



<b class="mceNonEditable">----- Part 1 (00:00:00 - 00:01:10) -
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Speaker: Pico dello Mirandola was also a philosopher sponsored by the Platonic Academy of Philosophy. One of the important tenets of humanist philosophy is expressed in his oration on the *Dignity of Man*. This important tenet is the responsibility of humankind to choose their path. Whether it be turning ones thoughts towards God and the Divine and striving to be a person of pure and goodly deeds, brilliant like a star, a gem, or a shining lamp, or, conversely, to cast oneself downward towards base and brutish thoughts and desires.

This tenet represents a huge theological shift in thinking from medieval times, which placed more responsibility for human actions upon God in a notion described as God's Will. This tenet of humanism is also frequently misunderstood, suggesting that the focus on the individual is, in fact, a rejection of God.

[00:01:10] [END OF AUDIO]