

Father Leonardo's Mirrors

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 20 Aug 2003

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Josh Geller — 20 Aug 2003, 02:21

I have this book entitled 'The Labyrinth - Symbol Of Fear, Rebirth And Liberation', Shambhala 1997, ISBN 1-57062-195-0. It is not, in my opinion, a great book. It is translated from the German of Helmut Jaskolski, a modern pedagogue who lives near Cologne. It has a lot of nice pictures. and although I cannot say much that is true and kind about Herr Prof Dr Jaskolski's understanding of his complex and ancient subject, on page 87, apropos of not much, we find the following:

An invention of Leonardo Da Vinci, which he sketched with a pen under the heading "mirror"... He was not yet technically capable of realizing this invention [no evidence is adduced to back up this, in my opinion probably false, statement - JG], but his explanation of it was as follows: "If you make eight flat surfaces, each one two cubits long and three cubits high..., and arrange them in a circle so that they form an octagon with a circumference of sixteen cubits and a diameter of five cubits, then a man inside can see himself infinitely from all sides."

Leonardo's drawing is reproduced on page 88.

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