

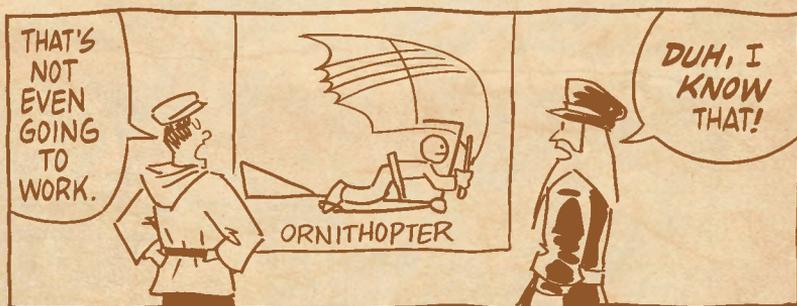
The world of G-Man is one of make-believe, so when G-Man references a flying suit designed by the great Renaissance artist and inventor Leonardo da Vinci, it may immediately seem like nonsense made up for a superhero story.

In reality, Leonardo da Vinci REALLY DID create many drawings and designs for wings that would allow a human to fly... as far back as the late 1400s!!!

Leonardo thoroughly studied the construction and mechanics of the wings of birds and bats.



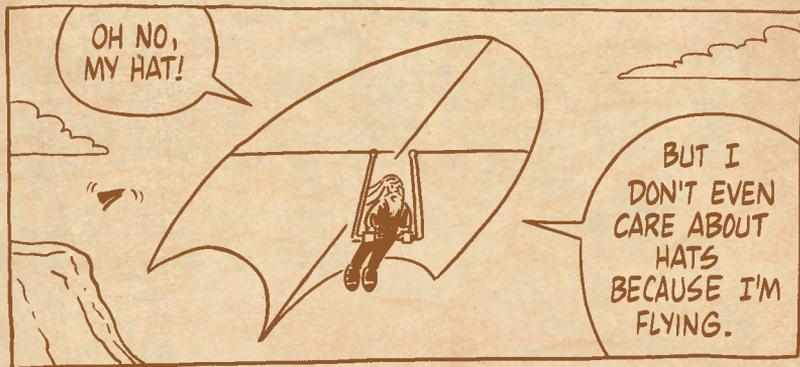
Leonardo applied the mechanical principles of those wings to the design of the ornithopter, a human-powered flight machine! The pilot would turn a crank with foot and hand pedals to make the wings of the ornithopter flap!



Unfortunately, flapping the wings enough to get the ornithopter off the ground would have required more power than a human could generate, something Leonardo would have realized. Hence, he never went beyond the designing stage to actually build a flying machine.

Or DID he?

Leonardo also designed simpler fixed-wing gliders and a parachute that have since been proven to work in our modern era, and COULD have been built with the materials of his day.



This is HIGHLY SPECULATIVE, but there is a VERY SLIGHT CHANCE Leonardo da Vinci MAY have been the world's first REAL superhero!



Leonardo was proficient in map making during a time when maps were so rare that most people had never seen one. He once made a map of the town of Imola and gave it to the town leader.



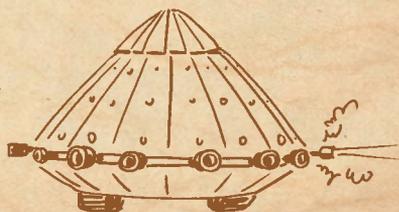
Leonardo's designs were centuries ahead of his time, and his genius was not confined to aeronautics. He also created the earliest designs for many other inventions that would not become a reality until hundreds of years later. Here are just a few...



SCUBA DIVING SUIT



SELF-PROPELLED CART
(THE FIRST CAR!)



ARMORED TANK

While many of his more fantastic designs existed only theoretically in drawings, Leonardo actually did build a **ROBOTIC KNIGHT** — a mechanical suit of armor that could stand, sit, and wave its arms.



He also built a mechanical lion that could walk.



That's right, Leonardo da Vinci was building robots more than 500 years ago. They are now regarded as history's first programmable computers.

As impressive as all of that is, Leonardo is best known for creating the *Mona Lisa*, the most famous painting of all time.



Mona Lisa's mysterious smile has been a source of puzzled fascination for ages. It is as if she is in possession of some secret knowledge that we are now left to merely speculate on. Perhaps it is a secret she shared only with Leonardo.