

# “Master of The Renaissance”

By Tin Cetic, 04-06-2003

Whenever a person mentions the name, “Michelangelo” we only think of one man, and we know him simply as some great artist. Here you will get an in-depth understanding of this person, and how much more he was than just a great artist.

It all started in Florence, Italy. Michelangelo was born right in the Renaissance, a time when the dark ages ended, and a new age of inspiration began. Florence was, in fact, the place where the Renaissance began, and spread through Europe.

But, not everything was grand in Florence. Michelangelo was born in family that wasn't poor, but couldn't afford to have another child to raise. The Buonarroti family decided to give Michelangelo away to a nurse. They had no idea what an investment they could have made if they kept him.

Maybe they wouldn't have an investment, not only was Michelangelo born in the perfect time and place, the nurse that received Michelangelo had a stonecutter as a husband. The path was set, just perfect for the career of art. Renaissance, Florence, Stonework.

As Michelangelo grew in this new family, he watched everyone cutting stone from the mountains to be shipped to the city, where artists would be making sculptures. This was very interesting for Michelangelo, and wanted to be like the sculptors he had always heard of.

Through many years all he ever thought about was how the Greek and Roman sculptors used stone to create people that seemed to real. He had no friends, but didn't care. Confidence and interest in art let him through everything.

When he began his teenage years, he became lucky. Florence's richest man, Medici, had stumbled to Michelangelo. Medici loved art and wanted many artists to come to Florence. He saw how much skill Michelangelo had, and wanted him to study sculpture at his new school of art. That time was different from now. Not only did you have to work, you needed to be

noticed somehow. At our time, all you need is work, if you are good, you will be found out. This shows how little opportunity it was even at Florence.

Michelangelo kept learning at Medici's school and soon became an impressive sculptor. Patience was his greatest and most unique attribute. Practice was the technique. He studied by something that is called anatomy. That's very much like surgery, but you study the human body. Through this he learned the bones, muscles, and other details for making human sculptures. It was a little problem that Michelangelo only wanted to sculpt people, but it was a big problem that he only wanted to sculpt in pure stone with a pick-axe like the Greeks and Romans did. Michelangelo wanted to do it the old fashion way for the test of time. Other students learned by clay and bronze melting.

But, this didn't harm him. This made him famous. He was one of the first people to make a sculpture out of marble in the Renaissance, and draw nude. He thought that the human body was just as god intended it to be, so there was nothing embarrassing. He was definitely the only person who sculpted an extremely detailed human body that was three times the size of a normal person. Michelangelo was only 25 years old when he created the famous *David*.

This shocked Europe in a matter of days. It was so unique and powerful. Years of work paid off. Throughout his life he created sculptures like the *Pietà*, a pose of Virgin Mary holding Jesus. But he became even greater. Many people asked him to do jobs, and out of honor he did it for the pope.

Michelangelo learned to paint, and he did many walls in cathedrals and churches. He also became superior at architecture. He became known as "The Master of The Renaissance" Everyone in Italy respected him and cherished his work.

To the end of his life, he had, what I call, "Selfcapacity Disbelief" which is to think that what you do is not important, and not special. He obviously didn't want to brag. Even with this thought, he said one other thing before his death, he looked at his art and said, "They will last for a while."

*"This they have certainly done." – Historian Diane Stanley*