

1/DA VINCI: Melzi, call for a notary and a priest. I must make my will and my confession. I fear that my death is near.

2/MELZI: I will do as you say, but do not speak of your death. You have many years left. Here are the persons you requested, a notary and a priest.

1/DA VINCI: My life has been a failure. I have written, but only in secret. Some of my greatest paintings and sculptures were never completed.

3/NOTARY: What does he mean? As a notary I know little about great art, but some of his paintings will live forever: "The Last Supper," the painting they call the "Mona Lisa," and the one he did here in France, "Saint John the Baptist."

4/PRIEST: Perhaps he means his "Battle of Anghiari," my son. I heard he spent years doing sketches of horses, of men in battle, and then did the painting with great care.

2/MELZI: The masterpiece was completed. Huge crowds came to view the painting. It was truly a magnificent work.

1/DA VINCI: The paint was not drying properly, and I attempted an experiment to insure the painting would last for centuries.

4/PRIEST: I heard that when he tried to dry the painting, the colors ran together and the great work became a mess of paints on the floor.

3/NOTARY: What a tragedy, for da Vinci and for the world.

- 1/DA VINCI:** That is only one of my many regrets.
- 3/NOTARY:** Why didn't you do the painting again?
- 1/DA VINCI:** I had other interests. I had already done my studies of the anatomy of horses, the human faces of rage, fear, and pain. I had no desire to repeat what I had done.
- 3/NOTARY:** Your reputation is that you make contracts for paintings and do not honor them. People have paid you for certain works and then you did not complete them.
- 2/MELZI:** Painting itself does not seem to hold his interest. He might begin a painting and then be drawn to the study of hands or flowers.
- 1/DA VINCI:** Painting is my trade, my work, but the study of nature is my passion, my life. My famous quote is 'the painter rivals nature, and therefore appreciates the works of nature.'
- 3/NOTARY:** What do you wish me to record in your will?
- 1/DA VINCI:** First, list my books. Melzi, you shall have them. They are precious to me. Show the notary and the priest the books.
- 2/MELZI:** These are sketches of some of his inventions for weapons of war. I must confess I do not understand all of them.
- 3/NOTARY:** Here is a boat that sails underwater!