

INTANGIBLE TURNING TANGIBLE

THOUGHTS IN CHIAROSCURO

≡ *"The Supper at Emmaus"* (1606)

by **Caravaggio**

2016

Caravaggio baffles with the predominant darkness (i.e., *scuro*) of the contours in this warm and intimate *chiaroscuro* tableau that captures a very special and intimate moment: a dinner in the life of the Resurrected Christ after his encounter with two of his disciples – *who had not recognized him – on the way to Emmaus.*

The lighter effects (i.e., *chiaro*)

put the focus on the three table mates, the language of the hands of each commensal and the single expressions.

Christ's lifted hand is the characteristic gesture of a teacher who is instructing and awakening the attention of his pupils or even reprimanding them.

The two disciples' undivided and fervent attention may be clearly evinced by the position of their leaning bodies towards the speaker, while their evident surprise may be deduced by the left hand of one disciple's clutching the table, and the open left hand of the other.

The demeanor of both expresses momentary disbelief, confusion and recognition of the Master – *at last* – as He is blessing the bread; a gesture so uniquely peculiar to Jesus such to cause his identity to be finally and unequivocally revealed.

Teaching and learning are two of the most important processes that accompany man throughout his entire life.

Both processes occur in all walks of life, although some occupations require life-long study and commitment and this is the case for the legal profession.

The legal practice, as one of the most demanding professions, compels to ongoing education and hands-on practice, all of which goes well beyond the class-room, in view of the fact that knowledge and experience are not strictly confined to the limited walls of the academic world but continue developing in the professional environment and in the real world as well.

Ever since our first day at school and all the way through our post-graduate courses, we quickly learned that attentive listening, dedication, commitment and a focused intention to grow into a full-fledged and respectable human being, whether within the profession or in other milieus, is always the best investment.

CARAVAGGIO

Caravaggio was considered the spearheading Master of the *chiaroscuro* style, i.e., the Italian term for "*tenebrism*".

Tenebrism is a style that plays with lights and shadows to create very dramatic effects.

Dutch Masters such as Rubens, and later 17th Century Spanish and Italian painters were greatly influenced by his style.

One of Caravaggio's main characteristics was an incomparable ability to penetrate the mental and emotional state of his subjects, rather than merely depicting physical features of people and settings.





Truth is not always obvious and quite often it is necessary to “shed light” on something or to “bring matters to light”.

Truth and light always go hand in hand, and this is all the more so within a legal and juridical context, given that the Law is the primary institution – established since time immemorial – with the precise duty to defend and safeguard the truth and the rights of all individuals with integrity, equity, always in abidance by the highest moral and ethical human principles.

“The Kiss of Judas”

(circa 1602)

by Caravaggio

Darkness is prevalent in this willfully dire atmosphere foreshadowing a historic event such as the betrayal of Christ.

In all this darkness, there is only one little light shed by the lantern held by a young man (presumably Caravaggio himself) who, moreover, is the only one whose eyes are wide open and looking on the scene with great interest.

The lantern and its holder have been subject to the most diverse interpretations: is the latter simply a curious bystander, or perhaps just as Diogenes – by reason of the relationship between Judas and Jesus – merely someone who is searching the world over for an honest man?

Others ventured to say that it was Caravaggio himself seeking redemption and others, that the young man compelled us all to bear witness to such an eventful scene, others yet that he was seeking the truth.

MILANO

Valente Academy

Viale Bianca Maria, 45 - 20122

Tel: +39 02 7626131 Fax: +39 02 76001091

Email: p.valente@gebnetwork.it



www.gebpartners.it

