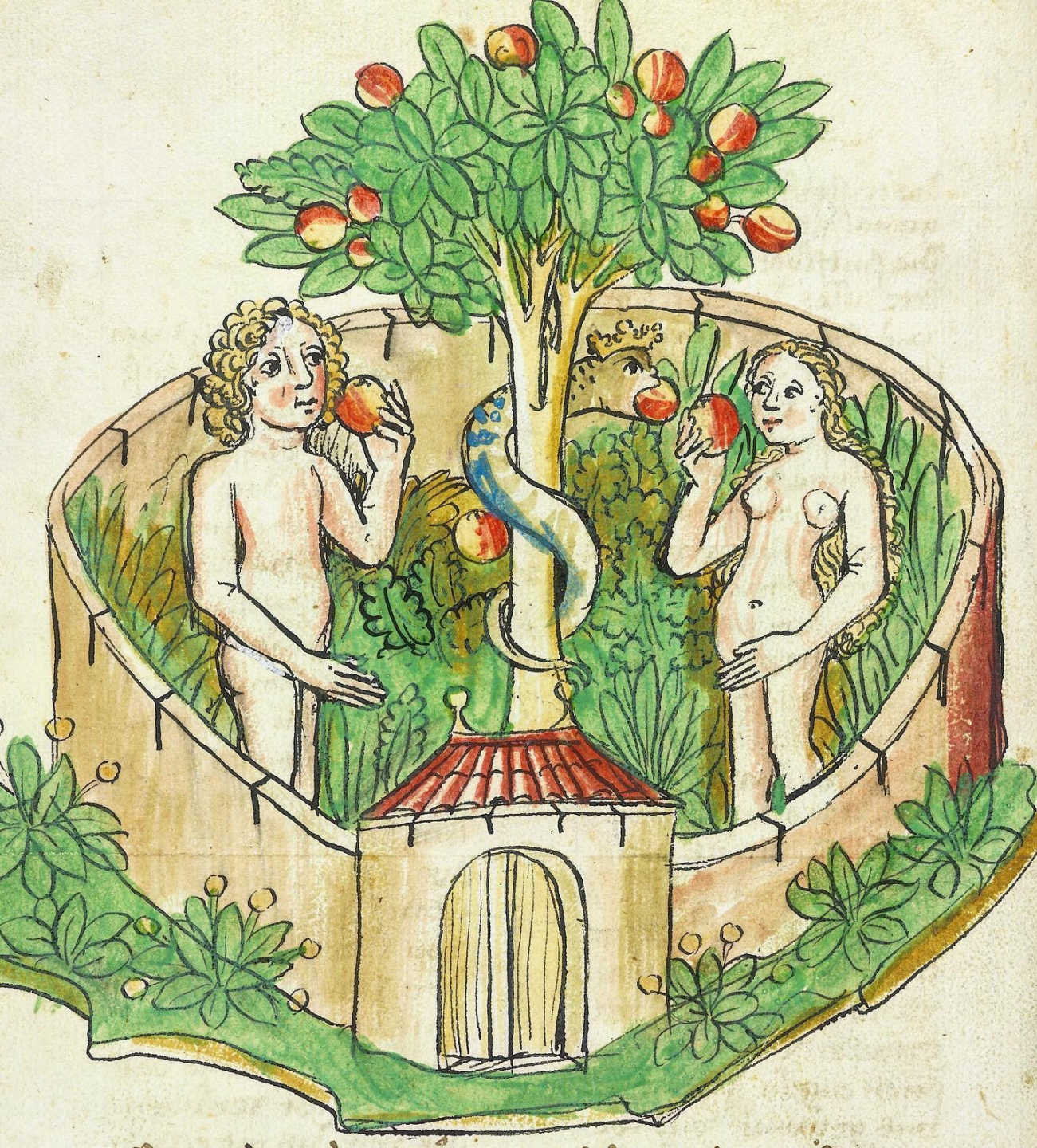
# “Woman” (14<sup>th</sup> century)

- ❖ Soft
- ❖ Pious
- ❖ Beautiful

**BUT**

- ❖ Sinful
- ❖ Evil
- ❖ Sexually voracious
- ❖ Downfall of mankind





## Adam and Eve

- Mother and father of humankind
- Men = Sons of Adam = Image of God
- Women = Daughters of Eve = Adam's rib

Original Sin

**Hildegard of Bingen, *Causes and Cures* (12th century)**





“Birth of the Virgin”, Don Silvestro  
d’Gheraducci (1375)



“Virgin and Child”, Dieric Bouts (1455-60)



# Mary Magdalene



Fresco by Fra Angelico, 15<sup>th</sup> c.



Book of Hours, 15<sup>th</sup> century

Equality of souls...

*Inequality of sexes*

# Aristotle (384-322 b.c.e.)

## Women

- cold
- wet
- inferior
- disabled
- passive
- weak

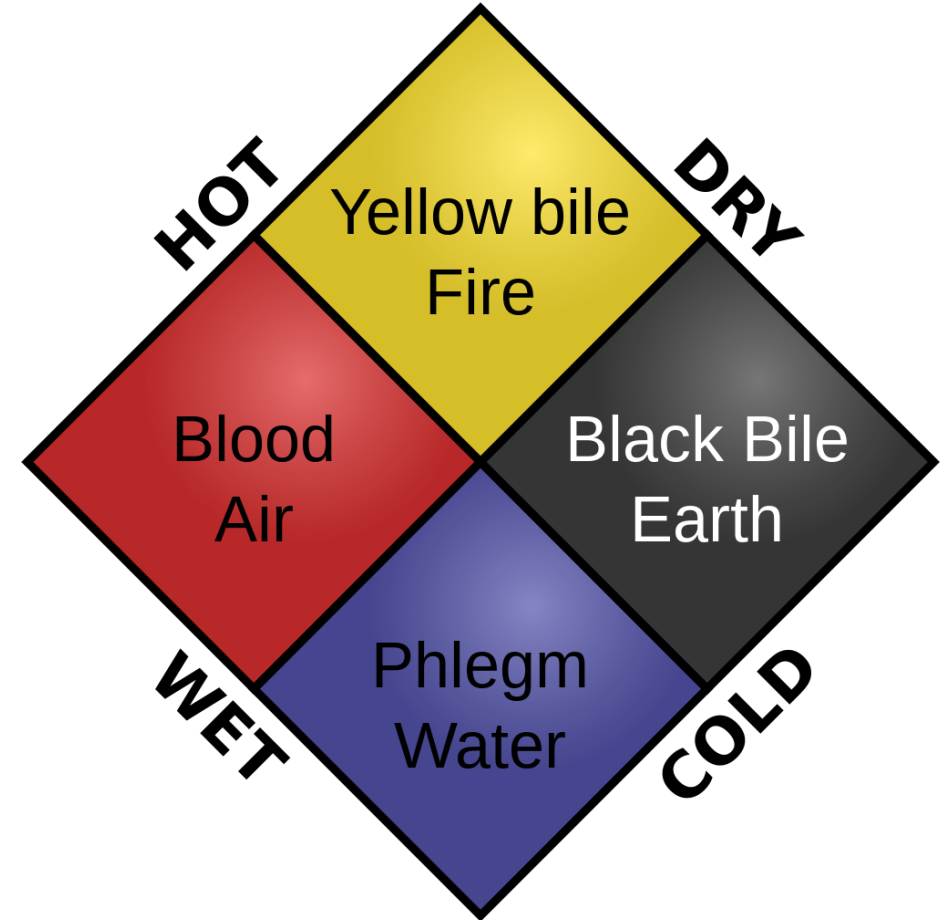
## Men

- hot
- dry
- superior
- able
- active
- strong

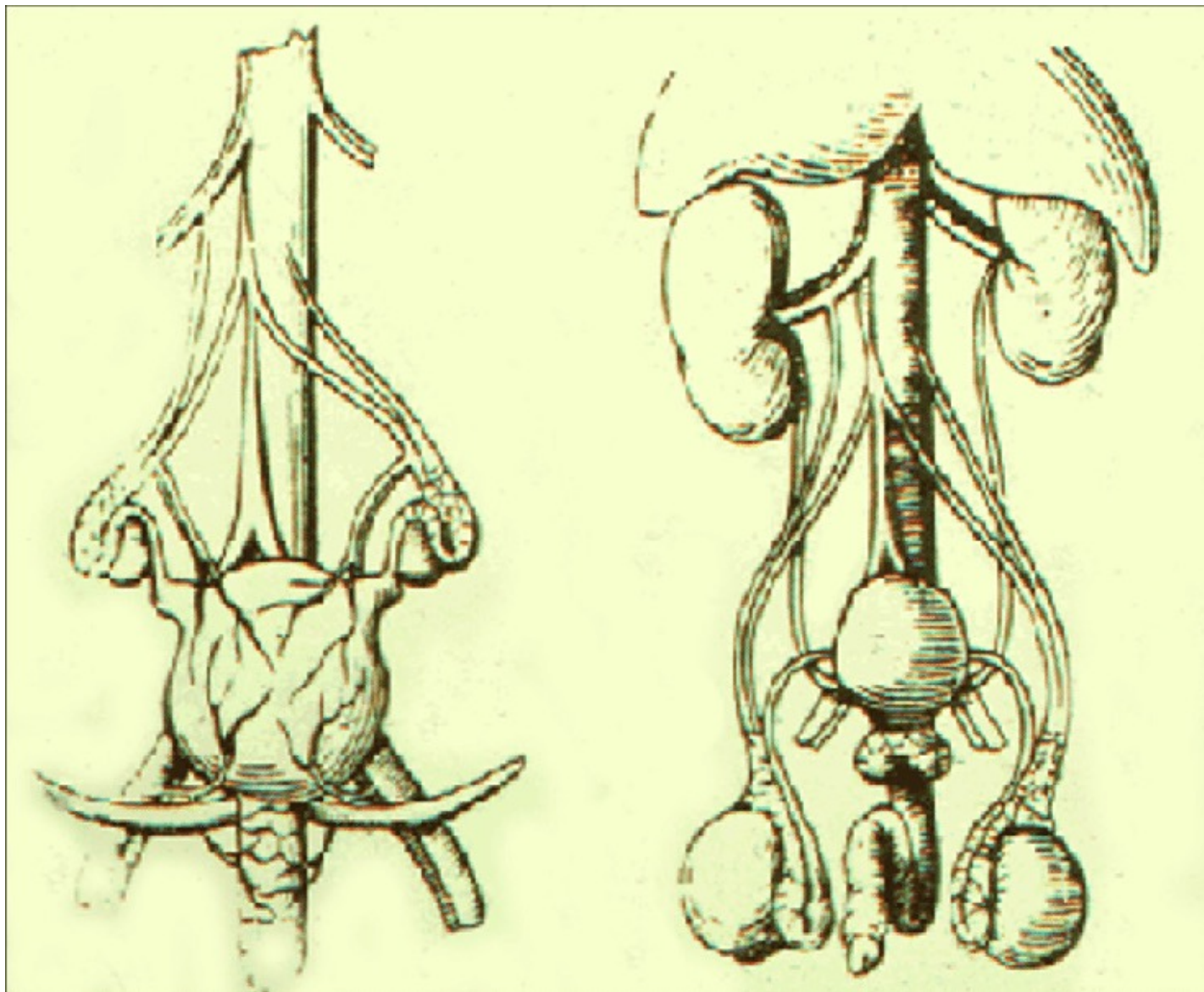
# Galen, (131-201)

Women as...

- inverted men
- Smaller less perfect testes (ovaries)
- Semen “scantier, colder, wetter”



Andreas Vesalius,  
16<sup>th</sup> c.



# WOMEN

- Daughters of Eve
- Ruled by immoral bodies
- Uncontrollable sexual urges
- Wandering wombs
- “deformed” men

# MEN

- Sons of Adam
- Rational
- Physically and mentally strong
- Active

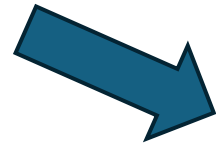
# the WANDERING WOMB



Matteo Farinella

# Ideology and Law

IF women are believed to be mentally, physically, and morally weaker than men



Need to protect women

OR

Punish and control women





# Nobility



# Chivalry

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- From chevalier (knight)
- Warrior behaviour in a Christian framework
- Defense of God, Christ, Church, the King, and the Lady



# Chretien de Troyes (late 12<sup>th</sup> century)

- Arthurian Romance
- King Arthur
- Lancelot
- Guinevere



# Townspeople



# Manufacturing: Artisan Workshops

- Stratified by trade
  - Goldsmiths higher than masons or carpenters
- Stratified within trades
  - Master artisan
  - Journeyman
  - apprentice



Die lune xj. septembris anno  
canale domini .m. cccc. lxxvij

Costancia uxore q<sup>o</sup> pastasij blangnafort birmij bill g<sup>o</sup>  
Walla. tunc et emareis pastasij blangnafort filij sui affir-  
mo bobistum Vassacle dela sala. cabano baluel p<sup>o</sup>seme  
dium pastasium blangnafort filium meum etatis.  
decem. annos. p<sup>o</sup> plus ul minus ad septem. annos  
appent die p<sup>o</sup> n<sup>o</sup>tea computandos ad adducendum v<sup>o</sup>m  
officiu caborie et fanar via mandata iusta licita et  
honesti. tam diei q<sup>o</sup> noctis et q<sup>o</sup> habeant ipm p<sup>o</sup>videc  
tam insanitate q<sup>o</sup> infirmitate et dare sibi bestes sibi  
nomat pecuniam sui statum. Conuenio et p<sup>o</sup>mitto bob  
dicto Vassach q<sup>o</sup> dictus pastasius filius n<sup>o</sup>g bobistum  
stabit et huet bobis p<sup>o</sup> totum diem ipm. p<sup>o</sup> nisi fe-  
cerit ul fugerit possint ipm p<sup>o</sup>quid et p<sup>o</sup>uenit in  
bid suum reducere et retine tannu et tandiu donec  
emendam h<sup>o</sup>me integram. et q<sup>o</sup> p<sup>o</sup> fine dit<sup>o</sup> p<sup>o</sup>ns  
habeant ei facere manto. sarz et iupo caloris. b<sup>o</sup>ndec.  
p<sup>o</sup>le p<sup>o</sup> bluea et caligas. Ad hec autem ego dictus Vassa-  
el dela sala. acceptane dictum pastasium in suum  
meu p<sup>o</sup>mitto p<sup>o</sup>dicta. Sic rata. giara. et firma. zel. Et  
p<sup>o</sup> p<sup>o</sup>ditie omnibus obligo bobis omnia. bona. ma. b<sup>o</sup>big  
sua et sabenda. Actum baluel.

16 Johannis a iura et bar Solomonis blan-  
quafor not<sup>o</sup> baluel.

## Apprenticeship

- Start age 7-10
- Work for 7-10 years learning and being trained in trade
- Receive room, food and clothing, plus training

# Guilds = corporation with economic, religious, and social functions

- Assured quality of products
- Protected profits
- Regulated prices
- Provided charity
- Centre for social activities





## Women and Guilds

- Often excluded
- Women in cloth production
- Female guilds in Paris, Rouen, and Cologne
- 13<sup>th</sup> c Paris: 7 female or female-dominated guilds

