

LATIN AND ANCIENT GREEK MYTHOLOGY ABOUT MEDICINE AND HEALERS (Literature review)

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ABSTRACT

As it is well known that medical terminology is based on Latin and Greek terminology. This article describes some explanation about how mythology and God as Asclepius and religion affects to the appearance of medicine according to some literature review. While reading the article reader will understand that Asclepius was the founder of family medical school and will know the most revered children of the asclepian God were: Hygieia - goddess of Health from this name comes modern terminology –Hygiene, all - round healing Panacea - patron of medicinal healing (Greek Panacea-cure for all diseases), Machaon, became a famous military surgeon, and Podalirius is famous for treating internal diseases. As well as it is interesting to reader the appearance of the snake as a symbol of medicine for all over the world.

Key words: mythology, medicine, Greek Gods, Hygiene, Hellas, healing, Apollo, doctor, care.

INTRODUCTION

The beginning of Latin and ancient Greek mythology dates back to the thousand-year history of the peoples of the Aegean Basin. Among the gods of the Olympic pantheon, many were associated with healing, maintaining health and a healthy lifestyle.

The gods in ancient Hellas were considered anthropomorphic: they were depicted in the form of people and all human beings with both good and bad qualities and passions. Respect for the gods in ancient Hellas was expressed not with sadness, but with pleasure, not with self-deprecation and self - rejection, but

with noisy public entertainment-theatrical performances, gymnastic festivals and Olympic Games. One of these gods is Asclepius. Asclepius was originally a mortal and later became the god of medicine and healing, according to the ancient Greeks. The myth of Asclepius is connected to the origins of **medical science** and the **healing arts**.¹

The cult of the physician God Asclepius originated in 7th century BC in Hellas. The prototype of this mythological hero was the real - life legendary healer - King of Thessaly during the Trojan War (1240-1230 BC) and the head of the family medical school-Asclepius.

Later, Asclepius, known for his medical art, was recognized as a demigod. According to legend, The God Asclepius married Epiona, daughter of Merops, ruler of the island of Kos. The island of Kos, later became one of the Centers of medical knowledge of Ancient Greece. The Asclepiad family (i.e. descendants of Asclepius) flourished here.

The island of Kos was one of the Centers of medical knowledge of ancient Greece.

The most revered children of the asclepian God were the following: Hygieia - goddess of Health (Greek Hygieia, Latin Hygia - health) from this name comes modern terminology –**Hygiene**, all - round healing Panacea - patron of medicinal healing (Greek Panacea-cure for all diseases), Machaon, became a famous military surgeon, and Podalirius is famous for treating internal diseases. According to legend, they all learned the art of healing from their father. An integral attribute of Asclepius (in ancient Rome – Esculapius i.e. physician) and his daughter Hygieia (in ancient Rome - Salus or Latin Salus – health) in ancient art was the serpent, which was revered in antiquity as a symbol of wisdom, renewal and represented the forces of nature. Asclepius is depicted as a young beautiful woman with a serpent wrapped in a serpent (i.e., a staff of a staff), while Hygieus is depicted as wearing a long cloak, holding a hand, and watered from a vessel.

According to Greek mythology, Asclepius, who first appeared next to the young Asclepius after the serpent defeated him over the Iron boar (the titan from which the gods were transformed into a serpent-creature), became the master of the Asclepius snakes, who killed Titan and learned his Serpent language. There is another legend, according to which, once Asclepius was sitting in the bed of a sick person, a snake appeared and wrapped in his wand. He killed her. Then immediately another snake appeared with grass in its mouth. He rubbed the dead

¹ <https://www.greeka.com/greece-myths/asclepius/#:~:text=Asclepius%20was%20originally%20a%20mortal,science%20and%20the%20healing%20arts.>

snake with grass, and the dead snake was resurrected. Asclepius found the herb and has used it with success ever since. In another, similar story, he healed a snake from encroaching death. To say thanks, the snake quietly whispered his knowledge on the healing arts into Asclepius's ear.²

Later, the image of a stick surrounded by a snake and a bowl with a snake became the main embodiment of Medicine in some countries, which, according to some authors, symbolizes the wisdom and power of nature's healing powers, according to the authorities, gives rise to fear of its unknown powers (snake poison was poison and medicine).

As a symbol of the Medicine, the snake has been known since ancient times, therefore, the roots of the symbol of medicine should be sought in a primitive society where people worship snakes.

Some researchers attribute this to the use of snake venom for medicinal purposes. Others believe that the snake has become a symbol of medicine, because it seems to be reborn like the patient's body after the skin is drained and treated. Some doctors and medical students misunderstand why the snake is a symbol of medicine. Statistics says that only 6% of doctors knew the real symbol of medicine, "Staff of Asclepius"³

The caduceus is the staff of Greek God Hermes. It is winged with two serpents coiling around it. It represents Hermes (or the Roman Mercury), the messenger of the gods, guide of the dead and protector of merchants, shepherds, gamblers, liars, and thieves, this comes in several history books of the Great Silk Road.

By extension, the caduceus is also a recognized symbol of commerce and negotiation, two realms in which balanced exchange and reciprocity are recognized as ideals that is why we can see this as a consigna symbol in Customs offices of many countries.

On the island of Kos (3rd century BC), the first shrines named after him were built-the asclepeions (asclepieion in Greek).

The most majestic was considered the shrine of Asclepius in Epidaurus. Its central building was the chapel of Asclepius (4th century BC).

Its basement is marked as connected by a mineral spring.

A mineral spring with a natural healing effect and a Cypress Garden (with healing air) were a mandatory place in the selection of places for the construction of temples in ancient Ellada.

² <https://www.thecollector.com/why-was-greek-god-asclepius-linked-with-snakes/>

³ <https://www.dailyrounds.org/blog/only-6-of-doctors-knew-the-real-symbol-of-medicine-staff-of-asclepius/>

Spring water was used as one of the main medicines, and therefore it was considered sacred. On the territory of the reserve there was also a bathhouse, a library, a gymnasium and a stadium (running track), a theater. Numerous statues depicting gods were raised everywhere; they are monuments erected in honor of famous healers; stelae with texts engraved on cases of successful healing.

In the process of excavations at Epidaurus, a large number of images of healed body parts, as vows of gratitude, were found. They were made of marble, gold, silver and were given to the residence in gratitude for the services. These are marble arms and legs, silver hearts, golden eyes, ears, etc.

Only one thing was not allowed: it was impossible to die in the mask.

In both Epidaurus and other Asclepeians, all religious rites excluded from sacred sites are associated, in particular, with birth and death.

That is why, sometimes, pregnant women and incurable patients who came to give birth from the most remote places of ancient Greece were expelled behind the Holy Wall.

The servants of Asclepeion strictly controlled the cleanliness of the temple and its pilgrims. Anyone who entered would bathe in the waters of the holy spring and then offer sacrifices to the gods.

Thus, the Asclepius settlements in ancient Greece were not hospitals in our understanding. Professor V. P. According to Karpov, they had a “medico-sanatorium” appearance.

Asclepeion only accepted Asclepian followers who gave the service a sacred medical “oath”, and those who joined the asclepean community.

In Asclepeion, healing is empirical and duo reading techniques are united. The main means of treatment: drug treatment, hydrotherapy, Gymnastics exercises. Asclepius was such a capable disciple that he surpassed his master in the art of healing: he learned not only to cure diseases, but also to bring the deceased back to life. He would do this with the help of the blood of the Medusa Gorgon given to him by the wise Athens. But the underworld God Hades complained to Zeus that the shadows of the dead began to disappear from his property due to the magical art of the physician Asclepius. And the supreme god Zeus, taking care of the authority of the gods, and their duties being encroached on by the doctor Asclepius, struck him with his lightning bolts. Thanks to the care of his loving father Apollo, Asclepius' body was taken to Olympus – thus, after his death, he became valued and deified. The Romans, who later adopted the pantheon of the Greek gods, named Asclepius Esculapius.

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