

Hippocratic Oath – Literal Translation

Translation by Heinrich Von Staden, "In a pure and holy way:" Personal and Professional Conduct in the Hippocratic Oath," *Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences* 51 (1996) 406-408.

1.
 - i. I swear
 - ii. by Apollo the Physician and by Asclepius and by Health and Panacea and by all the gods as well as goddesses, making them judges [witnesses],
 - iii. to bring the following oath and written covenant to fulfillment, in accordance with my power and my judgment;
2.
 - i. to regard him who has taught me this techne as equal to my parents, and
 - ii. to share, in partnership, my livelihood with him and to give him a share when he is in need of necessities, and
 - iii. to judge the offspring [coming] from him equal to [my] male siblings, and
 - iv. to teach them this techne, should they desire to learn [it], without fee and written covenant, and to give a share both of rules and of lectures, and of all the rest of learning, to my sons and to the [sons] of him who has taught me and to the pupils who have both made a written contract and sworn by a medical convention but by no other.
3.
 - i. And I will use regimens for the benefit of the ill in accordance with my ability and my judgment, but from [what is] to their harm or injustice I will keep [them].
4.
 - i. And I will not give a drug that is deadly to anyone if asked [for it],
 - ii. nor will I suggest the way to such a counsel. And likewise I will not give a woman a destructive pessary.
5.
 - i. And in a pure and holy way
 - ii. I will guard my life and my techne.
6.
 - i. I will not cut, and certainly not those suffering from stone, but I will cede [this] to men [who are] practitioners of this activity.
7.
 - i. Into as many houses as I may enter, I will go for the benefit of the ill,
 - ii. while being far from all voluntary and destructive injustice, especially from sexual acts both upon women's bodies and upon men's, both of the free and of the slaves.
8.
 - i. And about whatever I may see or hear in treatment, or even without treatment, in the life of human beings -- things that should not ever be blurted out outside -- I will remain silent, holding such things to be unutterable [sacred, not to be divulged],
9.
 - i.
 - a. If I render this oath fulfilled, and if I do not blur and confound it [making it to no effect]
 - b. may it be [granted] to me to enjoy the benefits both of life and of techne,
 - c. being held in good repute among all human beings for time eternal.
 - ii.
 - a. If, however, I transgress and purjure myself,
 - b. the opposite of these