

Lesson III: The Relic Market in the Middle Ages

1. *Why do you think relics became so important in the Middle Ages?*
2. *Why were first-class relics considered more important than others?*
3. *How did relics contribute to the growth of cities like Venice or Santiago de Compostela?*
4. *What were the economic benefits of owning relics?*
5. *Why was the authenticity of relics such a controversial issue?*
6. *Why did Charlemagne distribute relics across his empire?*
7. *What does William of Rubruck's account tell us about relics?*
8. *How was the medieval art market different from the modern one?*
9. *Why were reliquaries considered important artworks?*
10. *What role did guilds play in the medieval art system?*
11. *Why were monasteries important for the art market?*
12. *Which type of medieval art do you find most impressive, and why?*
13. *Why was Giotto considered revolutionary in his frescoes?*
14. *How do works like the Ghent Altarpiece reflect both religion and artistic innovation?*
15. *How did contracts shape the relationship between artists and clients?*
16. *Do you think medieval art merchants were similar to modern gallerists?*