

EDITORIAL

Quo Vadis Medicine

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We live in a shocking era of brutal, serious, unpredictable and difficult to manage changes. Natural changes have always been finite human characteristics, they have created well-being, civilization and good communication between people.

Medicine is a field always faced with changes that, not infrequently, have been miraculous. Even when they are miraculous, the changes in medicine cause a professional shock that is usually pleasant, because medical intelligence has always been accompanied by dignity, servitude and modesty.

Following the general sense of society, today in medicine, modesty disturbs, excludes values, humanity is considered obsolete, and empathy has turned into indifference. Evil has become banal, respect for the past is an empty phrase, the values of the past have been replaced by upstartism and argyrophilia. Even in the academic environments, which claim to be elevated, the past with the power of its examples is neglected. “Of all the needs of the human soul, none is more vital than the past”, said Simone Weil. Modern medicine will be stronger, more useful to fellow humans if it is based, in addition to propaganda, on ideals and memory.

The ideal and memory are the reason and guarantee of beneficial changes, of medical “miracles” and, at the same time, the nature of the change of generations.

The ideal is changing, it is a need for knowledge, performance and adaptation, elements necessary to face the challenges and the future. Memory, on the other hand, means continuity. Through memory, the people and things that marked our professional life live in us, they are landmarks

that give us courage and stimulate us to pass on facts and thoughts to the next generations.

“Je ne suis pas pour le fini. Je suis pour l’infini.” (Auguste Préault) (*I am not for the finite. I am for the infinite.*)

This miracle of transmission and continuity in medicine must be done according to the Hippocratic principles, meaning: primum non nocere, scientific value and merit, morality, dignity, collegial respect and trust.

Let’s never forget that medicine is, at the same time, greatness and servitude and that, as Trousseau said, we, doctors, are part of the “patrimony of the patient” we care for.

It is increasingly noticeable that today the Hippocratic principles are in great identity danger. They will have to be defended against the attacks of pseudosciences, weaknesses and exaggerated pride, academic upstartism, academic charlatanism, aggressive pseudoscientific “works” promoted by electronic means, intensive denigrations and slanders (media delight) and, what is the most serious, of political submission.

Today, we are witnessing the discrediting of academic medicine and scientific societies, the lack of character and professional honour that proliferate aggressively, the neglect or minimization of contemporary or past medical values.

It is necessary to remember that, despite the rapid change and industrialization, MEDICINE was and will forever remain as ART! And, just like art, it will always have time and immortality on its side and will survive any influences, whims or malice, because it serves with its mind, hand and soul the most perfect Divine Creation – Man.

Tu es medicus in aeternum!

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