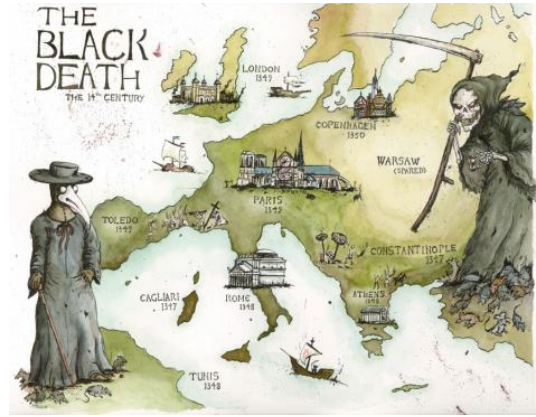


**0. Black Death - Story Preface**

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 watercolor map, by Sean Twiddy, provides a view of 14th-century Europe and the places where "The Plague" spread. Copyright, Sean Twiddy, all rights reserved. Image provided here as fair use for educational purposes and to acquaint new viewers with [Twiddy's work](#). Click on the map for a better view.

*This is the end of the world.*

Contemporary Chronicler, 1348

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



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

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

was never an option. At a time when doctors diagnosed 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 "The Pestilence." 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 believed 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 gif

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/>



### Medieval Diagnosis Methods

"Physician examining a urinal"

Bibliothèque nationale de France

(BNF, FR 135 )

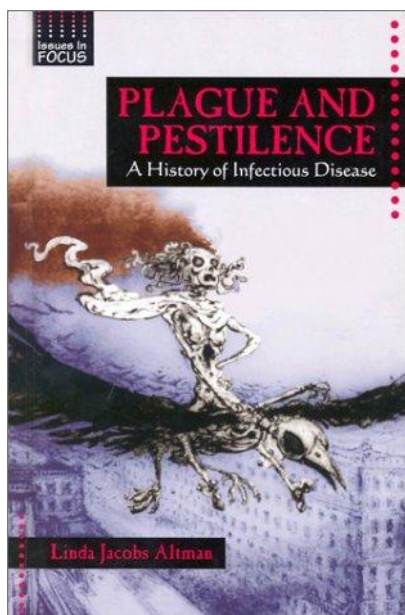
fol. 223

Online, courtesy BNF.

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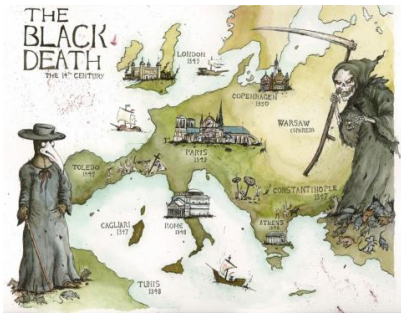


### The Pestilence - Black Death

Book cover image, courtesy Amazon.com.

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## Black Death

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