

HIPPOCRATIC OATH

I SWEAR TO FULFILL, TO THE BEST OF MY ABILITY AND JUDGMENT, THIS COVENANT:

- I WILL RESPECT THE HARD-WON SCIENTIFIC GAINS OF THOSE PHYSICIANS IN WHOSE STEPS I WALK, AND GLADLY SHARE SUCH KNOWLEDGE AS IS MINE WITH THOSE WHO ARE TO FOLLOW.
- I WILL APPLY, FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE SICK, ALL MEASURES WHICH ARE REQUIRED, AVOIDING THOSE TWIN TRAPS OF OVERTREATMENT AND THERAPEUTIC NIHILISM.
- I WILL REMEMBER THAT THERE IS ART TO MEDICINE AS WELL AS SCIENCE, AND THAT WARMTH, SYMPATHY, AND UNDERSTANDING MAY OUTWEIGH THE SURGEON'S KNIFE OR THE CHEMIST'S DRUG.
- I WILL NOT BE ASHAMED TO SAY "I KNOW NOT," NOR WILL I FAIL TO CALL IN MY COLLEAGUES WHEN THE SKILLS OF ANOTHER ARE NEEDED FOR A PATIENT'S RECOVERY.
- I WILL RESPECT THE PRIVACY OF MY PATIENTS, FOR THEIR PROBLEMS ARE NOT DISCLOSED TO ME THAT THE WORLD MAY KNOW. MOST ESPECIALLY MUST I TREAD WITH CARE IN MATTERS OF LIFE AND DEATH. ABOVE ALL, I MUST NOT PLAY AT GOD.
- I WILL REMEMBER THAT I DO NOT TREAT A FEVER CHART, A CANCEROUS GROWTH, BUT A SICK HUMAN BEING, WHOSE ILLNESS MAY AFFECT THE PERSON'S FAMILY AND ECONOMIC STABILITY. MY RESPONSIBILITY INCLUDES THESE RELATED PROBLEMS, IF I AM TO CARE ADEQUATELY FOR THE SICK.
- I WILL PREVENT DISEASE WHENEVER I CAN, FOR PREVENTION IS PREFERABLE TO CURE.
- I WILL REMEMBER THAT I REMAIN A MEMBER OF SOCIETY, WITH SPECIAL OBLIGATIONS TO ALL MY FELLOW HUMAN BEINGS, THOSE SOUND OF MIND AND BODY AS WELL AS THE INFIRM.
- IF I DO NOT VIOLATE THIS OATH, MAY I ENJOY LIFE AND ART, RESPECTED WHILE I LIVE AND REMEMBERED WITH AFFECTION THEREAFTER.
- MAY I ALWAYS ACT SO AS TO PRESERVE THE FINEST TRADITIONS OF MY CALLING AND MAY I LONG EXPERIENCE THE JOY OF HEALING THOSE WHO SEEK MY HELP.