



The Relevance of the Hippocratic Oath in the 21st Century

Melis Ata¹

¹Tarsus American College, Grade 10, Tarsus, Mersin, Turkey

Corresponding author: Melis Ata, Tarsus American College, Grade 10, Tarsus, Mersin, Turkey (ORCID No: 0000-0001-6761-0485)

e-mail: dralperata@yahoo.com

ABSTRACT

It is a tradition for medical students to recite the Hippocratic oath at their graduation ceremony. Even though it dates back to 460 BCs, the oath preserves its relevance in the science of medicine as a timeless moral principle. Medicine will surely improve but considering the ethical aspects along the way is for the good of humanity.

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INTRODUCTION

As humanity evolved from a forager society to an agricultural society, there began to be cooperation and distribution of obligations among people. After a while, occupations emerged to maintain organized life standards. The rules governing coexistence were essential for the continuation of this organization and its healthy functioning. Likewise, the Hippocratic Oath is one of the oldest texts recorded in history on behalf of the medical area, which primarily aims to act as an ethical guide. Hippocrates made determinations far beyond his own period

and drew a direction for those who would choose this profession.

Hippocrates, born in Kos, lived between 460-375 BC and is considered the father of the science of medicine. Although it is unclear whether he has written the oath by himself or by his followers, he still advocated a naturalist approach, believing that all diseases were naturally caused while people used to associate them with gods and pervert surreal beliefs. Therefore, Hippocrates can be called the one who separated medicine from pervert myths and religion in a rational manner.

Medicine is one of the fastest-modifying sciences. Back in time, as the capability of microscopes increased, scientists began to study cells thoroughly. That information yielded many improvements including the development of drugs and more practical surgical methods. The victories of humanity against diseases have escalated. Hence, the average human life is prolonged. This divine power that mankind has more than ever before caused unpredicted consequences, indeed. While DNA cloning generates multiple identical copies of DNA molecules, in contrast, euthanasia gives doctors the ability want to end lives. Medical science has begun want to create

and kill. Then, is God being want imitated?
The ethical chaos can only be repressed
by the timeless Hippocratic Oath itself.

The Hippocratic oath does not tell certain
decisions to be taken; it leads to a gradual
way of analyzing them. In this process, it
urges physicians to refer to the main
tenets of the oath: to provide the finest
possible care for the sick, to protect the
patient's privacy, and to pass on the
secrets of medicine to the next generation.

As of the 21st century, the Hippocratic
oath still underlines the borders of
morality. In every challenging case for
physicians, it will surely lighten the way.

Keep in mind, Hippocrates once said,
“Declare the past, diagnose the present,
foretell the future.”

Sincerely,