

## **APEH**

### **Topic 2 – From Death to Rebirth**

#### **Manchester Group Discussion**

1. Manchester's *A World Lit Only By Fire* exemplifies narrative social history. As historians, why is it critical to move beyond textbook analyses and examine some of the eccentricities of social beliefs, taboos, pop cultural trends, and social morality?
2. Describe the lives of nobility: their living conditions, clothing, learning/education, manners, morals, etc.
3. Describe the lives of peasants: their living conditions, clothing, manners, morals, beliefs, spirituality, superstitions, etc.
4. In what ways did the Church act not only as a spiritual authority, but also as a secular authority (i.e. what kinds of policing did the Church do)? What punishments did the Church impose upon sinners? Cite examples.
5. What was the difference between religious devotion and superstition? What was the Church's response? Peasants?

6. Describe Europeans' views of sexuality, virginity, and morality. How did nobles view/treat the institution of marriage? How do these views compare/contrast to modern perspectives?
  
7. Describe specifically how Rome in the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries can accurately be labeled "the capital of sin." What role did the Borgia family play in the debauched reputation of the Roman Holy See? What does this sordid history demonstrate about the state of the Church in the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries? What does this say about the Church today?
  
8. How were artists able to thrive despite the social, political, and religious chaos that dominated the world around them?
  
9. Describe the ways in which the Church attempted to suppress the development of new scientific theories in the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries and for what reasons did the Church attempt to suppress them? How does this relate to *De impressione liborum*? The vernacular? How & why did the vernacular ultimately triumph?
  
10. Describe the rise of humanism in Europe in the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. What fuels added to the flames of the humanist spirit? What roles did the humanists fulfill in European society, and what status did they acquire during this time period? What was the "universal man," and which figures from this time period exemplify such qualities?