Black Death



0. Black Death - Story Preface

- 1. HUMAN DEVASTATION
- 2. WHAT IS BUBONIC PLAGUE?
- 3. WHAT IS BLACK DEATH?
- 4. WHERE DID IT ORIGINATE?
- 5. MEDIEVAL EUROPEANS
- 6. MEDIEVAL PROFESSIONALS
- 7. PEOPLE FLEE
- 8. SOCIETY BREAKS DOWN
- 9. SCAPEGOATS
- 10. LIFE GOES ON
- 11. WAS IT JUST THE RATS?



This is the end of the world.

Contemporary Chronicler, 1348

Bubonic plague. A bacterial disease so lethal and so fast-spreading it <u>still causes people to worry</u> about epidemics.



The affliction, if caught early, can be successfully <u>treated</u> (although the pneumonic form is often deadly despite early intervention).

In the Middle Ages, when "elements and <u>humors</u>" were part of the medical process, catching the disease early

was never an option. At a time when doctors <u>diagnosed</u> illnesses by the color of urine and treated patients by "bleeding" them, no one had a clue how to prevent, or cure, what people at the time called "<u>The Pestilence</u>."

The Pope (Clement VI) called for an inquiry to determine what was happening. Scholars assigned to brief him reached a less than scholarly conclusion. (At the time, and for many years later, physicians <u>believed</u> that medicine and astrology were linked.)

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/Black-Death

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/Black-Death

Media Stream



Black Death animated giff

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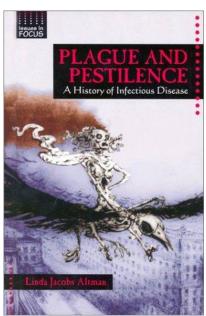
Medieval Diagnosis Methods

"Physician examining a urinal" Bibliothèque nationale de France (BNF, FR 135) fol. 223 Online, courtesy BNF.

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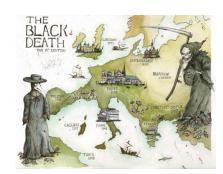


The Pestilence - Black Death

Book cover image, courtesy Amazon.com.

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