

Aristotle, *Parts of Animals* 686a25-b32

Man is the only animal that stands upright, and this is because his nature and essence is divine. The activity of that which is most divine is to think and to be intelligent; but this is not easy when there is a great deal of the upper body weighing it down, for weight hampers the motion of the intellect and of the common sense. Thus, when the weight and the corporeal condition (of the soul) become too great, the bodies themselves must lurch forward towards the ground; consequently, for the purpose of safety, nature provided quadrupeds with forefeet instead of arms and hands. ...

In humans, the size of the trunk is proportionate to the lower parts, and as they are brought to perfection, it becomes much smaller in proportion. With young people, however, the contrary happens: the upper parts are large and the lower are small. ... In fact, all children are dwarfs. ...

This is also the reason why all animals are less intelligent than man. Even among human beings children, for example, when compared to adults, and among those who are adults those who have a dwarf-like nature, though having some exceptional capacity, are nevertheless inferior in their having intelligence. The reason, as has already been said, is that in many of them the principle of the soul is sluggish and corporeal. If the heat which raises the organism up wanes still further and the earthly matter waxes, then the animals' bodies wane, and they are many-footed; and finally they lose their feet and lie full length on the ground.