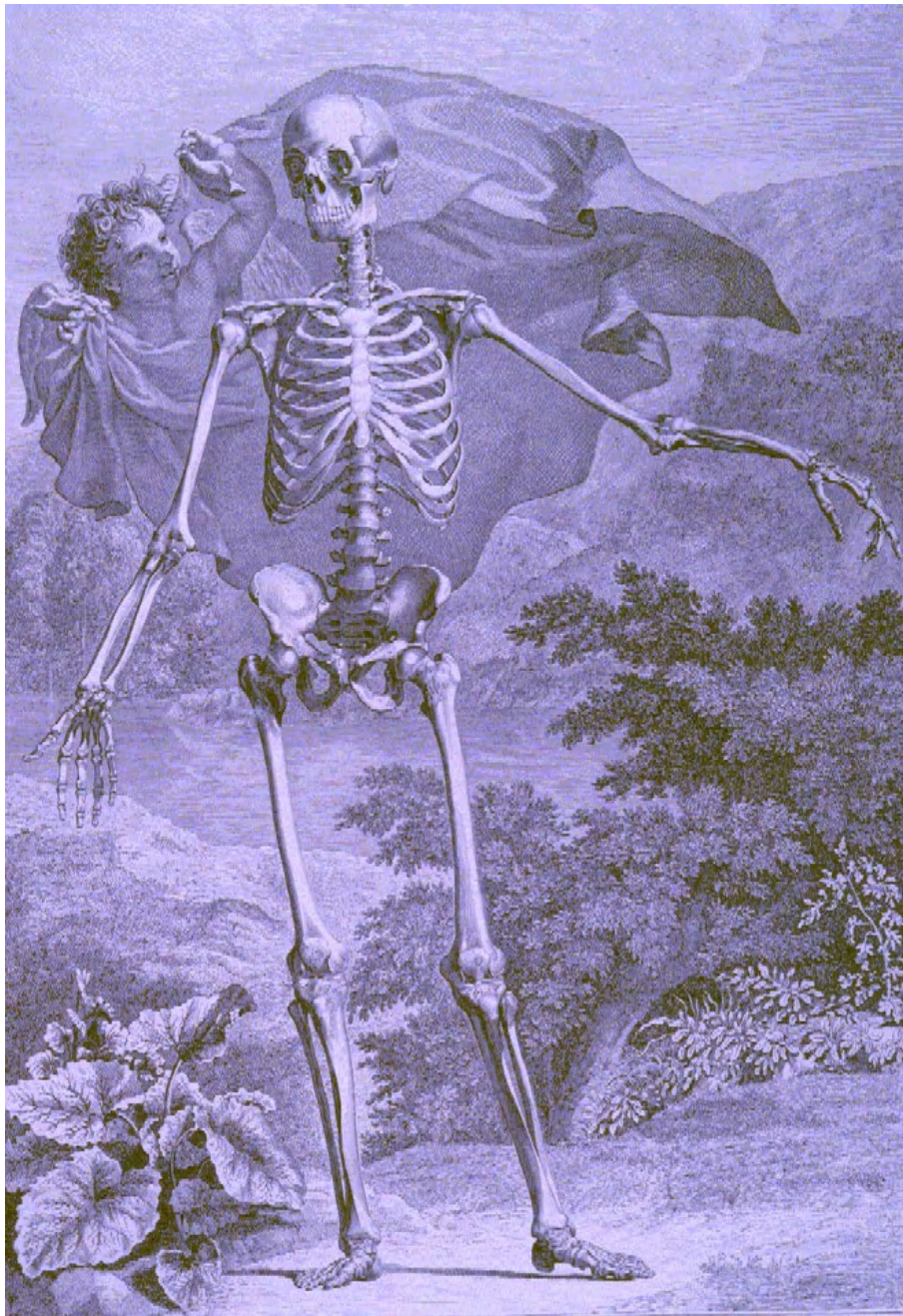


The Vaulted Treasures

A Grand Collection of Precious Ancient Medical Books, Buried in
Deepest Vaults



By-

Dr. Rajneesh Kumar Sharma

B.SC., B.H.M.S., M.D., hM.D. (U.K.), D.I.Hom. (London)

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Dedication

Dedicated to
my parents,
my wife,
and
my children.

Preface

Inside a climate-controlled vault at the University of Virginia Claude Moore Health Sciences Library are treasures. Not gold or silver or precious stones, but printed treasures, all published between 1493 and 1819. Some are small pocket-sized volumes only a few inches tall. Others are massive: the largest weighs in at 18 pounds and has a cover that exceeds four square feet. Some consist of only the written word. Others contain exquisite illustrations of the human body or fanciful landscapes.

Big or small, plain or fancy, the books and their authors all contribute to the history of medicine. They are reminders that the ideas and knowledge we take for granted in the twenty-first century have evolved over millennia. Physical symptoms in life have not always been directly correlated with physical findings in the body after death, and two centuries ago the now ubiquitous stethoscope so often draped around the physician's neck did not exist.

Presented here is the collection of some of the precious gems for historical overview of medical science.

Dr. Rajneesh Kumar Sharma

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- Hippocrates (460 BCE-ca. 370 BCE)
- Aulus Cornelius Celsus (25 BCE-50 CE)
- Pedanius Dioscorides, of Anazarbos (fl.50-70)
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- Oribasius (325-403)
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- Alexander, of Tralles (ca. 525-ca. 605)
- Paulus, Aegineta (625?-690?)
- Abu Bakr Muhammad ibn Zakariya Razi (865?-925?)
- Avicenna (980-1037)
- Albertus Magnus (1193?-1280)
- Arnaldus, de Villanova (ca. 1240-1311) and the School of Salerno
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