

Van: "A.D. Dirkzwager" <djatirot@me.com>  
Onderwerp: Doorst.: With the view of Max Hastings  
Datum: 9 juni 2019 om 13:45:47 CEST  
Aan: Abrams Drummond <Drummond@drumna.co.uk>

Good morning Drummond,

taking into account your circumstances, we hope that you will welcome every new dawn as a gift. If this is the case, then general speaking it explains why they call the day itself 'the present'. This morning around 04.20 hours am the blackbird woke me up whilst greeting the new dawn with its song. We are still enjoying living in down town Amsterdam alternated with short holidays abroad. Last May we spent 10 days on the island of Cyprus. Have you had the opportunity to visit that island? From a historic standpoint a very interesting place. Phoenicians, Greeks, Romans, Venetians, Crusaders, Ottomans and much later the English have dominated the island. In 1962, a large number of mosaic floors from the Roman period (first century A.D) were discovered in Paphos / Cyprus.

The floor of Leda and the Swan shown here can be admired there. According to the Greek mythology, the supreme god Zeus was not indifferent to beautiful, young and graceful mortals of the female gender, such as Leda

Zeus attempted to allure her, however he was rejected by Leda, who had been married by the way. In Plan B, Zeus used the trick of metamorphosis and turned himself into a swan and successfully seduced her. The story does not tell whether it happened by consensus or whether it was a rape. Accordingly Leda gave birth to two eggs after nine months. Castor and Pollux came from one egg and Helena (the later wife of Paris) and Clytaemnestra (the later wife of Agamemnon) from the other egg. So far my introduction to the mosaic floor.

My question is: if you have time, do you want to count for me the little mosaic stones that were used to make this painting in stone?

The subject 'Leda and the swan' was also confirmed by Leonardo da Vinci ( $\pm$  1507 AD). However, the original was lost.

It is striking on the painting that for the invention of the 'Philishave' there is no pubic hair to be seen.


To which my impressions of Cyprus. Best love and greetings from both of us, Vera & Aadje

Leonardo da Vinci





And now something different: I quote the sensible observations by Max Hastings in the article here below

Quote: Max Hastings, a historian of the British-American relationship, said while British leaders **had been kowtowing in vain** to American presidents for generations, the current batch of Tory leadership hopefuls was doing so with unusual verve. “In my eyes, there’s a fantastic naïveté among the Tory leadership, which in some degrees is historic,” he said. They have a quite extraordinary belief that if they suck up sufficiently to Trump, this administration will do them favors. Mr Hastings said he had warned Mrs. May about **the two countries chronically asymmetrical alliance** before she took office. Mrs May sought Mr Trump’s favor anyway, only for him to repeatedly undercut her attempts to negotiate an Brexit deal. Now, far from learning the lessons of recent years, Tory contenders are courting Mr. ~~more~~ more aggressively.  “The current crop have got this disease worse,” Mr Hastings said. “What we’re seeing here is very unusual indeed.” Unquote



Britain but still playing kingmaker *June 7 2019*



President Trump and Prime Minister Theresa May of Britain. Mrs. May sought Mr. Trump's favor, only to have him to repeatedly undercut her attempts to negotiate a deal for Britain's exit from the European Union.

DOUG MILES/THE NEW YORK TIMES