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HOW TO THINK LIKE LEONARDO DA VINCI

Seven Steps to Genius Every Day

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MAIN IDEA

Leonardo da Vinci was the ultimate high achiever -- with simultaneous careers as a world-class artist, architect, scientist, inventor and engineer. In his spare time, he was also an accomplished cook and played musical instruments to a professional level. Therefore, if anybody can exemplify how to apply creativity and learning skills productively, da Vinci is the consummate role model.

While it is true that Leonardo da Vinci was a genius, it is also true that most people typically use only a fraction of their potential brain-power. Therefore, by analyzing how da Vinci achieved so much, a system for personal and professional achievement can be developed. In essence, this system has seven key principles, detailed below.

By learning through imitation of the system da Vinci used to achieve so much, you are following a role model that embodies a very practical and down-to-earth approach to applied genius. This system also provides proven techniques for sharpening the mind, liberating intelligence, creative thinking and expansive self-expression.

Leonardo da Vinci lived through one of the most remarkably creative periods in history -- the Renaissance. Notable developments of this era include the printing press, pencils, inexpensive paper, the magnetic compass, the large sailing ship, the long-range cannon and the mechanical clock -- inventions that would alter the course of human history. Like the Renaissance, the modern era is characterized by technology, and the release of newer versions of consumer products and technologies. Therefore, it is altogether appropriate to look to the Renaissance for hints and clues on how to manage change creatively and productively. Da Vinci's approach to life and his careers provides just such guidance and inspiration.

In the final analysis, Leonardo da Vinci could well serve as the patron saint of independent thinkers, and the ultimate model of what the human spirit is capable of achieving.

Principle #1 -- Curiosita -- The Quest for Continuous Learning Page 2

Everyone actually has quite a keen sense of curiosity. The challenge, however, lies in refining and developing this trait over the course of an entire career. That requires that you continue to ask "great questions" on a regular basis -- and then search intensely to find the answers to those great questions.

Principle #2 -- Dimostrazione -- Test Knowledge Through Practical Experience Page 3

First-hand experience is the best source of wisdom and know-how. And the best, most practical way to create added value through experience is to use it to test and improve what you are actually working on. Real-world experience (including disasters, failures and mistakes) will teach far more than any teacher ever can.

Principle #3 -- Sensazione -- Constantly Sharpen the Senses Page 4

The five senses -- sight, sound, touch, taste and smell -- are the keys to creating added value in any kind of activity. Therefore, by refining and improving the senses, you increase both your intelligence and your ability to learn from the world around you.

Principle #4 -- Sfumato -- Be Comfortable With Ambiguity Page 5

Creativity flourishes if you can keep your mind open in the face of uncertainty. The ability to embrace uncertainty and function productively in the face of ambiguity with relish is a characteristic of genius -- and a worthwhile trait in a rapidly changing world.

Principle #5 -- Arte / Scienza -- Balance Science and Art, Logic and Imagination Page 6

The concept of being left-brained (logical) or right-brained (artistic) is now well known. Leonardo da Vinci's life, however, showed what can be achieved when both sides of the brain are harnessed. The dynamic between the two sides of the brain generates substantial capacity for achievement.

Principle #6 -- Corporalita -- Develop Poise -- the Balance of Body and Mind Page 7

In addition to cultivating an ability to think clearly, logically and creatively, da Vinci was in exceptionally good physical health. He taught (and exemplified) the idea that smart people should also take good care of their physical health and well-being if they expect to remain productive throughout their lives.

Principle #7 -- Conessione -- Maintain a Big Picture Perspective Page 8

Despite the fact we live in an age of specialization, maintaining an accurate visualization of the grander scheme of things can be particularly worthwhile. The greatest success (and most inner happiness) will come to those who understand that all actions, patterns and relationships are part of the totality that envelopes the human race.



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