



ASTRA PROJECT

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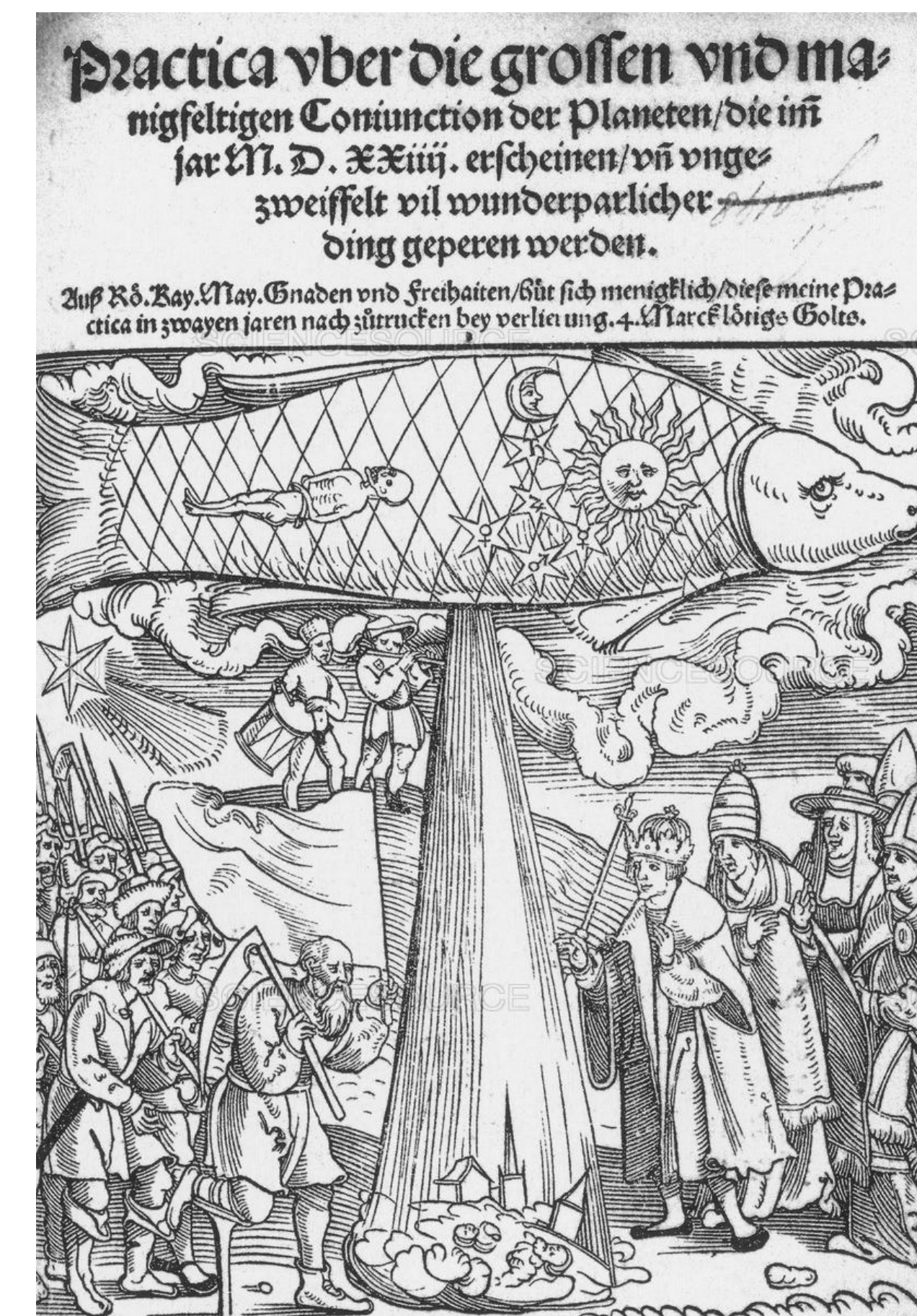
THE SYPHILITIC MAN, DÜRER



FRENCH (?) IMAGE, 17TH CENTURY, WELCOME LIBRARY



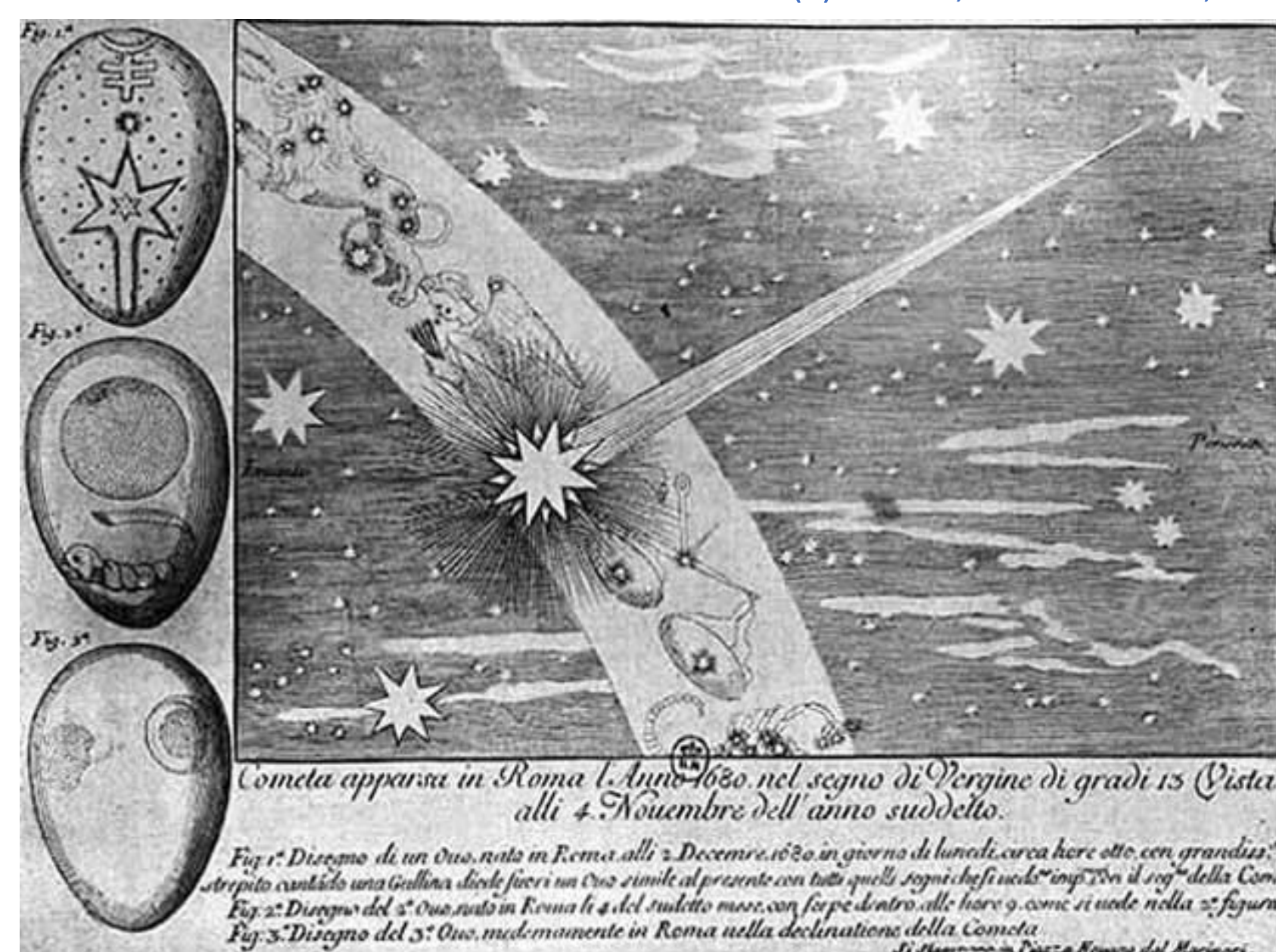
GERMAN IMAGE (?)



THE PREDICTION OF THE "UNIVERSAL FLOOD" 1524



THE MELOTHESIC MAN



ITALIAN IMAGER; GREAT COMET OF 1680

The advent of disasters has been correlated to celestial configurations since Antiquity. The conjunctions of planets, the comets and the eclipses were linked to terrestrial events such as floods, earthquakes, famine, wars and plagues. Until the eighteenth century a great part of medical prognostication, both individual or collective, was based on astrological judgments, observation of planetary movements, seasons and lunar phases. Such an example is the image of the syphilitic man, by Albrecht Dürer, associating the planetary configurations of 1484 to the onset of this disease in Europe. Among the research goals of the **Astra Project** is the study of these practices as part of the scientific worldview in the premodern world.



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