

Homo Ludens - lat. *ludo, ere, lusi, lusum* = 1. to play (*ludens* - adjective, derivated from the participle form of the verb *ludo, ere* = who plays)

Homo Sapiens - lat. *sapio, ere* = to comprehend, to understand, to be rational (*sapiens* - adjective, derivated from the participle form of the verb *sapio, ere* = intelligent, wise, rational)

Homo Viator - lat. *viator, -oris* = traveler, passenger; lat. *via, ae* = way, path

Homo Faber - lat. *faber, fabri* = 1. craftsman, worker, artisan; 2. (figurative) creator, artisan

On the hypostasis of Homo Sapiens

Between the four guises explained above, I believe that Homo Sapiens, the wise man, the one who puts knowledge first, is by far the most important one. In the following, I will try to explain, as clearly as possible, the choice made and state the reasons that stand behind my inclination towards this answer, while trying to convince you to reflect on its validity.

First of all, there was an interesting thing that caught my eye when reading the brief definitions above. The hypostasis of Homo Sapiens not only has its own consistency, a strong foundation and inner value, consequences of the fact that it is based mostly on knowledge, but, in addition, it seems to encompass the other three hypostases, as well. The intelligent, educated man is certain about how important the process of creation is, he himself being for numerous times in the position of the creator, of the one who builds. Homo Sapiens is very similar to Homo Viator, too. The two hypostases have in common the exploration, the search. In Homo Viator's case, that search takes place physically, whilst Homo Sapiens' is an intellectual one, occurring through reflection or lecture. Thus, both of them explore the world, learn about others

and especially about themselves, with the only difference consisting in the way they choose to reach that knowledge. In the end, after the man becomes spiritually rich and attains wisdom, he returns to purity, to simplicity, to innocence. Only then is when he brings out to light the child covered for such a long time in newer layers of conscience. He then rediscovers the play, which he practices with self-awareness. Using it as a tool, he combines science with the ludicrous, allowing thus the two facets of his soul, the sage and the mad man, to express themselves simultaneously, all of this so that his work and his life end up - in Constantin Noica's words - "in-to simplicity and purity". This is where we find Homo Ludens in Homo Sapiens - to quote Noica again - "How much you need to know in order to be innocent again!"

Secondly, the knowledge of Homo Sapiens has important practical use, being an essential aspect of life. Through study, culture and education, the individual secures a place for himself in an environment that supports evolution, among competent, well-trained, open people with a wide perspective on life. Also, he learns how to be reasonable, prevent difficult situations, solve problems and protect himself from manipulation. Even though he still keeps the childhood's nostalgia, the man cannot live his life in an ivory tower. In spite of the fact that knowing sometimes means suffering, he has to face reality and seek to understand the world he lives in. Nevertheless, he must avoid falling in the 'illusion of knowledge' trap. When he strongly believes that he knows, he doesn't try to approach the problem from different perspectives, he forgets to admit the possible validity of other points of view and to reconsider his opinions. He knows; and because he knows he doesn't make any more efforts to learn or to understand. But thinking is struggle, restlessness, an endless, ongoing process and not a set of fixed ideas. Emil Cioran wrote in "Anathemas and Admirations" that the starting point of intellectual pride was this: "opinions - yes; convictions - no".

In addition, another aspect that caught my attention was the fact that Homo Ludens, Homo Viator and Homo Faber are all guises of "TO DO" (to play, to travel, to build), while Homo Sapiens embodies "TO BE" (to be capable,

educated, wise). I will leave this observation to your interpretation.

In conclusion, my opinion to which Homo Sapiens is the most important hypostasis out of the four mentioned above rests on the arguments previously set out, arguments that I find solid enough. However, to avoid getting caught in the toils of the 'illusion of knowledge' trap, I declare myself open to debate.