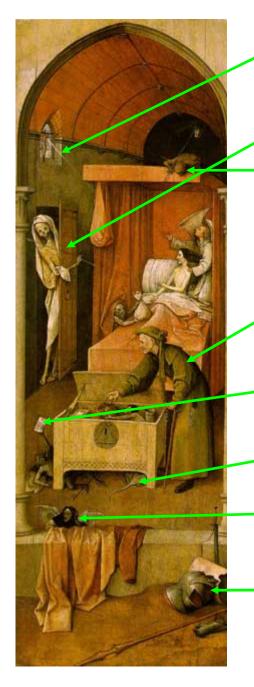
Death and the Miser Deconstructed



- 1. A Crucifix with Jesus hangs in the window at the top of the room. A beam of light streams through the window towards the miser dying in bed.
- 2. The image of Death has an arrow in his hand pointed at the miser.
- 3. Four demons are pictured in this work: the first is above the dying miser's bed, a second offers the miser a bag of gold, the third is in the strongbox holding a bag of gold open for the healthy miser, and the fourth is coming out from underneath the strongbox and is holding a piece of paper in his hand.
- 4. The image of the healthy miser dropping a coin into the strongbox is wearing the key to the strongbox and a rosary around his waist.
- 5. The piece of paper held by one of the four demons refers to the indulgences granted by the Middle Age church to wealthy contributors.
- 6. A rat tail sticking out underneath strongbox may be a reference to the Black Death.
- 7. Most art historians argue that the small winged demon at the bottom of the painting is a self-portrait of Bosch.
- 8. A helmet, spear, sword, and armor lay strewn at the
 bottom of the painting refers to chivalry and the crusades of the Middle Ages.

WHERE TO FIND AN IMAGE OF THIS WORK

Digital Image: National Gallery of Art http://www.nga.gov/collection/gallery/gg39/gg39-41372.0.html

