Various mythical/traditional representations of the Earth:

Commonality – unique and unstable structure of the cosmos.

The Earth is not spherical and held up by something. No inherent stability in the Earth.

According to Aristotle, the place is a container. “The topos of the place is the adjacent boundary of the containing body”. The place is the limit of the body, deeply unique, non-transferable and singular, while being homogeneous at the same time.

For the Greeks, place is qualitatively defined, while now, places are quantitatively defined.

Claude Levi Strauss: “Tristes Tropique”

Bororo tribe – village divided into two halves, the only condition for marriage is that cannot marry within their half. Centre of village cannot be entered by unmarried people.

In the book, every place has a meaning and what can be done or not be done. The village space is a collection of individual places with individual meaning.

Premodern space is anisotropic, inherent differences in the space. Isotropic means that it is homogeneous, have same properties throughout the properties, no inherent difference between here or there (modern space).

Space was first conceptualised by painters and craftsmen, technician and was later theorised by philosophers. Linear perspective is something that was invented in the 15th century that allows the reproduction of what we see (things getting smaller as they are further). Ancient Greeks invented linear perspective but they discarded it because they did not believe in it (topos not true in linear perspective).

Florence was most remembered for linear perspective. Medici wanted to represent public space as an active space/humanised space, adding a political dimension. City with actual buildings were starting to be drawn.

In perspective painting, first there is the space, followed by the being. In the ancient paintings, the beings came first followed by the space.

Vanishing point, point of convergence, does not actually exist and became a representation of infinity in a de-theologised world (a world in which god slowly disappears). Infinity is also in us, not just gods because of this representation, and this signified the start of humanism. Slowly eliminating god from the world.

Framing – cutting the space and making sure that everything fits in it. The observer is like a mini god. The observer constructs the world (instead of god).

Nietzsche wrote “God is dead”, no longer a scientific cause of this world, no longer as a principle of explanation.