

Love/Sick: Medicalized Love in Apollonius' *Argonautica*1. Hippocrates, Περί Παρθενίων

...ὕπὸ μὲν τῆς ὀξυφλεγμασίης μαίνεται, ὑπὸ δὲ τῆς σηπεδόνοϋ φονᾶ, ὑπὸ δὲ τοῦ ζοφεροῦ φοβέεται καὶ δέδοικεν, ὑπὸ δὲ τῆς περὶ τὴν καρδίην πέξιϋ ἀγχόνας κραινοῦσιν, ὑπὸ δὲ τῆς κακίης τοῦ αἵματος ἀλύων καὶ ἀδημονέων ὁ θυμὸς κακὸν ἐφέλκεται. ἕτερον δὲ καὶ φοβερὰ ὀνομάζει· καὶ κελεύουσιν ἄλλεσθαι καὶ καταπίπτειν ἐς φρέατα ἢ ἄγγεσθαι, ἅτε ἀμείνονά τε ἔοντα καὶ χρεῖην ἔχοντα παντοίην.

...from the sharp inflammation [the woman] rages, from the decay she becomes murderous, from the darkness she is frightened and afraid, from the compression around their heart they are desirous of strangling themselves, and from the badness of the blood, the soul, being distressed and dismayed, drags them to evil. She names strange and frightful things, and these call them to jump and to throw themselves down wells, or to hang themselves, as being better and in every way advantageous.

2. Apollonius, *Argonautica* 3. 798-9

ἦ τ' ἂν πολὺ κέρδιον εἶη
τῆδ' αὐτῆ ἐν νυκτὶ λιπεῖν βίον ἐν θαλάμοισιν

It would be much better for me on this very night to leave behind my life in these chambers.

3. Apollonius, *Argonautica* 3.675-8

τίπτ' ἔπαθες; Τί τοι αἰνὸν ὑπὸ φρένας ἵκετο πένθος;
ἦ νῦ σε **θευμορίη** περιδέδρομεν ἄγεια **νοῦσος**,
ἦέ τιν' οὐλομένην **ἐδάης** ἐκ πατρὸς ἐνιπὴν
ἀμφὶ τ' ἐμοὶ καὶ παισίν;

What is happening? What terrible suffering has come over your mind? Now does some **divinely fated illness** encompass you, or **have you learned** some destructive reproach from our father concerning me and my children?

4. Hippocrates, Περί Παρθενίων

κελεύω δὴ τὰς παρθένους, ὀκόταν τι τοιοῦτο πάσχωσιν, ὡς τάχιστα ξυνοικῆσαι ἀνδράσιν· ἦν γὰρ κυήσωσιν, ὑγιέες γίνονται. εἰ δὲ μή, ἢ εὐθέως ἅμα τῆ ἡβῆ ἢ ὀλίγον ὕστερον ἀλώσεται, εἴπερ μὴ ἐτέρη νοῦσῳ.

I urge young women suffering from a condition of this kind to cohabit with men as soon as they can: for if they become pregnant, they recover. If not, then either at once in puberty or a little later she will be seized by this disease, if not by another one.

5. Plutarch, *Demetrius* 38.4

...φωνῆς ἐπίσχεσις, ἐρύθημα πυρῶδες, ὄψεων ὑπολείψεις, ἰδρῶτες ὀξεῖς, ἀταξία καὶ θόρυβος ἐν τοῖς σφυγμοῖς, τέλος δὲ τῆς ψυχῆς κατὰ κράτος ἡττημένης ἀπορία καὶ θάμβος καὶ ὠχρίασις.

...an abatement of speech, fiery flushes, failure of vision, fierce sweating, disorder and confusion in the pulses, and finally, as his soul was overcome by its strength, helplessness, stupor, and pallor.

6. Apollonius, *Arg.* 3.617-632

ἄφαρ δέ μιν ἡπεροπῆες,
οἷά τ' ἀκηχεμένην, ὀλοοὶ ἐρέθεσκον ὄνειροι·
τὸν ξεῖνον δ' ἐδόκησεν ὑφεστάμεναι τὸν ἄεθλον,
οὐ τι μάλ' ὀρμαίνοντα δέρος κριοῖο κομίσσαι,
οὐδέ τι τοῖο ἔκητι μετὰ πτόλιν Αἰήταο
ἐλθέμεν, ὄφρα δέ μιν σφέτερον δόμον εἰσαγάγοιτο
κουριδίην παράκοιτιν. οἷετο δ' ἀμφὶ βόεσσιν
αὐτῇ ἀεθλεύουσα μάλ' εὐμαρέως πονέεσθαι·
σφωιτέρους δὲ τοκῆας ὑποσχεσίης ἀθερίζειν,
οὐνεκεν οὐ κούρη ζεῦξαι βόας, ἀλλὰ οἱ αὐτῶ
προύθεσαν· ἐκ δ' ἄρα τοῦ νεῖκος πέλεν ἀμφήριστον
πατρί τε καὶ ξεῖνοισι· αὐτῇ δ' ἐπιέτρεπον ἄμφω
τῶς ἔμεν, ὥς κεν ἔησι μετὰ φρεσὶν ἰθύσειεν·

But straightaway **deceptive, destructive dreams** began to distress her, as they do when a girl is grieving. She imagined that the stranger had undertaken the contest, not at all because he desired to take back the fleece of the ram, nor was it on account of this that he had come to Aetes' city, **but so that he could take her to his home as his wedded wife**. She was thinking that **she herself** contended against the oxen and labored very easily, but that her parents disregarded their promise, because they had not set forth the task for their daughter to yoke the oxen, but for him alone. From this there was a contentious disagreement between her father and the strangers, and both sides turned the decision over to her to be as she desired in her own mind.

7. Apollonius, *Arg.* 3. 761-5

ἔνδοθι δ' αἰεὶ
τεῖρ' ὀδύνη σμύχουσα διὰ χροὸς ἀμφὶ τ' ἀραιὰς
ἴνας καὶ κεφαλῆς ὑπὸ νεῖατον ἰνίον ἄχρισ
ἔνθ' ἀλεγεινότατον δύνει ἄχος, ὀππότερ' ἀνίας
ἀκάματοι πραπίδεςσιν ἐνισκίμψωσιν Ἔρωτες.

and deep within a pain ever weakened her as it smoldered through her skin and along the fine nerves and quite close to the lowest point of the occiput below the head where most painful anguish enters, whenever the unwearying Loves fix pains upon the diaphragm

8. Marcellinus, *De pulsibus* 11

ὁ δὲ Ἡρόφιλος πυρέσσειν ἀπεφήνατο τὸν ἄνθρωπον, ὅποταν πυκνότερος καὶ μείζων καὶ σφοδρότερος ὁ σφυγμὸς γένηται μετὰ πολλῆς θερμασίας ἔνδον.

Herophilus put forth that a man has a fever whenever the pulse becomes more frequent and greater and stronger along with a great fever within.

9. Apollonius, *Arg.* 3. 755-60

πυκνὰ δὲ οἱ κραδίη στηθέων ἔντοσθεν ἔθουεν,
ἠελίου ὡς τίς τε δόμοις ἐνιπάλλεται αἴγλη
ὔδατος ἐξανιοῦσα, τὸ δὴ νέον ἠὲ λέβητι
ἠὲ που ἐν γαυλῶ κέχυται, ἢ δ' ἔνθα καὶ ἔνθα
ὠκείη στροφάλιγγι τινάσσεται αἴσσουσα·
ὡς δὲ καὶ ἐν στήθεσσι κέαρ ἐλελίζετο κούρης.

Her heart raced within her chest frequently, as when a ray of the sun trembles in a house, darting out from water which recently was poured either into a basin or perhaps into a bucket, darting here and there it shakes with swift whirling. So also the girl's heart trembled in her chest.

10. Marcellinus, *De pulsibus* 11

οὕτω δὲ τῆ πυκνοσφυξία τον Ἡρόφιλον θαρρεῖν λόγος ὡς βεβαίω σημείω χρώμενον, ὥστε κλεψύδραν κατασκευάσαι χωρητικὴν ἀριθμοῦ ρητοῦ τῶν κατὰ φύσιν σφυγμῶν ἐκάστης ἡλικίας εἰσιόντα τε πρὸς τον ἀρρωστον και τιθέντα τὴν κλεψύδραν ἀπτεσθαι τοῦ πυρέσσοντος· ὅσω δ' ἂν πλείονες παρέλθοιεν κινήσεις τῶν σφυγμῶν παρά τὸ κατὰ φύσιν εἰς τὴν ἐκπλήρωσιν τῆς κλεψύδρας, τοσούτω και τον σφυγμὸν πυκνότερον ἀποφαίνειν, τουτέστι πυρέσσειν ἢ ἄλλον ἢ ἥττον.

There is a story that Herophilus had such confidence in the frequency of the pulse, using it as a reliable diagnostic sign, that he constructed a water-clock capable of containing a specified amount for the natural pulses of each age. And, upon entering to visit a patient, he would set up his water-clock and feel the pulse of the person suffering from a fever. By as much as the movements of the pulse exceeded the number that is natural for filling up the water-clock, by that much he declared the [patient's] pulse too frequent - that is, that [the patient] had either more or less of a fever.

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