

The background of the slide is a detailed ancient Egyptian relief carving. It depicts a seated male figure, likely a deity or a personification of medicine, holding a long staff or scepter in his left hand. A large snake is coiled around his right arm and the staff. The carving is made of a light-colored stone, possibly limestone, and shows signs of age and wear. The text is overlaid on this image.

MEDICINE IN THE ANCIENT WORLD

**INSIGHT – SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN
APRIL 18, 2012**

**DR. PATRICK HUNT
STANFORD UNIVERSITY**



“The practice of medicine is very specialized among the Egyptians. Each physician treats just one disease. The country is full of physicians, some treat the eye, some the teeth, some of what belongs to the abdomen, and others internal diseases.”

Herodotus, History 2,84

Thoth

God of Learning
Inventor of Medicine



Doctor in Egyptian is *swmw*.

Hesy Re = earliest recorded physician is Hesyre, “Chief of Dentists and Physicians” to Djoser, c. 2650 BCE.

Lady Peseshet (c. 2400 BCE) = first recorded female doctor: *imy-r smmw*, “Lady Overseer of the Lady Physicians”

Medical specialists include:

Ophthalmologist

Gastroenterologist

Proctologist

Dentist

”Doctor who Supervises Butchers”

”Inspector of Liquids”.

“House of Life” early clinics of medical doctors



Hesy Re c. 2650 BCE

“Medico-Magical” Amulets



tyet “Girdle of Isis”
or “Knot of Isis”
(thought to prevent loss
of blood in miscarriage)



udjat “Eye of Horus” thought to
Prevent or heal eye problems

similia similibus



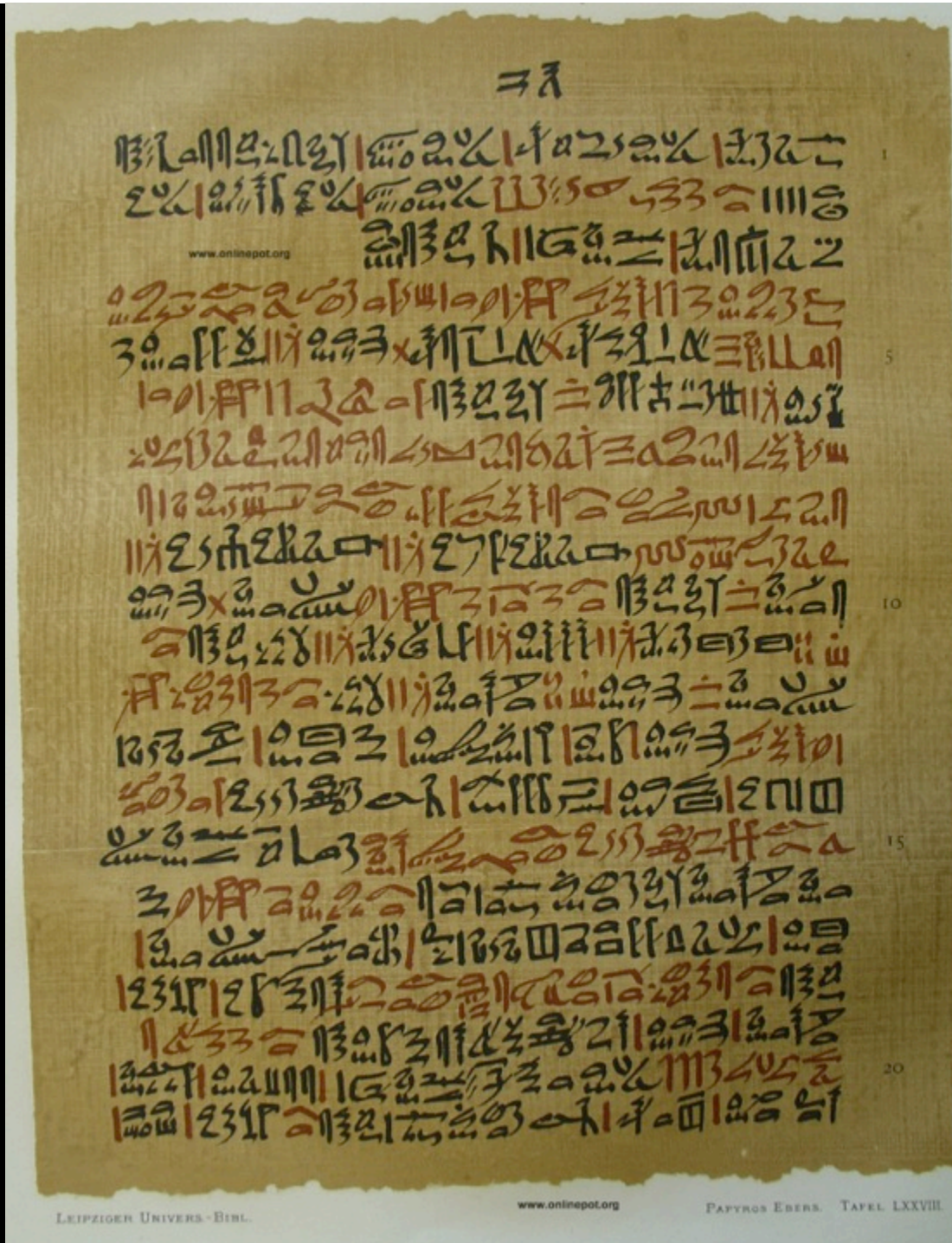
Djed column
“Spine of Osiris”
Thought to protect
spine and back

*Papyrus
Ebers*

c. 1550 BCE
(3400 BCE)

110 pages
20 m

672
“remedies”



Handwritten text in two columns, written in a cursive script on papyrus. The text is written in black ink, with some words or phrases highlighted in red ink. The script is dense and fills most of the page. The papyrus is aged and shows some wear and tear at the edges.

Papyrus Smith, Case Nine:

Instructions concerning a wound in his forehead, smashing the shell of his skull.

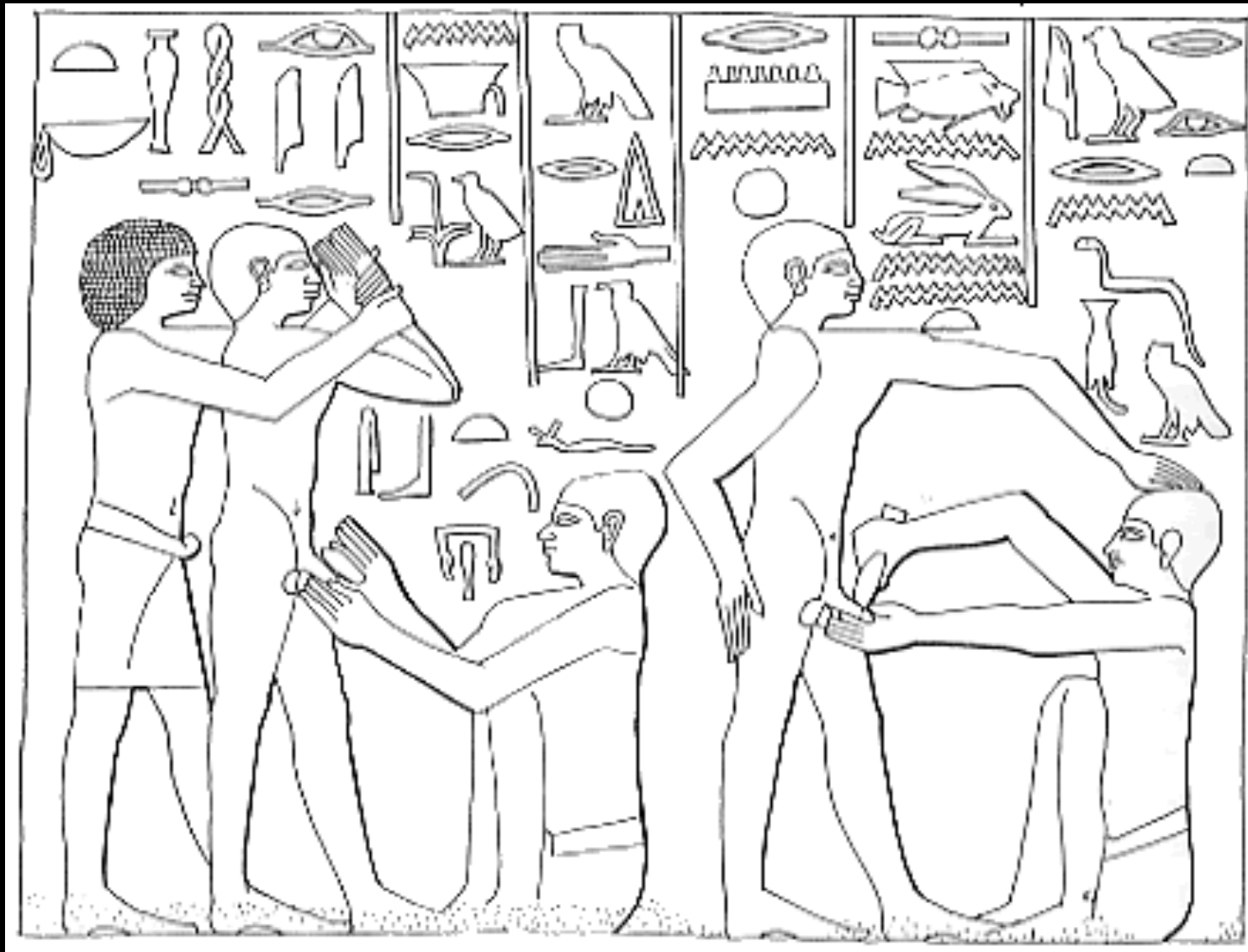
“ Examination (*h'et*) : If thou examinest a man having a wound in his forehead, smashing the shell of his head.

Treatment: Thou shouldst prepare for him the egg of an ostrich , triturated with grease (and) placed in the mouth of his wound. Now afterwards thou shouldst prepare for him the egg of an ostrich, triturated and made into poultices for drying up that wound. Thou shouldst apply to it a covering for physician' s use; thou shouldst uncover it the third day, (and) find it knitting together the shell, the color being like the egg of an ostrich.

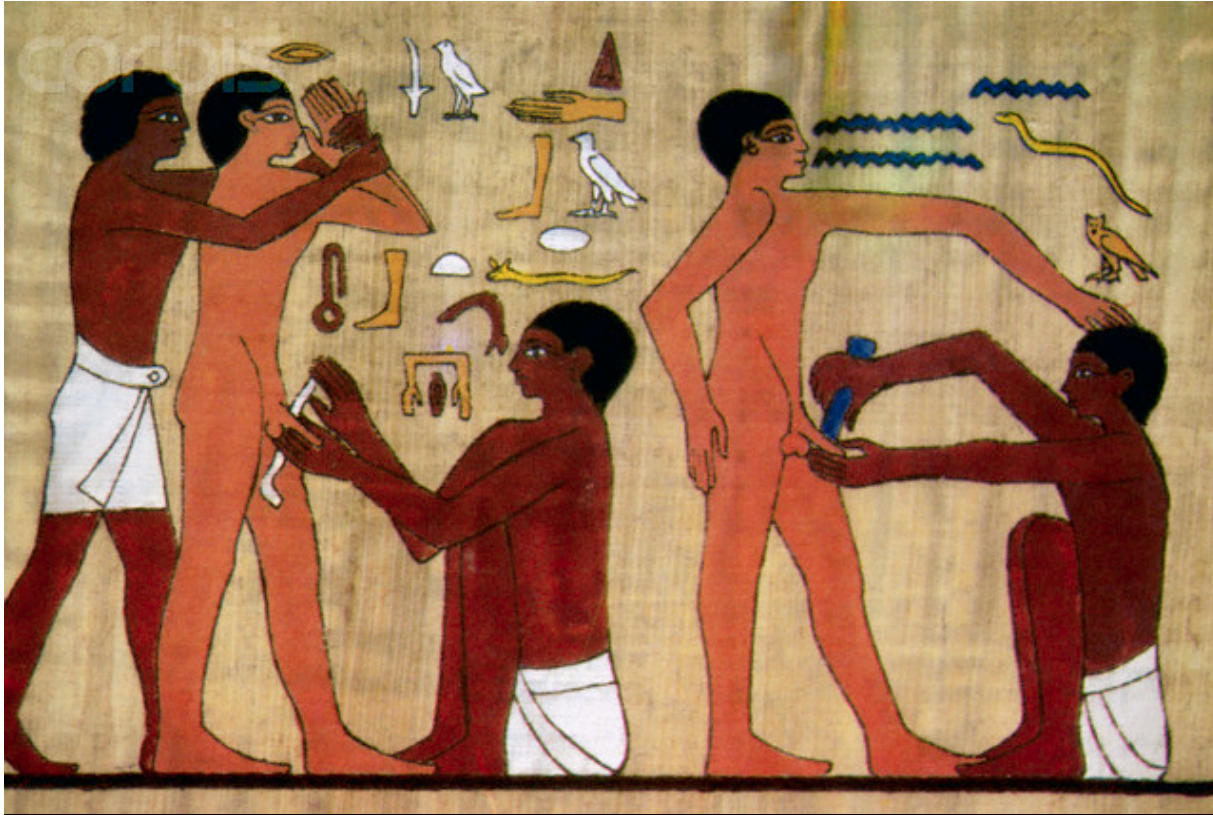
That which is to be said as a charm over this recipe:

*'Repelled is the enemy that is in the wound!
Cast out is the evil that is in the blood,
The adversary of Horus, on every side of the mouth of Isis.
This temple does not fall down;
There is no enemy of the vessel therein .
I am under the protection of Isis;
My rescue is the son of Osiris.'*

Now afterwards thou shouldst cool it for him with a compress of figs, grease, and honey, cooked and cooled, and applied to it.”



Detail of a relief from the mastaba tomb of Ankhmahor at Saqqara, showing a priest performing an act of circumcision on a boy - 6th Dynasty, c. 2300 BCE

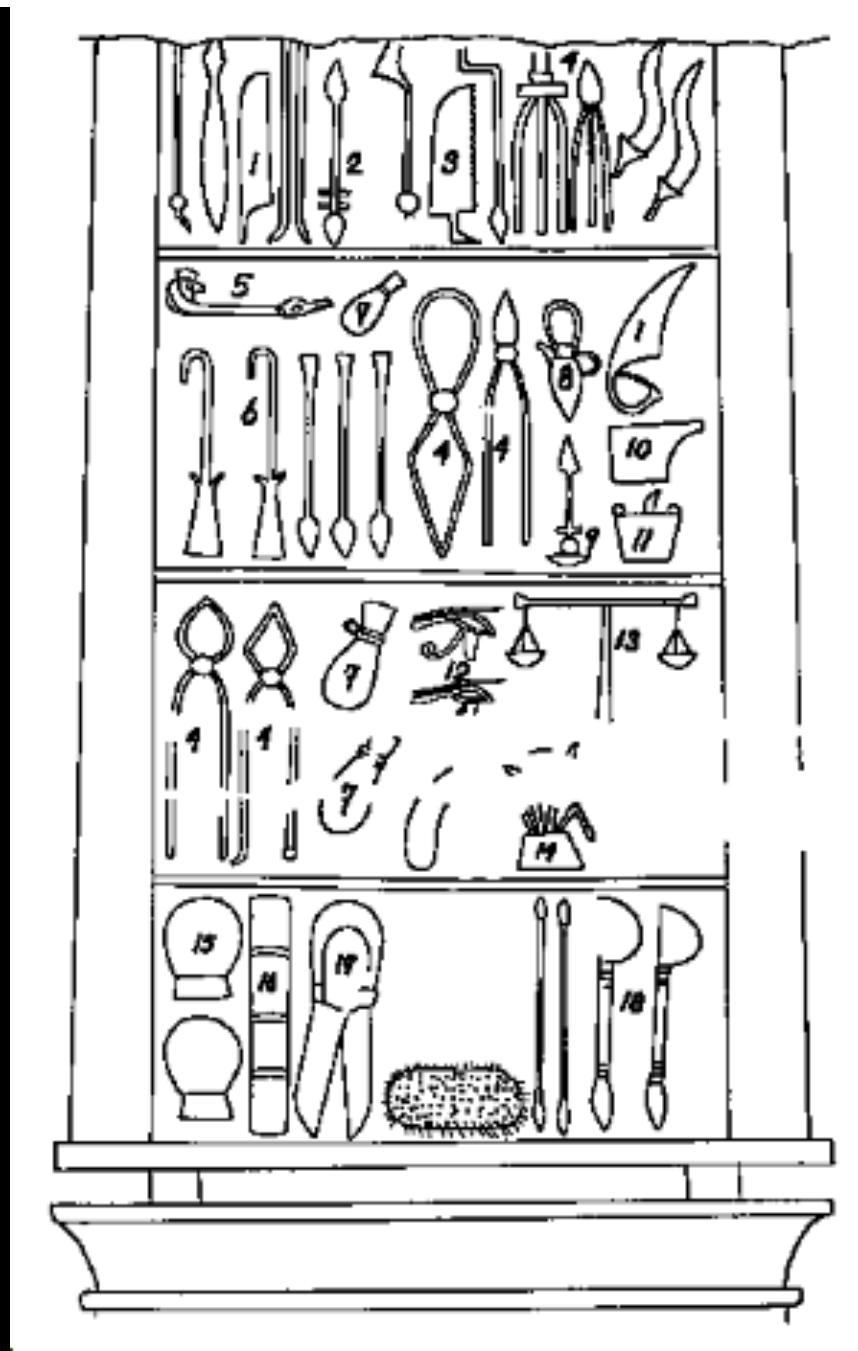
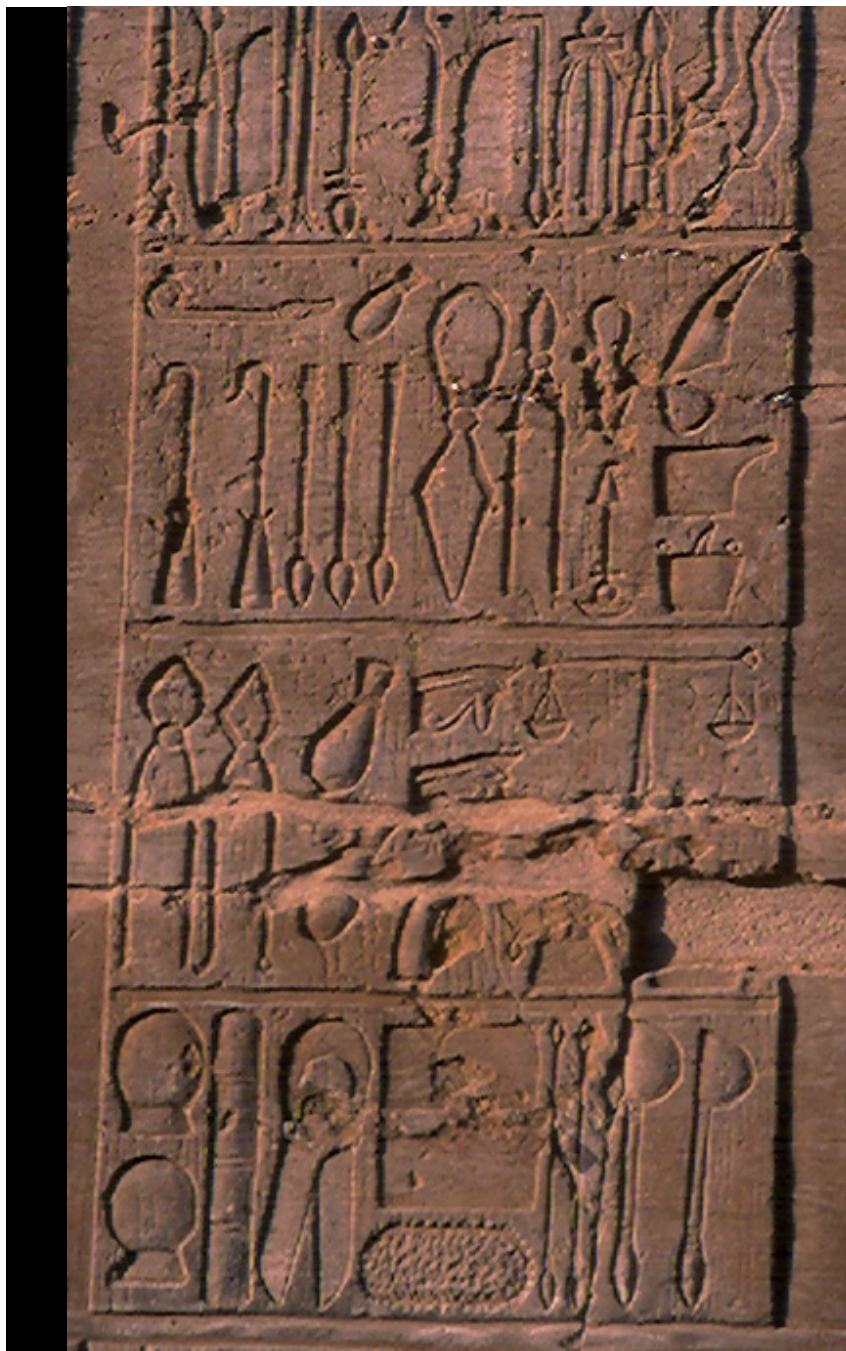




Removal of viscera, embalming mummies in natron for weeks



Wooden prosthetic toe - Third Intermediate period 1070-664 BCE



Surgical Tool Kit from Kom Ombo 2nd c. BCE



19th Dynasty Karnak Temple 1st Court “Unification of Egypt”

Ebers and Hearst Papyri “ for a puncture wound, rub donkey dung on it ”





Clostridium tetani



“donkey dung” =
code for a healing plant?



Achillea millefolium “staunchweed”
isovaleric acid, salicylic acid, asparagin, sterols

kohl



kohl tube of Amenhotep III
and Queen Tiye





© 2004 Worcester Telegram & Gazette

T&G Staff / STEVE LANAVA

Eyeblack in modern sports for same original reason as ancient Egypt



Kohl Faience Tube Amenhotep III/
Queen Tiye cartouche, Brooklyn Museum



Galena Lead sulfide
PbS

Ka-Aper

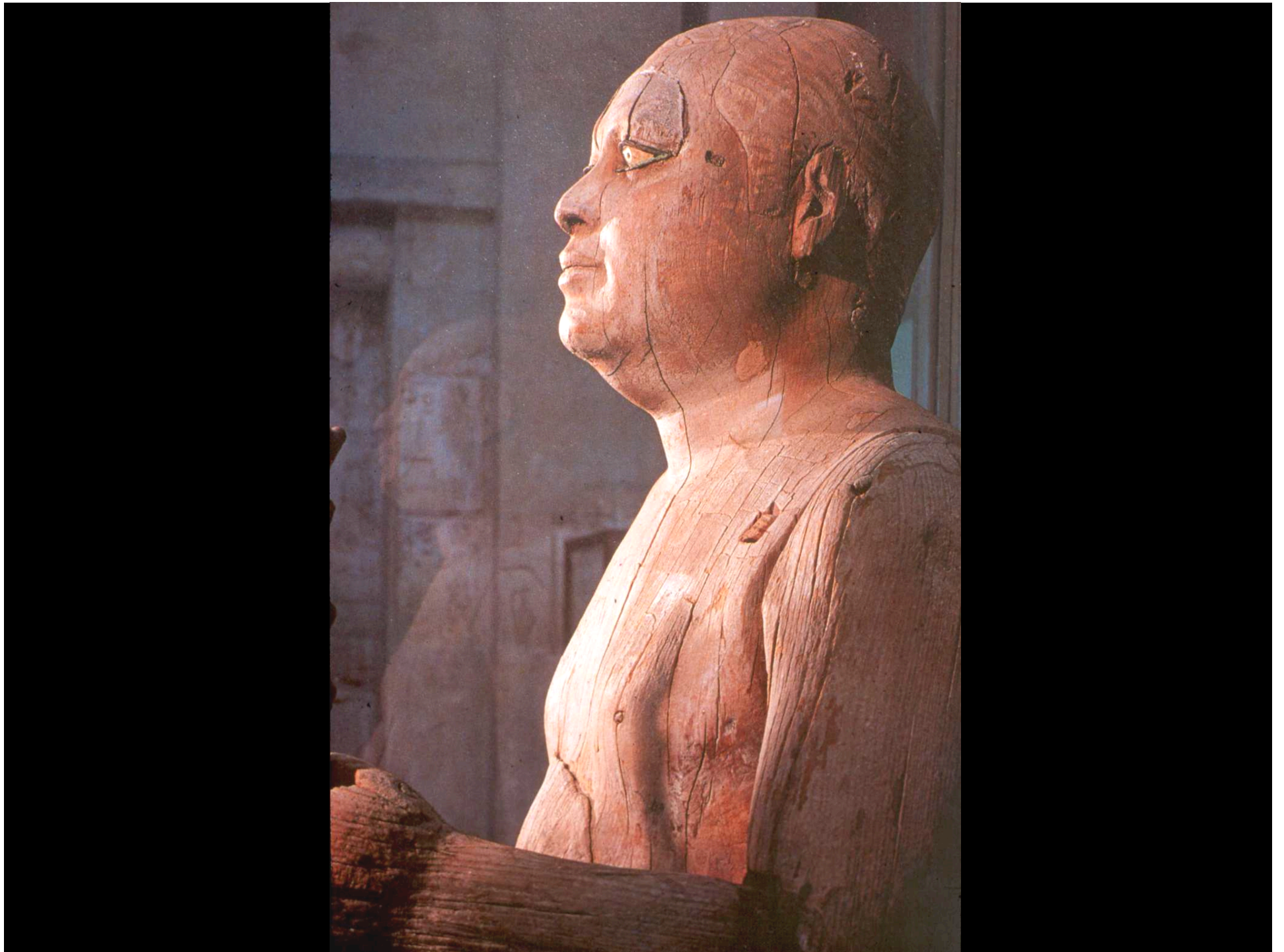
5th Dynasty
Saqqara

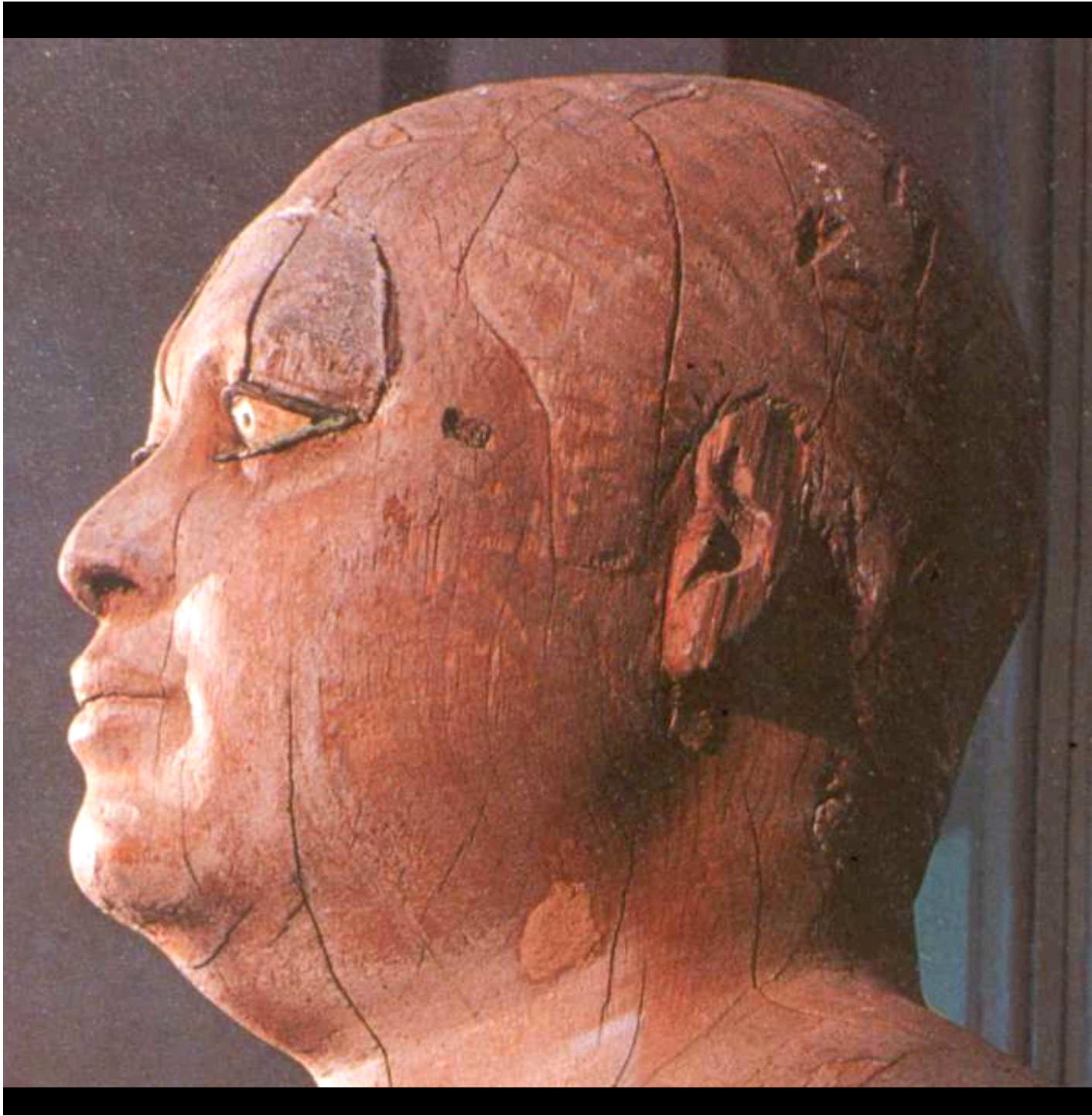
c. 2450 BCE

Sycamore wood

Cairo Museum









Princess Nofret, Meidum 4th Dynasty, c. 2550 BCE Cairo Museum



Princess Nofret, Meidum 4th Dynasty, c. 2550 BCE Cairo Museum

Prince Rahotep

Son of Sneferu

4th Dynasty

c. 2550 BCE

Cairo Museum



Egyptian Medicine - Ebers Medical Papyrus

Eye surgery: cataract (lens) removal, couching with retracting needles

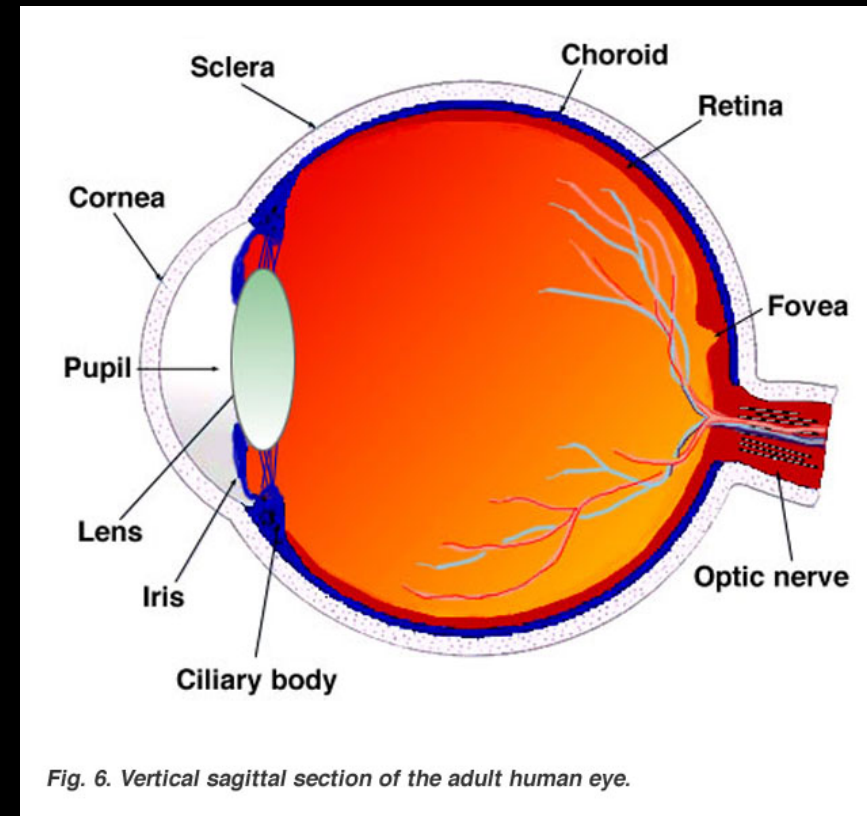
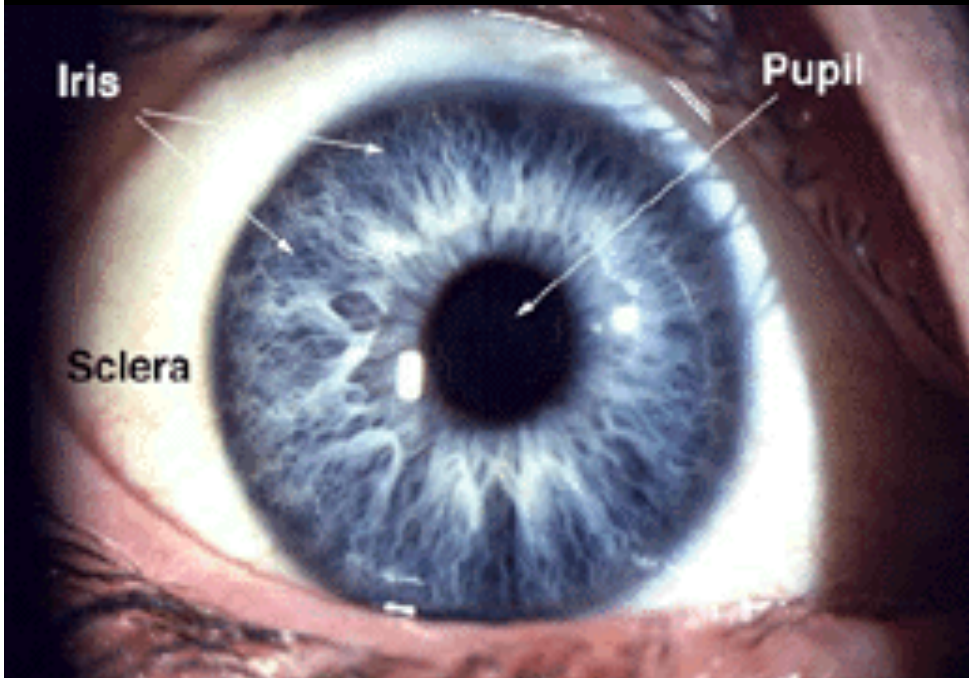


Fig. 6. Vertical sagittal section of the adult human eye.

Dr. Jay Enos, Dean of Ophthalmology School, U.C. Berkeley



Skin moisturizing?





Ancient Egyptian
proctologist:

Neru phuyt

“shepherd of the anus”



Hammurabi's Code
c. 1750 BCE



Hammurabi's Code

c. 1750 BCE

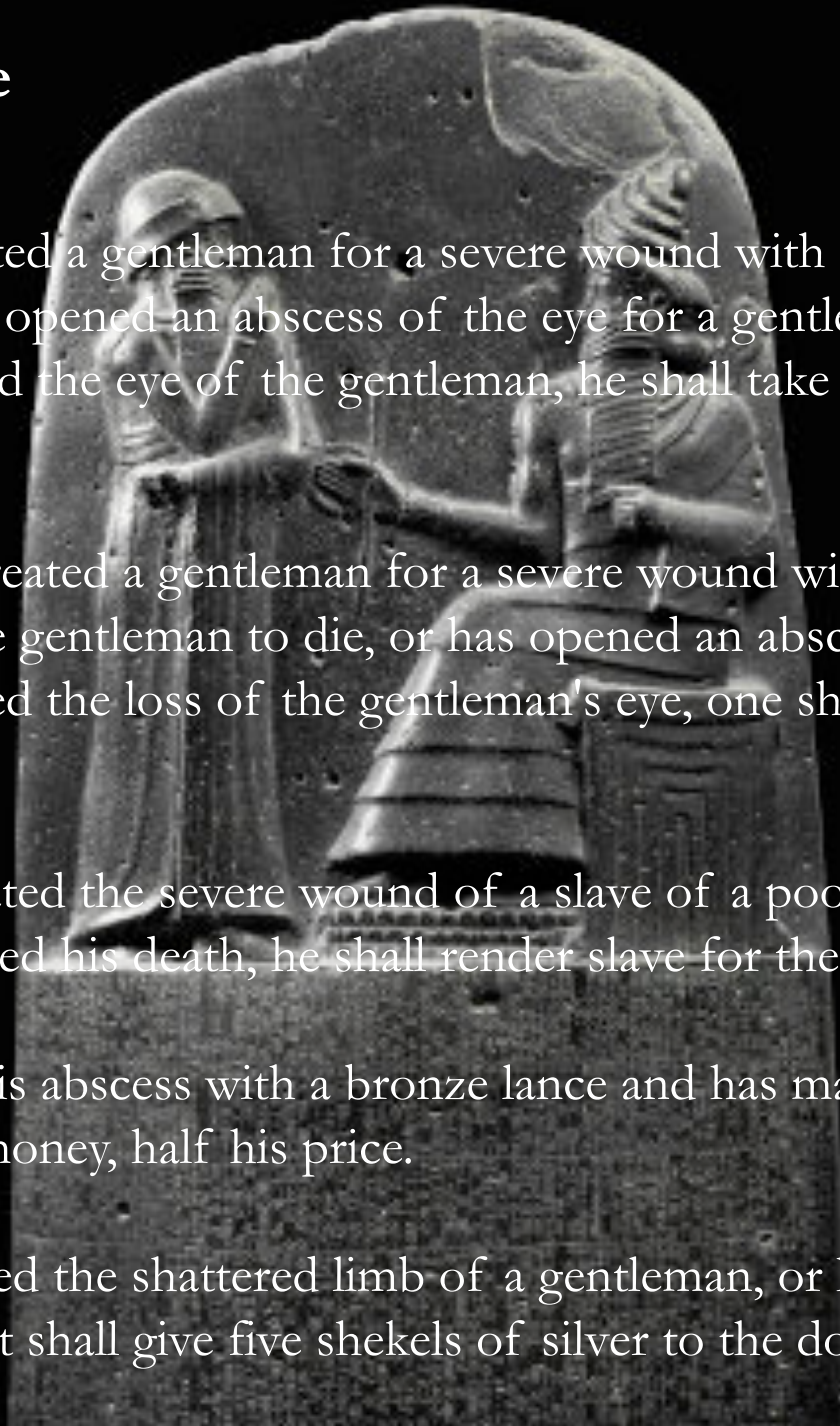
215. If a doctor has treated a gentleman for a severe wound with a bronze lance and has cured the man, or has opened an abscess of the eye for a gentleman with the bronze lance and has cured the eye of the gentleman, he shall take ten shekels of silver.

218. If the doctor has treated a gentleman for a severe wound with a lance of bronze and has caused the gentleman to die, or has opened an abscess of the eye for a gentleman and has caused the loss of the gentleman's eye, one shall cut off his hands.

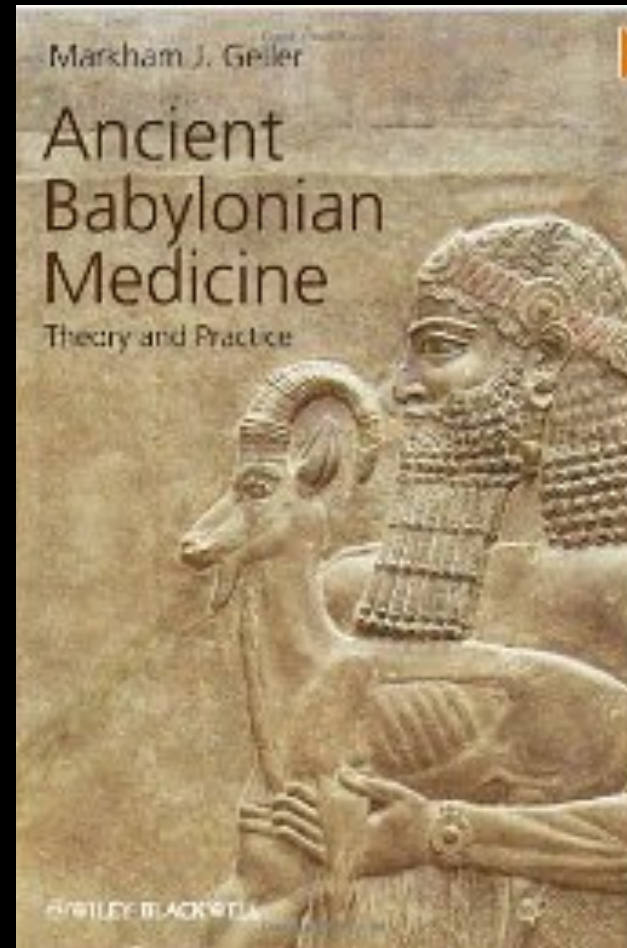
219. If a doctor has treated the severe wound of a slave of a poor man with a bronze lance and has caused his death, he shall render slave for the slave.

220. If he has opened his abscess with a bronze lance and has made him lose his eye, the doctor shall pay money, half his price.

221. If a doctor has cured the shattered limb of a gentleman, or has cured the diseased bowel, the patient shall give five shekels of silver to the doctor.



Dr. Irving Finkel, British Museum





ashu = physician

shiknu = appearance of symptoms,
source of illness [diagnosis]

shipru = effects, patient's outlook [prognosis]

apu sb = clarify nature (*shiknu*) of medical problem
ointments

ashipu = conjurer

shumma alu = omens

ipsu = black magic

amulets



Babylonian Tablet AMT 77.1

"If his face is pinched (*panashu tsap-ru*), his trunk is without feeling, his left hand is hanging down so that he cannot raise it, and he drags his feet: **stroke** (*mishittu*); his days will be long, he will not fare well..."

"If he is heavy and he has bent (*kananu*) either his hand or his foot: stroke (*mishittu*) has struck him..."

M. Stol. "Diagnosis and Therapy in Babylonian Medicine" *Jaarbericht Ex Oriente Lux* 32 (1992) 42-65, from Symposium "Science in Ancient Mesopotamia", Leiden, 14-15, May 1992.



Pazuzu

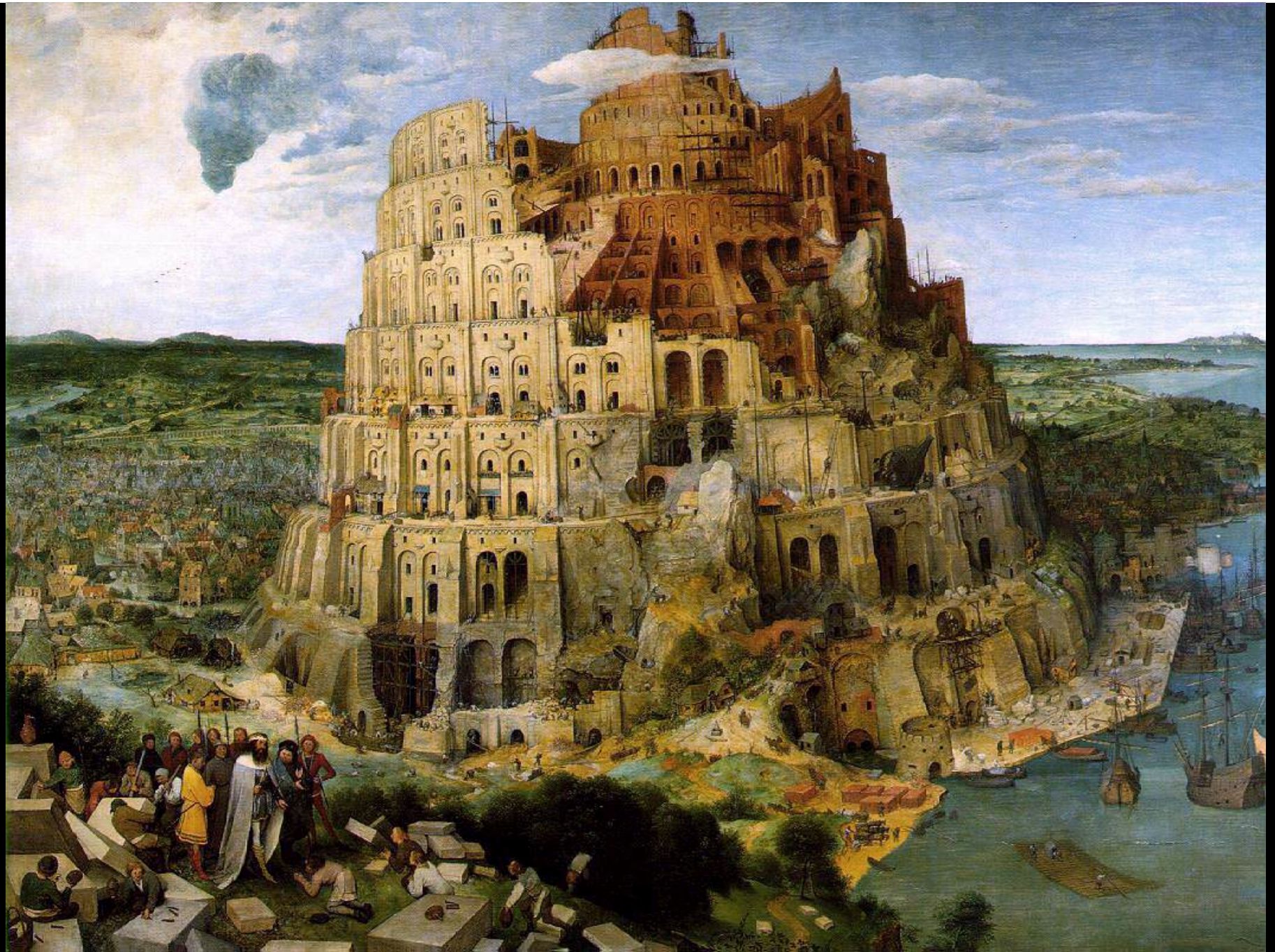
7th c. BCE

Babylonian
guardian demon
who brought
disease

but also
protected mothers
and newborns
against birth ills

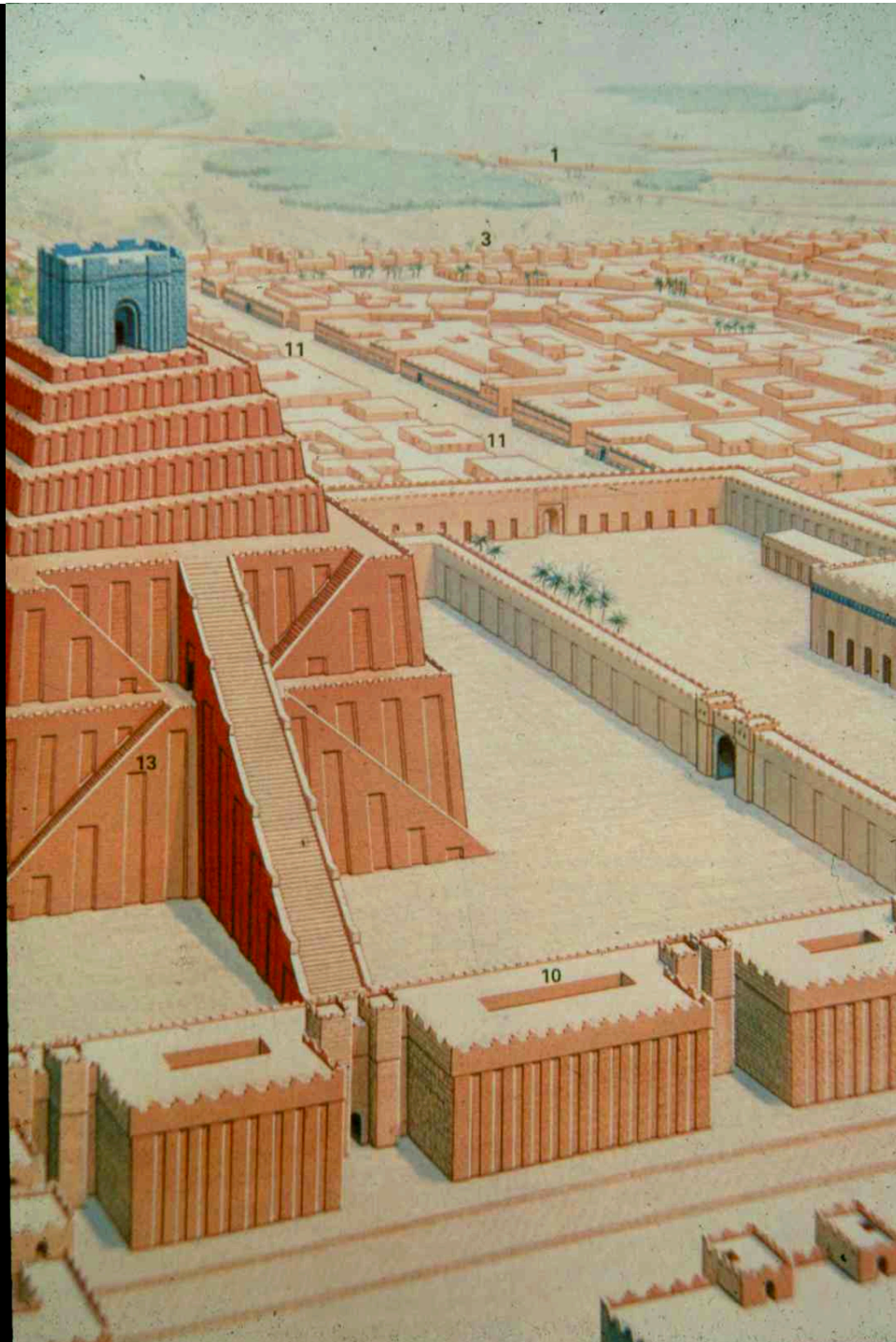
Oriental Institute
University of Chicago

Ghostbusters?



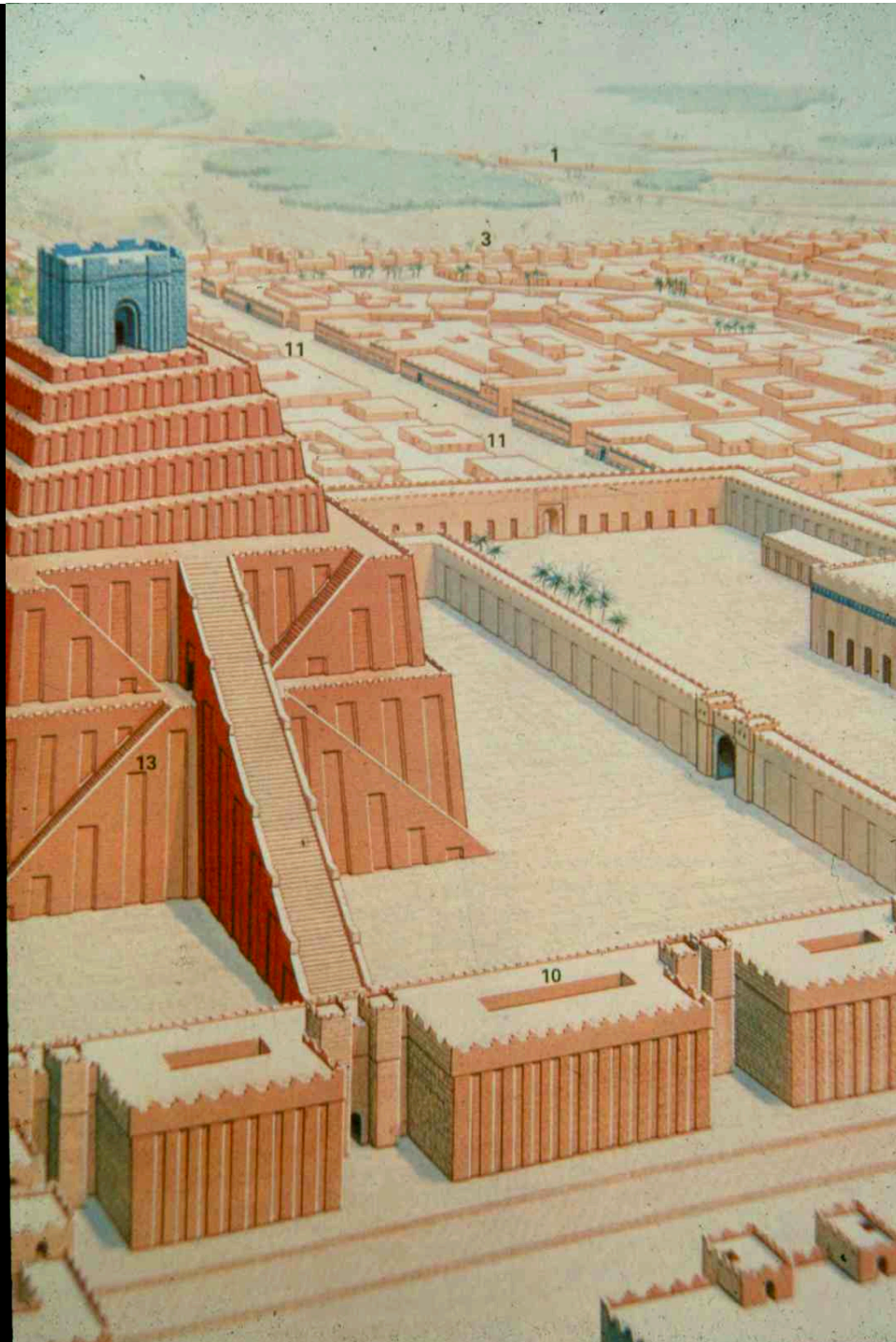
Pieter Breugel *Tower of Babel* c. 1563 Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna *Gen.5-6*

*“Mazel
Tob” ?*



*“Mazel
Tob”*

*“Have a
good
Horoscope”*



מעזל

Ma ‘azel =

“constellation”

Chiron

1st c. CE

Herculaneum

National

Museum

Naples





Chiron the Centaur Teaching Asclepios 6th c. BC Greek Red-Figure Vase

Chiron



CHIRON
CHIRON
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Medical Communications, LLC

Subsidiary of Novartis





Hermes





Kadukeos of Hermes





5th c. BCE Greece



5th c. BCE Greek

4th c. BCE
Italiote





Hermes the Traveler



kundalini in India



So what was the inspiration for the *kadukeos* (*caduceus*) ?





Asklepios, God of Medicine



A.M.A. Staff of Asklepios





*Asklepios
and Hygiea*

Marble relief
Therme, Greece
Late 5th c. BCE

Istanbul
Archaeological
Museum



A Mother bringing her sick child to the Temple of Asclepios John Waterhouse



Da-ma-te
Mycenaean Linear B

Papaver somniferum





Minoan Poppy Goddess Gazi, Crete

FIG. 24: Opium ve
—Knossos



Ploutonion
Cave

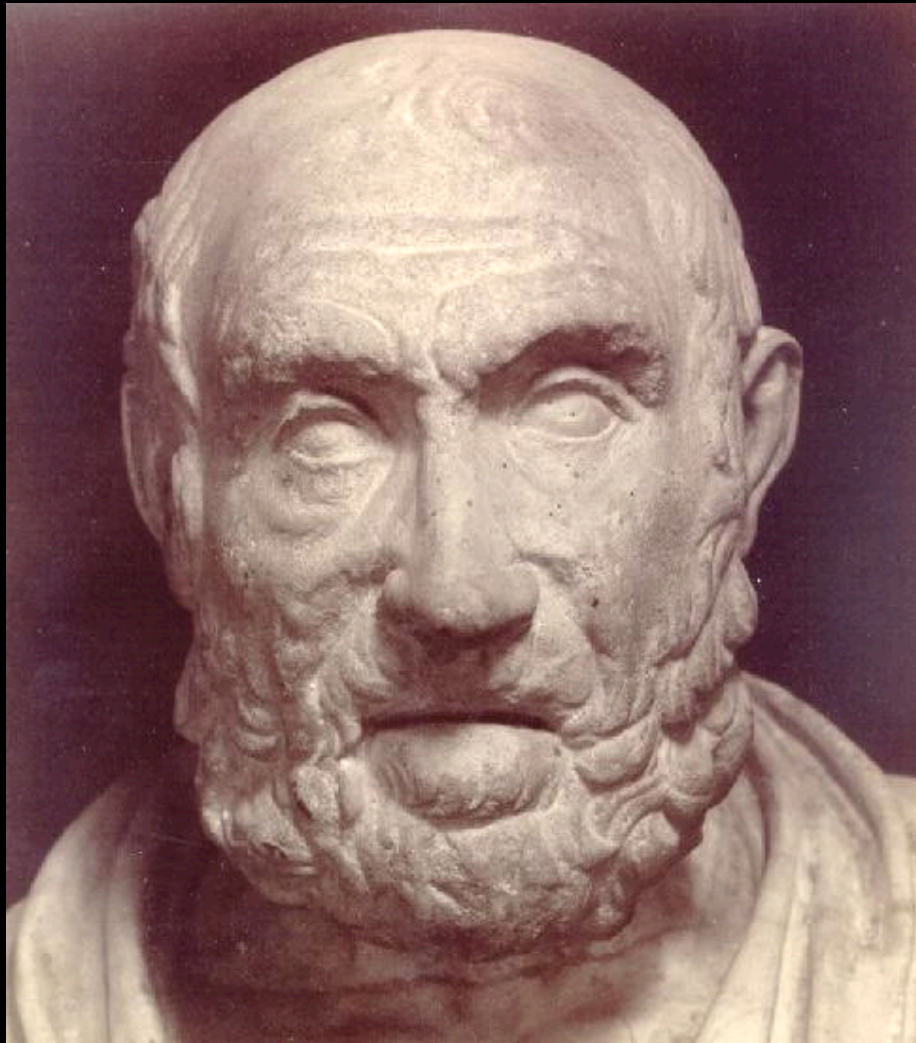
and

Hadrianic
Telesterion
frieze

Asklēpeios or
Hippocrates

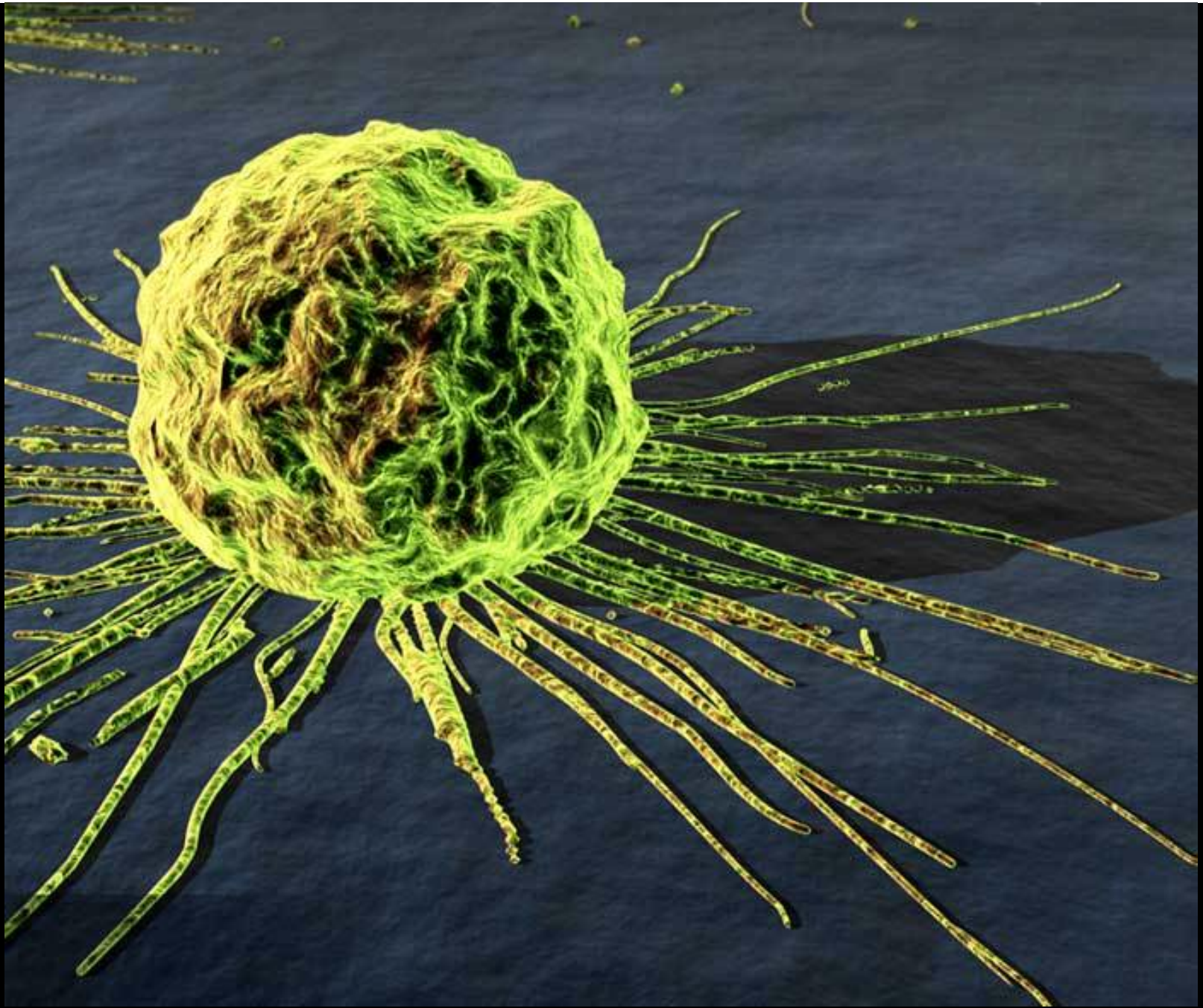
c. 460-370 BCE





Hippocrates

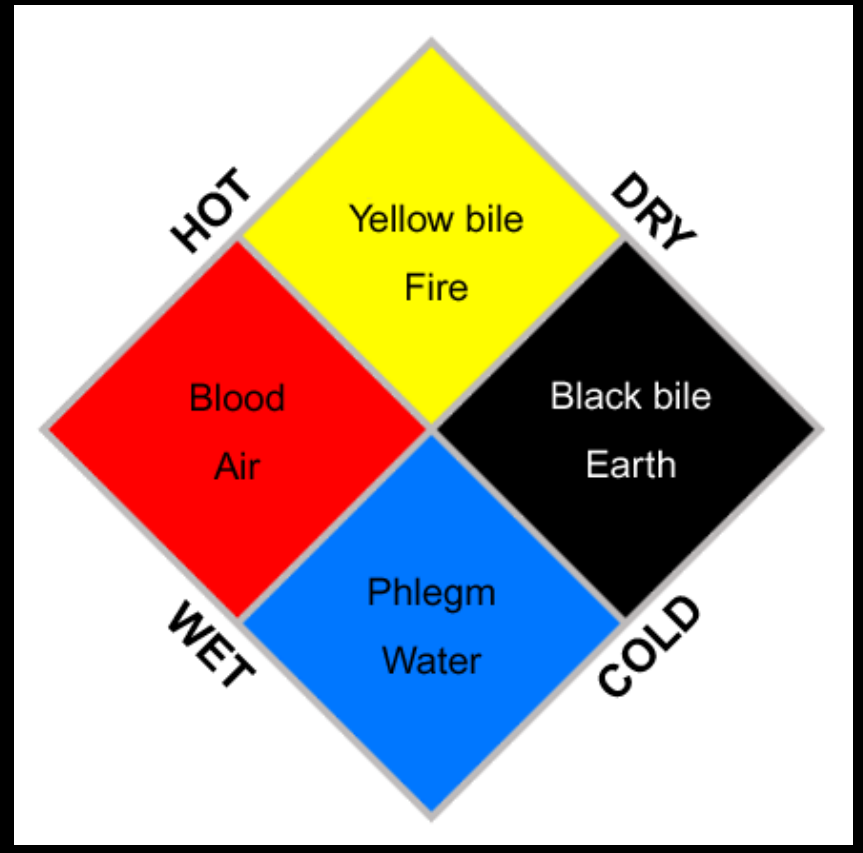
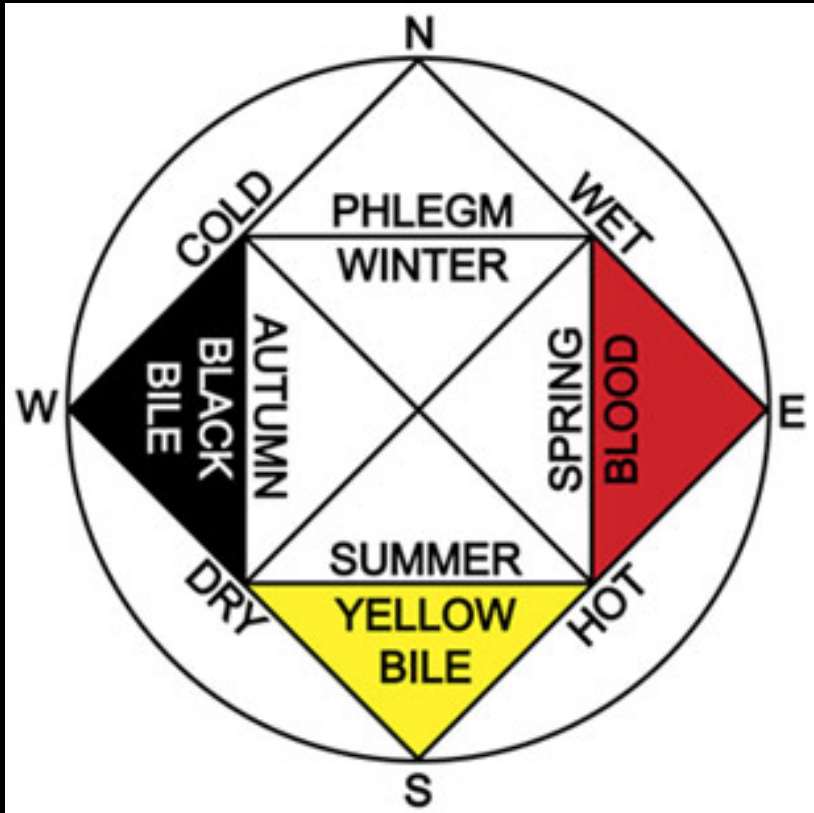
Hippocrates is thought to be the first person to clearly recognize difference between benign and malignant tumors. His writings include description of cancers involving various body sites. Hippocrates noticed that blood vessels around a malignant tumor looked like the claws of crab. He named the disease (**καρκινος** *karkinos*, the Greek name for “crab”) to describe tumors that may or may not progress to ulceration. In English this term translates to *carcinoma* or carcinoma.



carcinoma = crablike growth

Hippocratic Humors

Black Bile (Greek *melon chole*)
Yellow bile (Greek *chole*)
Phlegm (Greek *phlegma*)
Blood (Greek *haema* Latin *sanguis*).



Hippocratic Oath

- “I swear by Apollo, the healer, Asclepius, Hygieia, and Panacea, and I take to witness all the gods, all the goddesses, to keep according to my ability and my judgment, the following Oath and agreement:
- To consider dear to me, as my parents, him who taught me this *art* *; to live in common with him and, if necessary, to share my goods with him; To look upon his children as my own brothers, to teach them this *art*.
- I will prescribe regimens for the good of my patients according to my ability and my judgment and never do harm to anyone.
- I will not give a lethal drug to anyone if I am asked, nor will I advise such a plan; and similarly I will not give a woman a pessary to cause an abortion.
- But I will preserve the purity of my life and my arts.
- I will not cut for stone, even for patients in whom the disease is manifest; I will leave this operation to be performed by practitioners, specialists in this *art*.
- In every house where I come I will enter only for the good of my patients, keeping myself far from all intentional ill-doing and all seduction and especially from the pleasures of love with women or with men, be they free or slaves.
- All that may come to my knowledge in the exercise of my profession or in daily commerce with men, which ought not to be spread abroad, I will keep secret and will never reveal.
- If I keep this oath faithfully, may I enjoy my life and practice my art, respected by all men and in all times; but if I swerve from it or violate it, may the reverse be my lot.”

* *art* = *techne* “skill, highest craft”



Theophrastus

c. 371-287 BCE

Father of Botany
and Plant Medicine
(Pharmacology)

Φαρμακεία

pharmakeia

θεραπευειν

therapeuein



Pedanius
Dioscorides

40-90 CE

De Materia Medica

Becomes
Emperor
at age 17
but dominated
by his mother
Agrippina



Nero and Agrippina
circa 55 AD



Emperor
Claudius

(41-54 AD)



Cantharellus cibarius



Codex

Medicus

Graecus -

Vienna

Dioskourides

folio 4 verso

512 CE



De Materia Medica (Byzantine Greek) 15th c.



De Materia Medica (El Andaluz Arabic) 12th-13th c.

Aconite

Biblioteca
Nazionale,
Napoli





Digitalis purpurea

Scilla orientalis

Dioscorides said it was a
diuretic





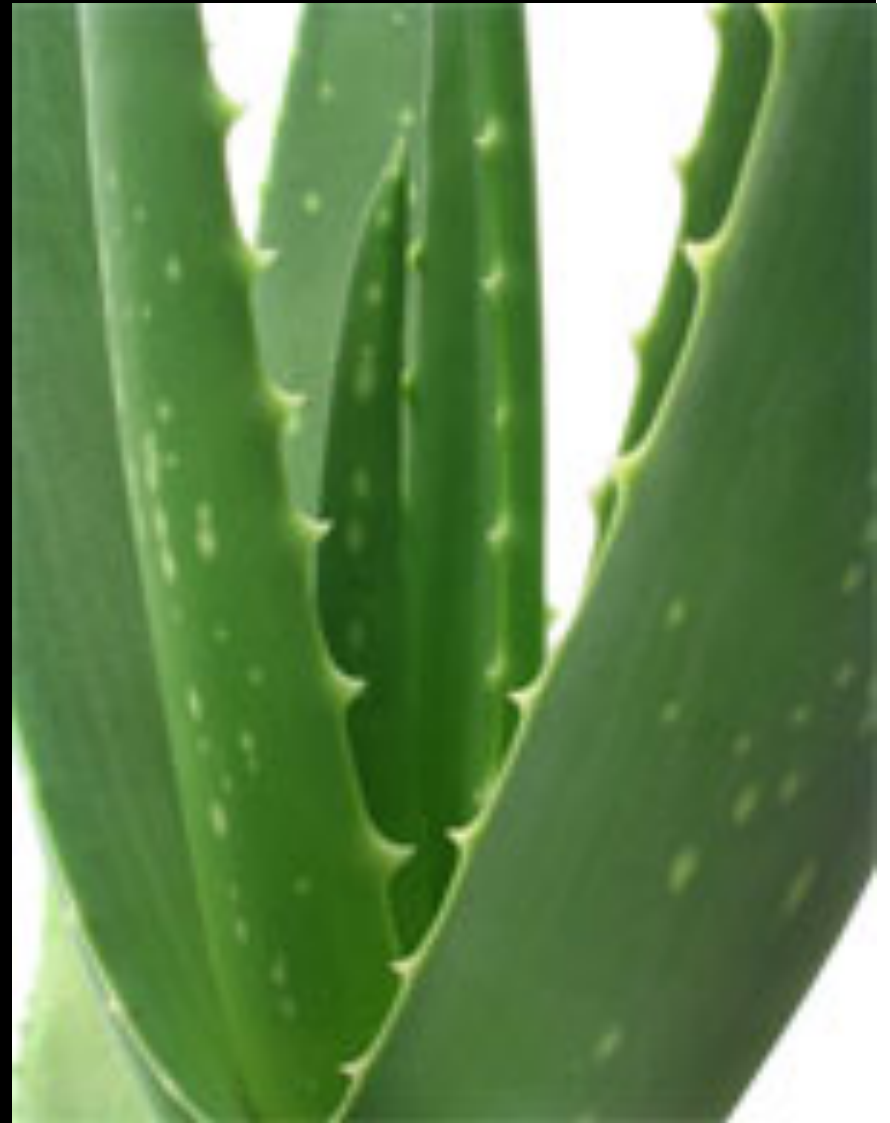
Rubus viticosus/fruticosus



Thymus officinalis sp.



Borago officinalis



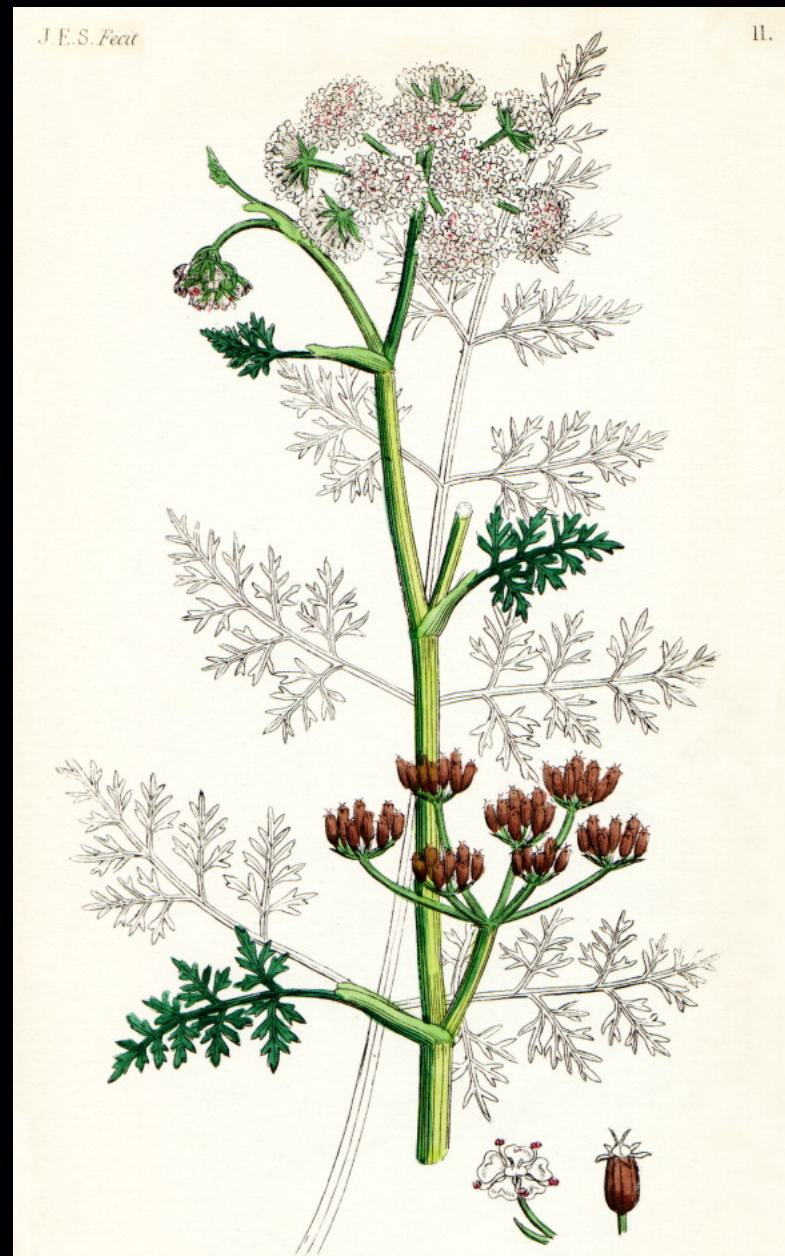
Aloe vera



Coin from Cyrene



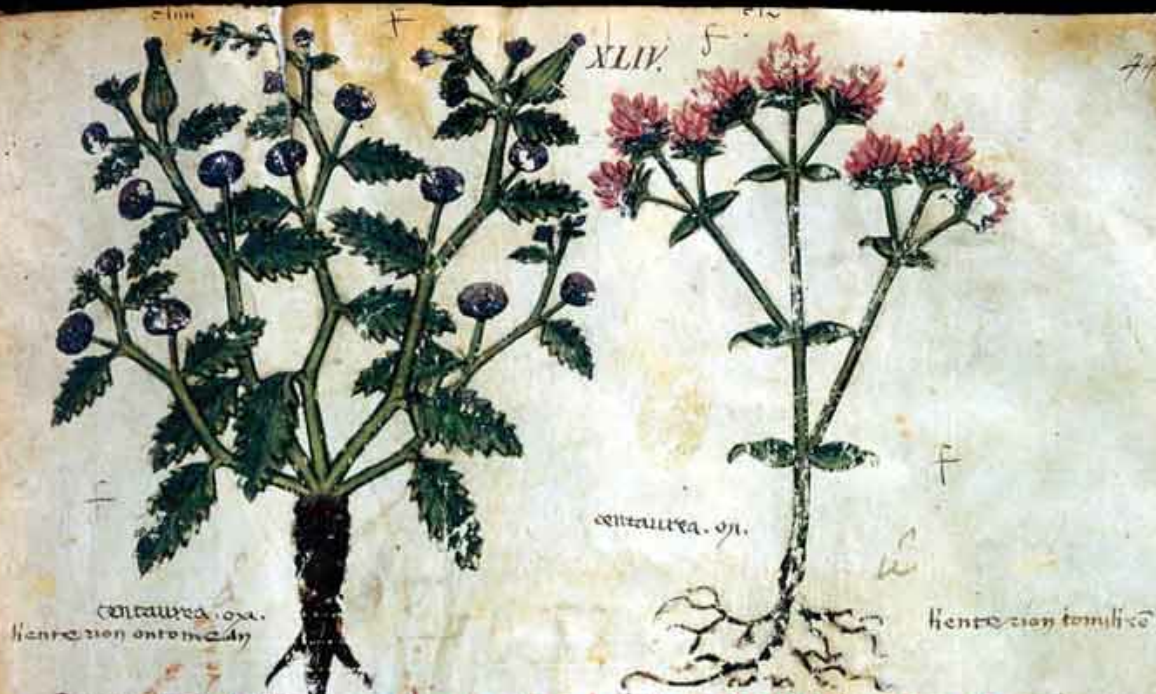
Syllium





Dioscourides' *Delphinium*

Centaury



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[illegible]

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Coriander

Ποιαντον γινεται



ΜΥΤΙΟΦΥΛΛΟΝ

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Βενεσίλλον

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Mandrake



bryon

ΒΡΥΟΝ

Gallia

lxx

ΒΡΥΟΝΙΑ ΛΕΥΚΗ

ΟΙΔΕ ΒΑΡΥΤΟΝ
ΡΩΜΑΙΟΙ ΕΡΒΑ
ΒΙΝΑ ΑΠΕΤΟΝ
ΓΟΝΙΟΝ ΚΟΝΙΟΝ
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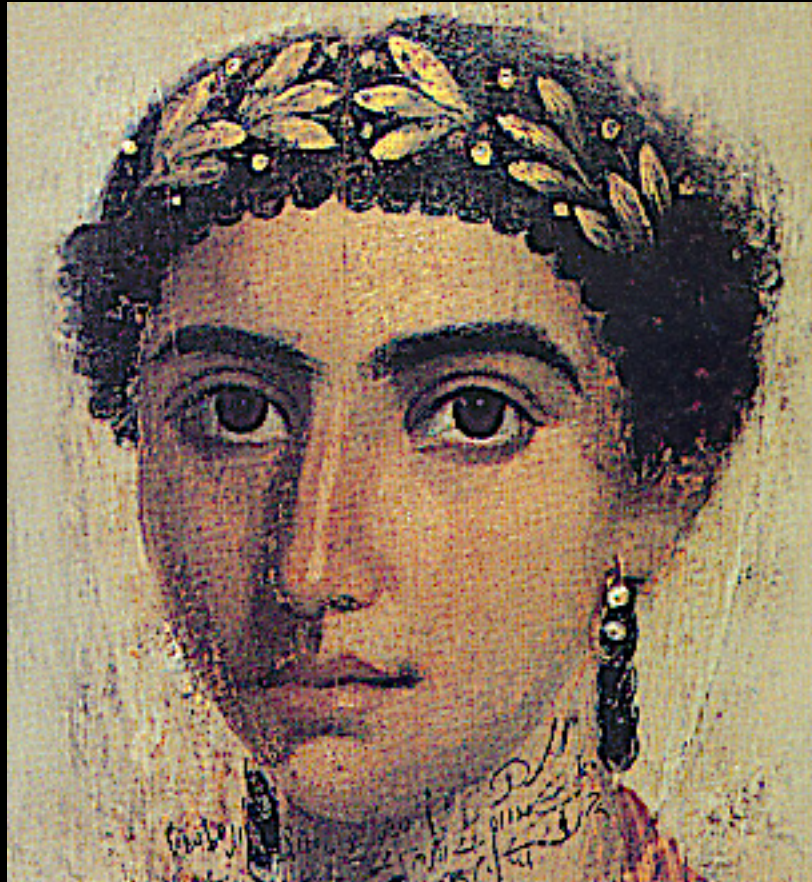


lxx

bryonia lely
r. alba

White
Bryony

Poet Laureate



Sappho

Dante



Petrarch



Apollo Temple at Delphi



Laurus nobilis





California Poet Laureate Al Young



British Poet Richard Davies



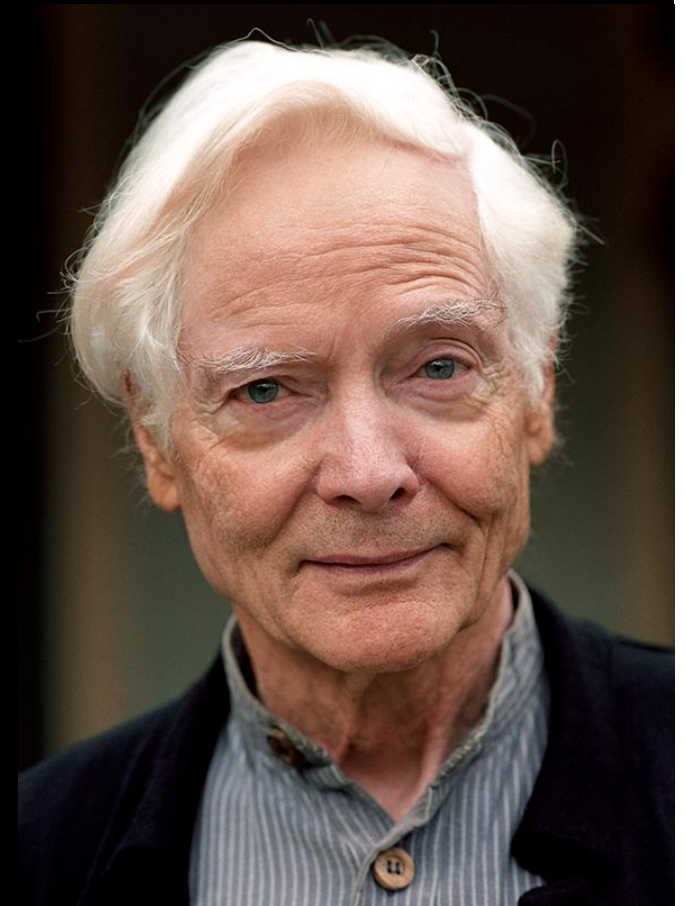
Jewish Poet John Felstiner



U.S. Poet Laureate Ted Kooser



Byron's Wreath



U.S. Poet Laureate W. S. Merwin



Galen of Pergamon

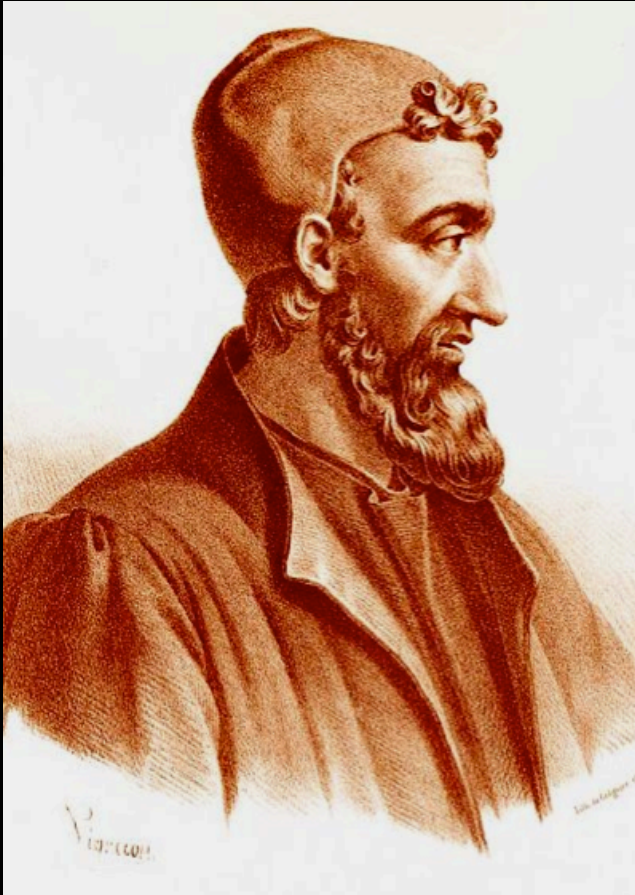
c. 131- 207 CE

Aelius Claudius Galenus

"Pursue by hard study, then, not only the descriptions of the bones in the book, but also acquaint yourself with the appearance of each of the bones, by the use your own eyes handling each bone by itself so that you become a first-hand observer. . . . I once examined the skeleton of a robber, lying on a mountain-side a short distance from the road. This man had been killed. . . and his body was eaten by birds of prey. . . As regards yourself, then, even if you do not have the luck to see anything like this, still you can dissect an ape, and learn each of the bones from it." *On Anatomical Procedure* (I.2)

Aelius Claudius Galenus

“The best physician is also a philosopher”



- Wrote over 600 medical treatises (33% survive)
- Dictated over 3 million surviving words
- 50% of extant literature of Greek antiquity is Galen
- *Therapeutes* at Asklepeion of Epiduarus
- *Medicus* to Emperors: Lucius Verus, Marcus Aurelius, Commodus, Septimius Severus
- *On Prognosis* (177-78 CE)
- *On Dream Diagnosis* (190 CE?)

Class I: Physiology, Anatomy 28+ vols.

Class II: Hygiene 12 vols.

Class III: Ætiology 19 vols.

Class IV: Semeiotics 14 vols

Class V: Pharmacy 10 vols.

Class VI: Instruments of Clinical Practice 10 vols. ?

Class VII: Therapeutics 17 vols.



R. Thom *Galen Cupping* c. 1958

Galen : five observable negative passions

dysthumia = depression (from *thumos*, desire)

orgé = anger

phobos = fear (distinguished rational from irrational fear)

phrontis = worry, anxiety

loupé = grief (subacute phobos
superacute phrontis)

aloupeias = alleviating grief (*therapeuein*)

Antiochus I loved his father's concubine

strong pulse without activity indicative of psychic disturbance

(erratic pulse could also be diagnostic of lying)

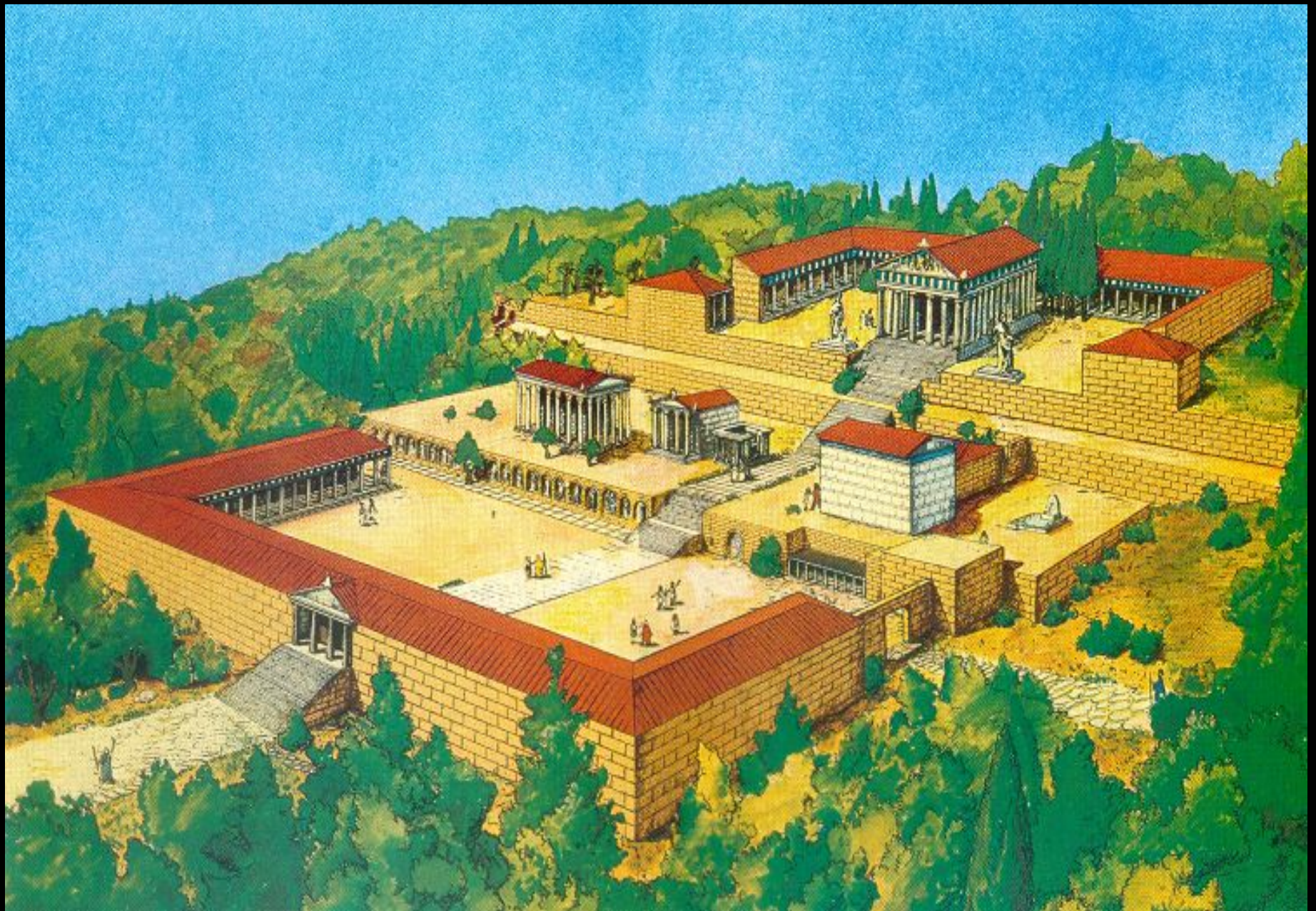
loupé unchecked caused insomnia, obsession, fever, physical wasting

Diseases and Maladies Possibly Recognized in Ancient Greece

- Dropsy
- Cough and catarrh
- Influenza
- Malaria
- Plague (*epidemia, pandemia*)
- Epilepsy
- Cancer (*carcinoma* = crablike growth)
- Smallpox
- Tuberculosis
- Leprosy
- Nephritis and renal disease
- Syphilis
- Glaucoma



Asklepios and his daughter Hygieia examining a patient



Asklepeion of Kos

R. Herzog, 1999

GUIDE

First Terrace (level)

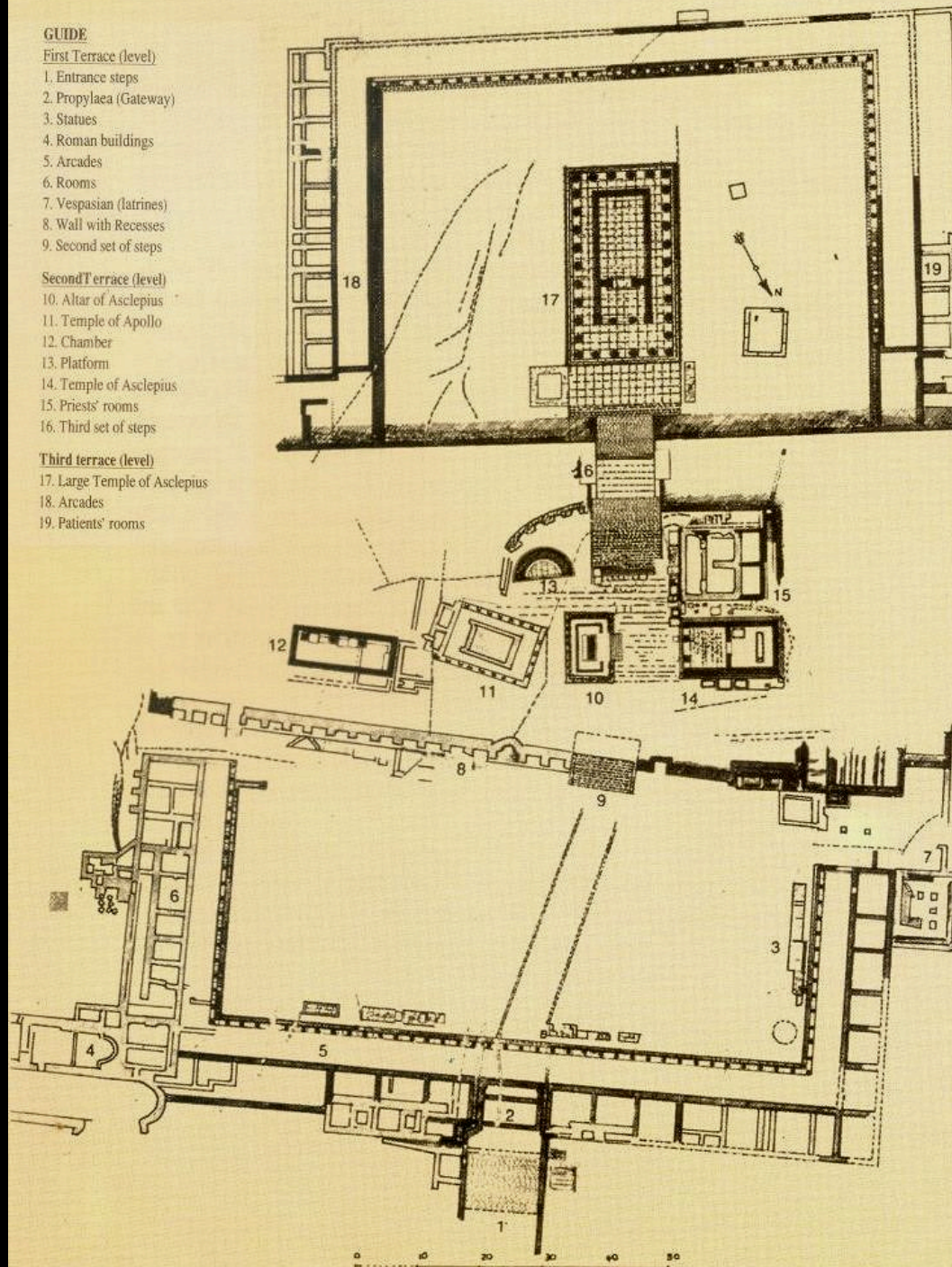
1. Entrance steps
2. Propylaea (Gateway)
3. Statues
4. Roman buildings
5. Arcades
6. Rooms
7. Vespasian (latrines)
8. Wall with Recesses
9. Second set of steps

Second Terrace (level)

10. Altar of Asclepius
11. Temple of Apollo
12. Chamber
13. Platform
14. Temple of Asclepius
15. Priests' rooms
16. Third set of steps

Third terrace (level)

17. Large Temple of Asclepius
18. Arcades
19. Patients' rooms



Plan of Kos
Aklepeion



Asklepeion at Kos c. 2nd c. CE



Asklepleion at Kos



Mosaic from Kos, Hippocrates, Asklepios and Traveling Patient

Major Greek Asklepeia Temples of Healing

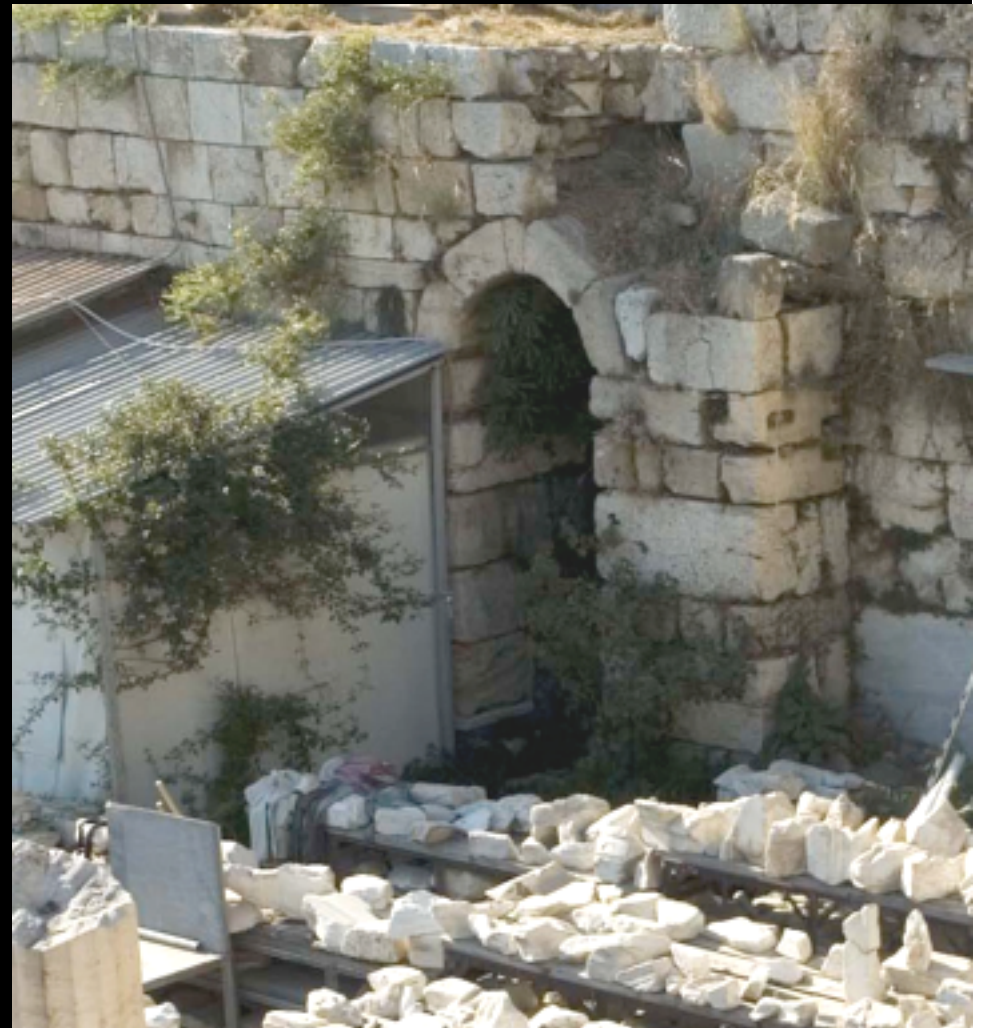




Asklepeion at Titane, Sikyon



Pergamon Asklepeion



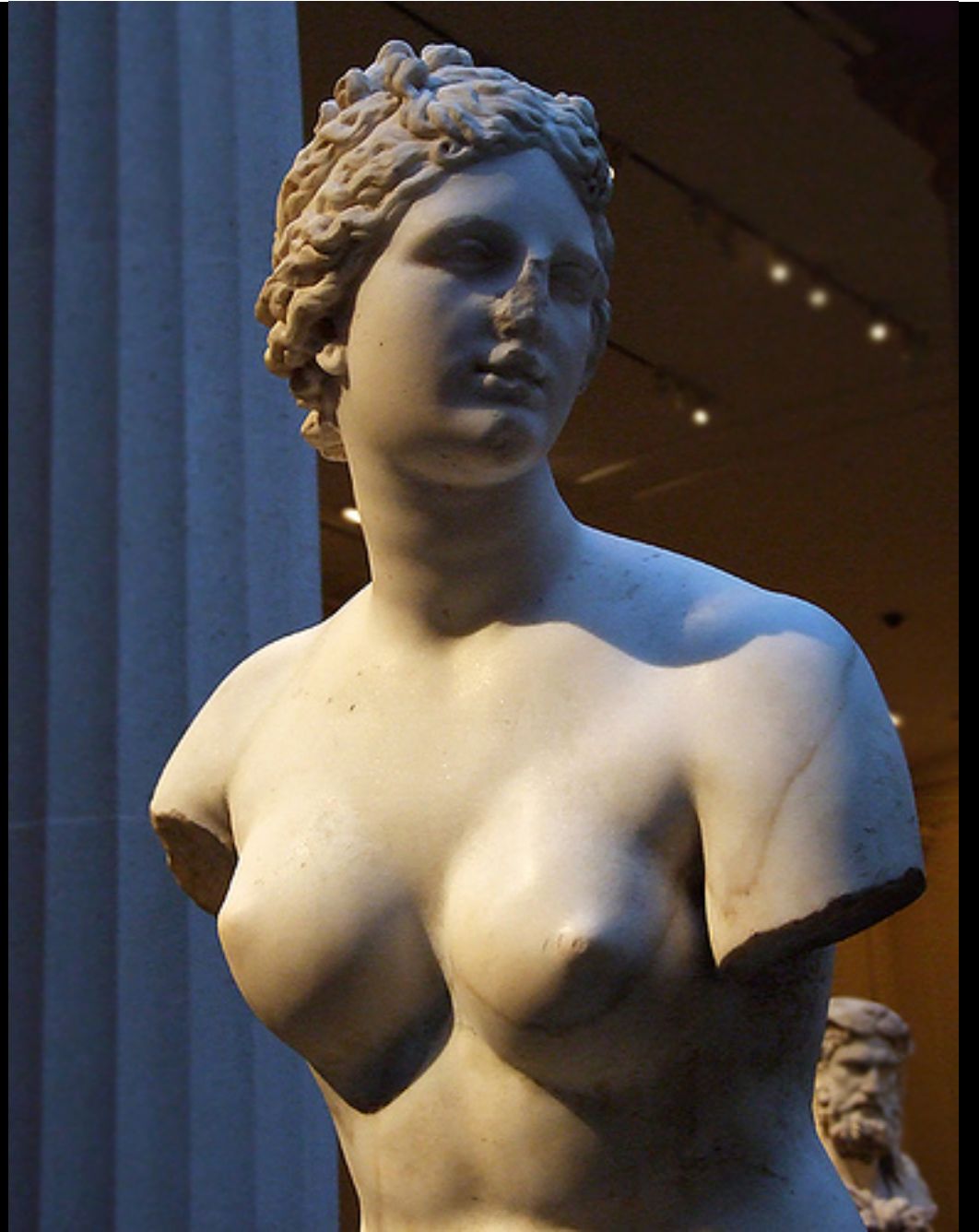
Athens Asklepeion



Corinth Asklepeion votives



Ancient Corinth



Aphrodite, Goddess of Love



Votive eye, Pergamon Asklepeion



Medical Instruments Athens Asklepeion

Votives in British Museum



Milos Asklepion
c. 200 CE

BM 809



Milos Asklepion
c. 200 CE

BM 809



ASKLEPIO
KAI
HYGEIA
TUCHE

EUCCHARISTERION

To Asklepios
and Hygeia
Tyche,

Thanks...”



“Jason, also known as Decimus, of the Archarnian deme [of Athens] a physician...”

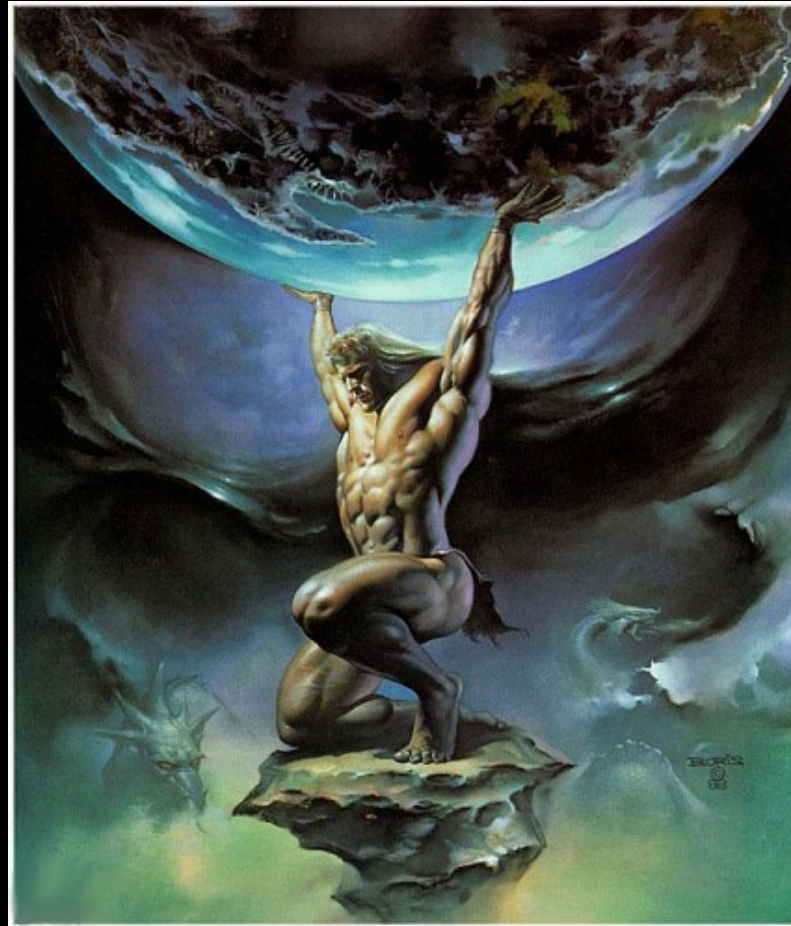
2nd c. CE Athens



Relief from Asklepeion of Athens

Galen on Anxiety c. 192 CE

A patient wondered and tossed all night, dreaming and worrying whether Atlas could hold up the sky if he got sick...



A profound case of depression (*dysthymia*) - mental stress can cause physical disease

Galen : five observable negative passions

dysthumia = depression (from *thumos*, desire)

orgé = anger

phobos = fear (distinguished rational from irrational fear)

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superacute phrontis)

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loupé unchecked caused insomnia, obsession, fever, physical wasting

J. Vermeer
A Woman Asleep

1657 MMNY





Egyptian Dream Book

Deir el-Medina, Egypt
19th Dynasty, around 1275 BC

A dream directory

The Dream Book of qenherkhepshef discovered at Deir el-Medina is written in tabular form, with the dreams described in one column of text and interpretation in another:

If a man sees himself in a dream...

...submerging in the river: good: this means purification from all evils.

...eating crocodile: good: this means acting as an official among his people.

...burying an old man: good: this means flourishing.

...seeing his face in a mirror: bad: this means another wife.

...shod with white sandals: bad: this means roaming the earth.

...copulating with a woman: bad: this means mourning.

...his bed catching fire: bad: this means driving away his wife.

Papyrus Chester Beatty III

Dream Book

(2, 14)	"seeing the god who is above, "	"IF A MAN SEE HIMSELF IN A DREAM"	"good; it means much food. "
(5, 16)	"having connexion with a cow, "		"good; passing a happy day in his house. "
(6, 2)	"cultivating herbs, "		"good; it means finding victuals. "
(6, 3)	"bringing in the cattle, "		"good; the assembling of people for him by his god. "
(6:7)	"threshing grain upon the threshing floor, "		"good; the giving of life to him in his house. "
(6, 18)	"seeing barley and spelt [given?] to those yonder		"good; it means the protection of him by his god. "
(8, 20)	"feeding cattle, "		"bad; it means roaming the earth. "
(9, 24)	"pounding barley and spelt, "		"bad; the requirement of what he has. .



Alma-Tadema *Joseph Overseer of Pharaoh's Granaries* 1874



William Blake *Nebuchadnezzar* 1795 Tate



Henry Fuseli *The Nightmare* 1781 Detroit Institute of Art



DREAMING

TOMMY  HILFIGER

THE NEW FRAGRANCE FOR WOMEN

The PRACTICE of DREAM HEALING



*Bringing Ancient Greek Mysteries
into Modern Medicine*

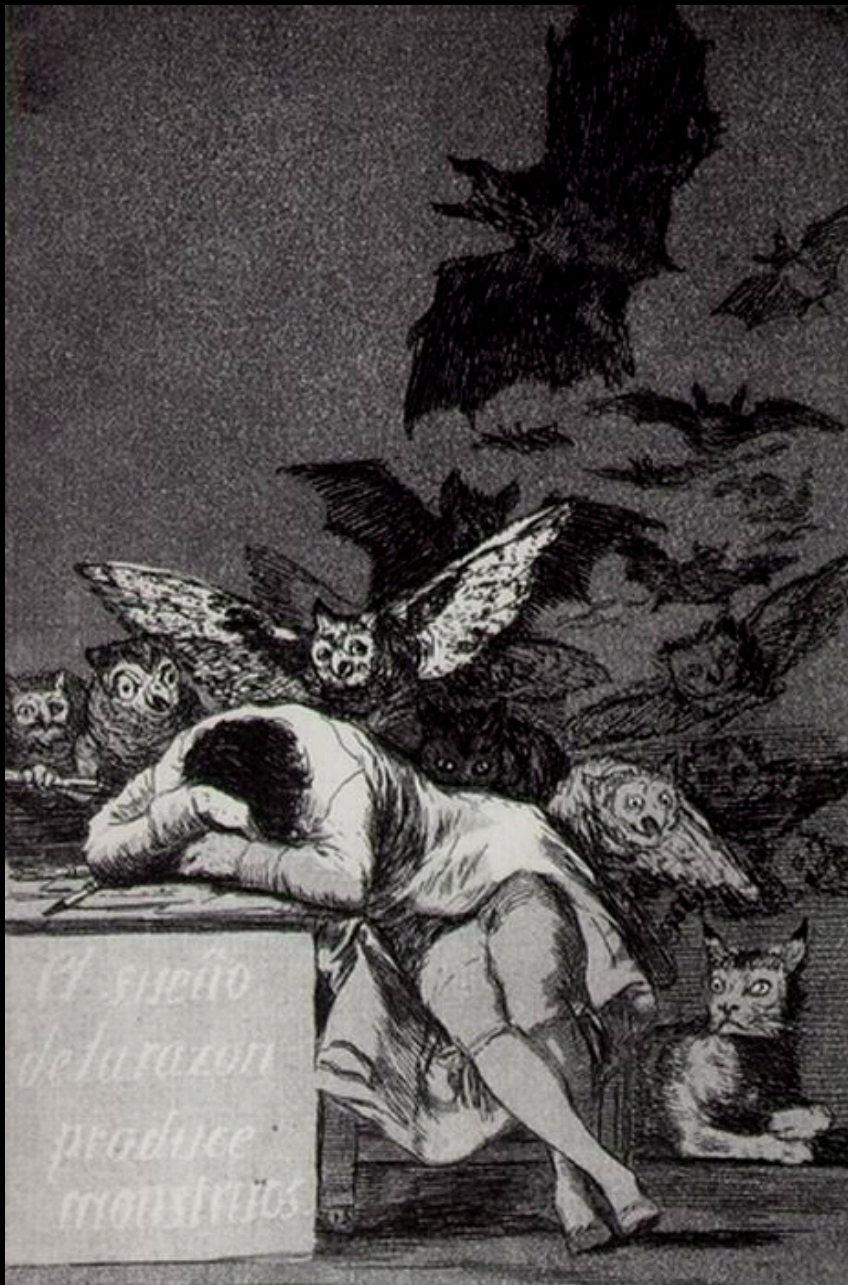
EDWARD TICK, PH.D.

FOREWORD by STEPHEN LARSEN, AUTHOR of *The Mythic Imagination*

Enhyponion “vision in sleep”

Galen *On Diagnosis in Dreams*

“At all events, a man dreamed that one of his legs had turned to stone, and many of those clever about such matters judged that the dream pertained to his slaves, but the man was paralyzed in that leg, although none of us expected that. We established, for example, that the wrestler who seemed to be standing in a receptacle of blood and to keep above it with difficulty had an abundance of blood and was in need of purging. And some who were about to sweat critically seemed to be bathing and swimming in receptacles of hot water. So also the impression of drinking without being filled befalls those who thirst exceedingly, just as also that of eating without fulfillment befalls the famished, and that of making love, those who are full of semen...”



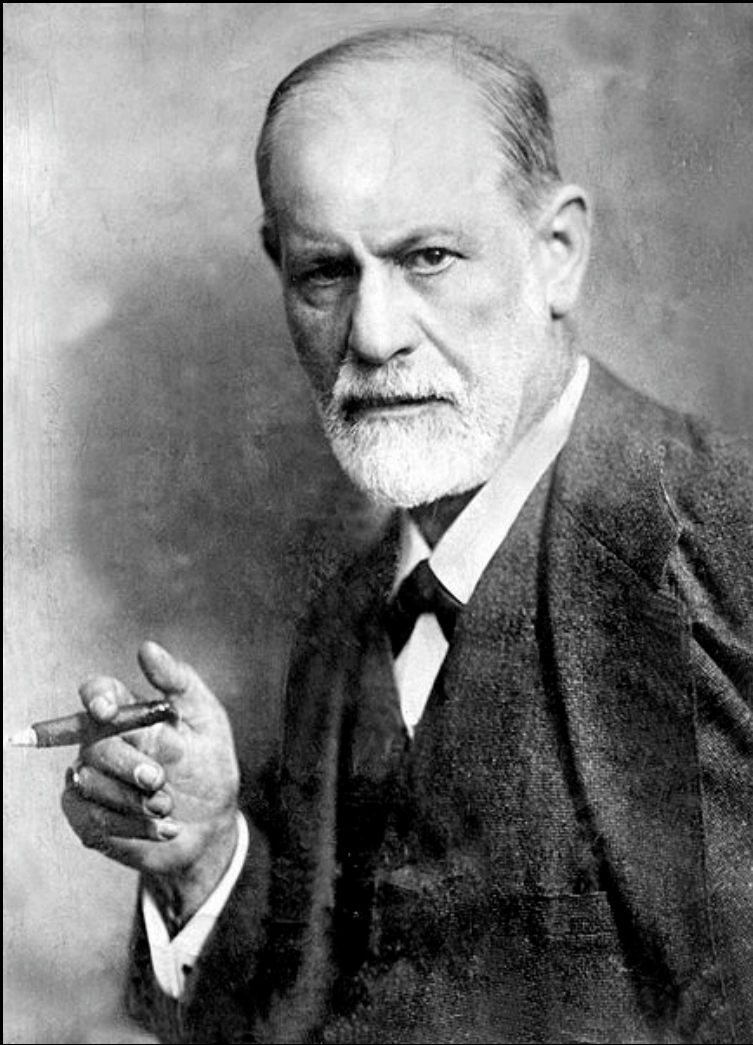
F. Goya, 1799

oneiroscopy

Artemidorus, *Oneirocritica* I.1.2

"Some dreams, moreover, are *theorematic* (direct), while others are *allegorical*. Theorematic dreams are those which correspond exactly to their own dream-vision. For example, a man who was at sea dreamt that he suffered shipwreck, and it actually came true in the way that it had been presented in sleep. For when sleep left him, the ship sank and was lost, and the man, along with a few others, narrowly escaped drowning...Allegorical dreams, on the other hand, are those which signify one thing by means of another; that is, through them, the soul is conveying something obscurely by physical means."





Sigmund Freud, *Interpretation of Dreams*, 1911

Sophokles, *Oedipus Rex*

Jocasta:

“Why should a mortal man, the sport of chance, with no assured foreknowledge, be afraid? Best live a careless life from hand to mouth. Do not fear this marriage with your mother. How often it happens in dreams that a man beds his mother! He who least regards such brainsick fantasies lives most at ease.”

Oedipus Complex

Asklēpeios or
Hippocrates

c. 460-370 BCE





A Mother bringing her sick child to the Temple of Asclepios John Waterhouse

Major Greek Asklepeia Temples of Healing



Gustav
Klimt

Hygeia



Sanctuary of
Epidauros

Asklepeion



ψυχη

ἰατρος

+

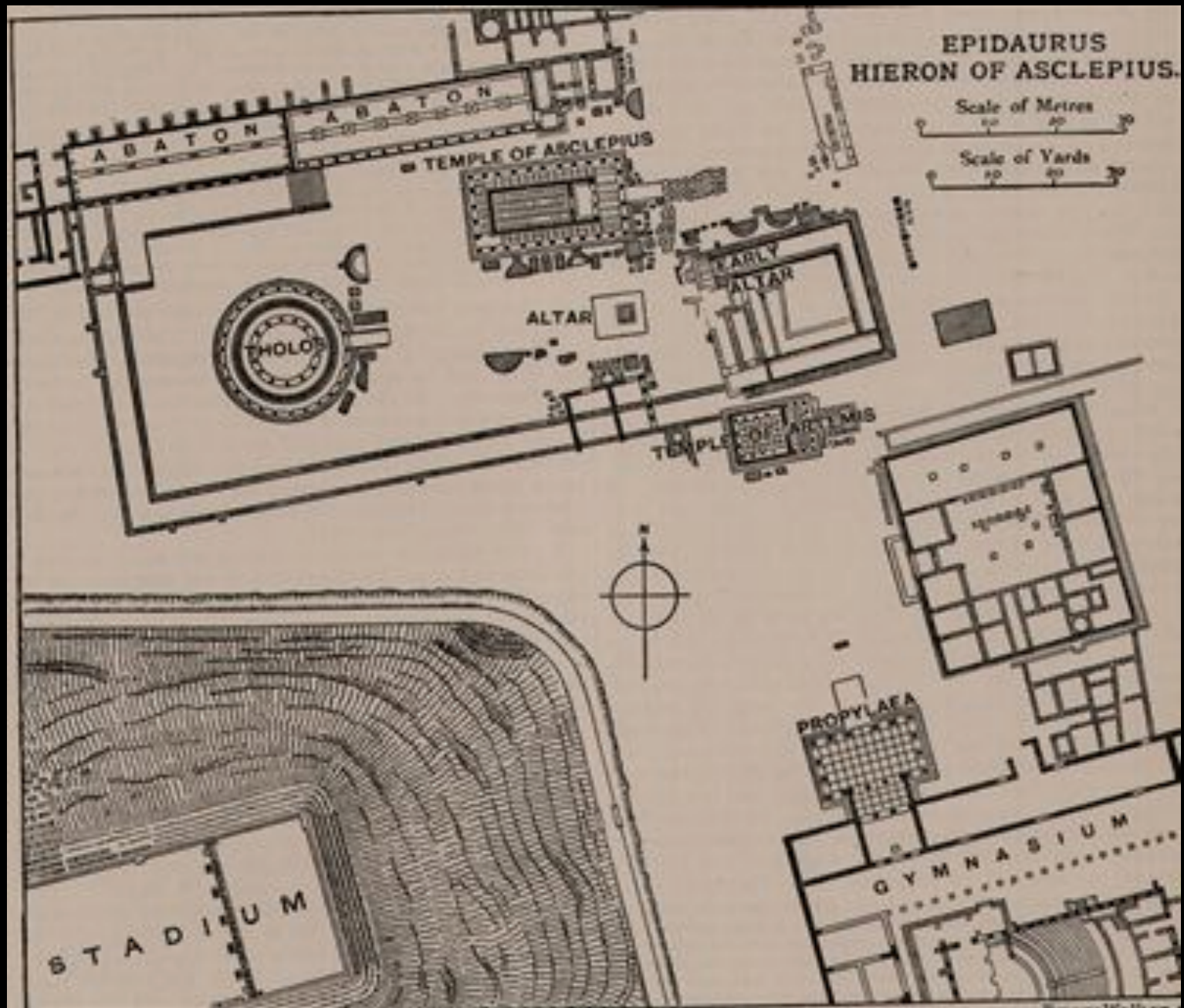
psyche

iatros



Abbey Library of St Gallen





Epidauros - Sanctuary of Asklepios

Asklepian
Story of the
Woman
Who Asked
Incompletely





Henri Rousseau *Sleeping Gypsy* 1897 MOMA-NY



Vincent Van Gogh *Starry Night* 1889 MOMA-NY



Pausanias (Mid 2nd c. CE) *Travels Through Greece*, Asklepion of Epidaurus

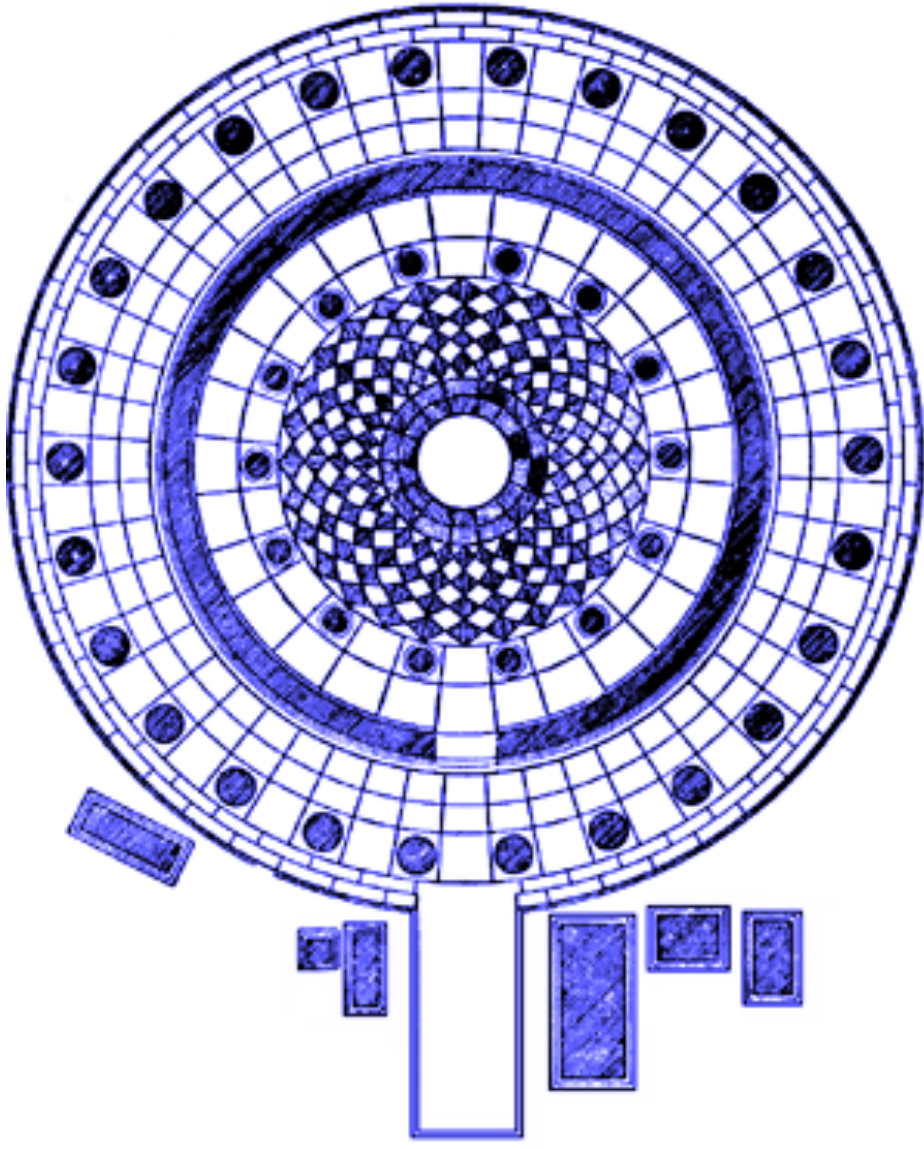
[2.27.1] “The sacred grove of Asclepius is surrounded on all sides by boundary marks. No death or birth takes place within the enclosure the same custom prevails also in the island of Delos. All the offerings, whether the offerer be one of the Epidaurians themselves or a stranger, are entirely consumed within the bounds. At Titane too, I know, there is the same rule.

[2.27.2] The image of Asclepius is, in size, half as big as the Olympian Zeus at Athens, and is made of ivory and gold. An inscription tells us that the artist was Thrasymedes, a Parian, son of Arignotus. The god is sitting on a seat grasping a staff; the other hand he is holding above the head of the serpent; there is also a figure of a dog lying by his side...Over against the temple is the place where the suppliants of the god sleep.

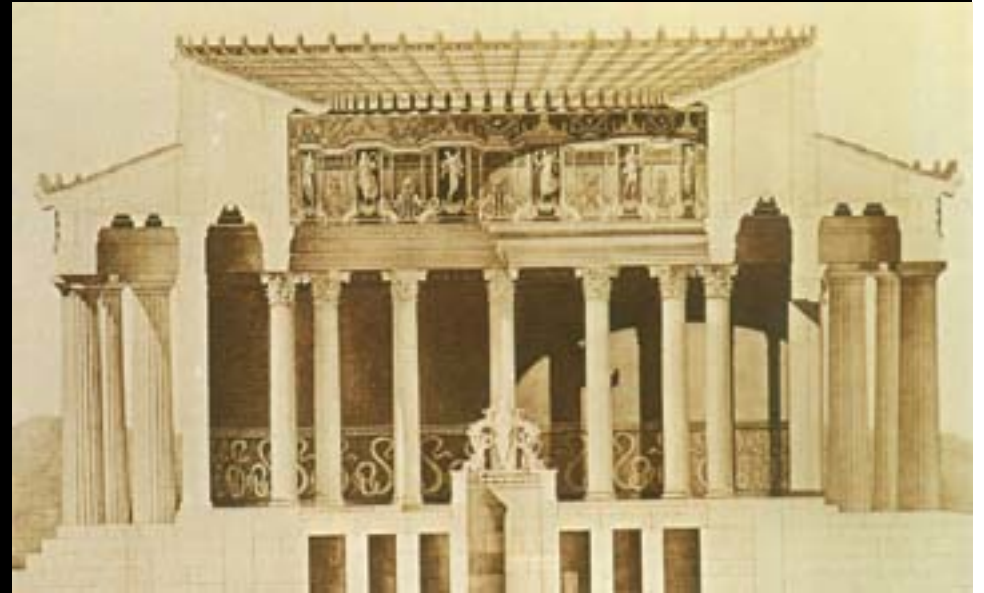
[2.27.3] Near has been built a circular building of white marble, called Tholos (Round House), which is worth seeing... Within the enclosure stood slabs; in my time six remained, but of old there were more. On them are inscribed the names of both the men and the women who have been healed by Asclepius, the disease also from which each suffered, and the means of cure.

[2.28.1] The serpents, including a peculiar kind of a yellowish color, are considered sacred to Asclepius, and are tame with men. These are peculiar to Epidauria, and I have noticed that other lands have their peculiar animals. But the big snakes that grow to more than thirty cubits, such as are found in India and in Libya, are said by the Epidaurians not to be serpents, but some other kind of creature...”

Mid 4th c. BCE



21 meter diameter



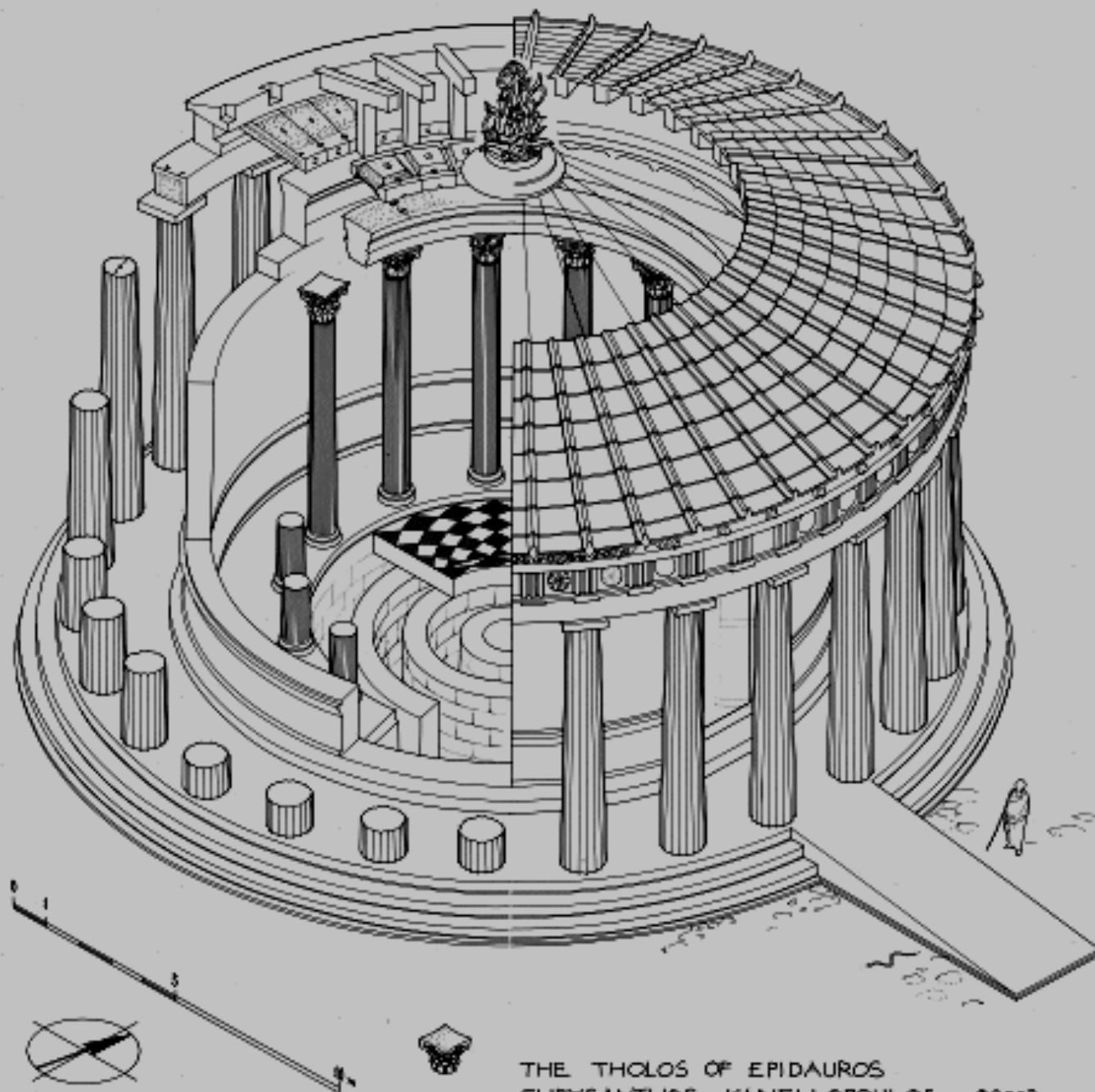
Tholos of Epidauros





Pergamon

Dream 1: "...I am in a subterranean building of confusingly complicate design..."



THE THOLOS OF EPIDAUROS
 CHRYSANTHOS KANELLOPOULOS ©2002

Athens Asklepeion





A dense, chaotic pile of numerous snakes, likely a species of cobra, with brown and tan scales. The snakes are coiled and intertwined, filling the frame. The word "katharsis" is written in a white, italicized serif font, centered over the middle of the image. The background is dark, making the snakes stand out.

katharsis

