

A History of Spirituality and Medicine

Retrospect and Prospect

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Talk Outline

I. Harmony

II. Discord

III. Reunion?



Part I

Spirituality & Medicine: Harmony

Integrated Conceptions

- **Shamanism**
- **Chinese & Indian**
- **Hippocratic Medicine**





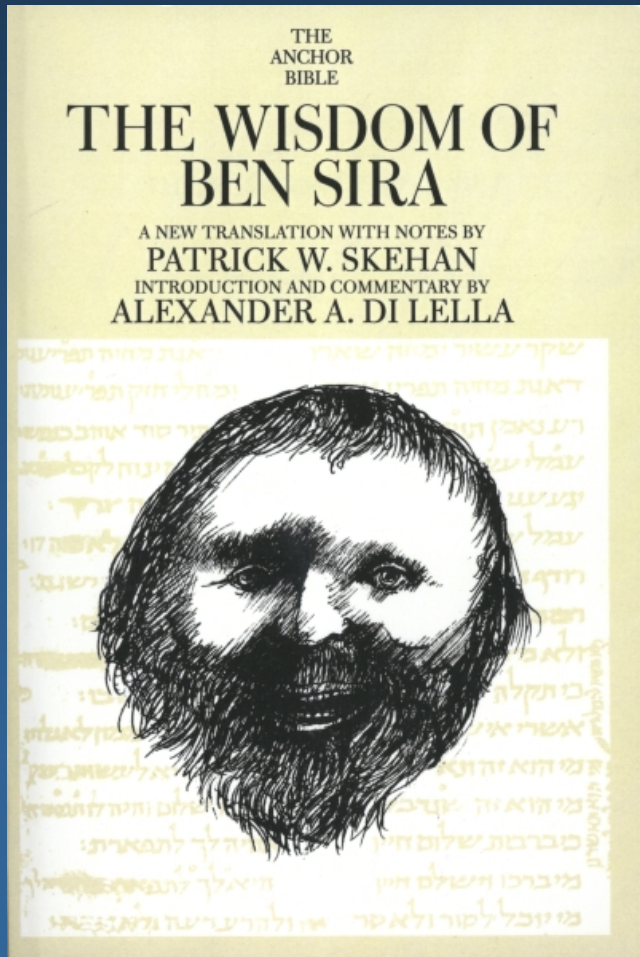
Anne-Louis Girodet. Hippocrates refusing the gifts of Artaxerxes. 1816.

Hippocratic Oath

I swear by Apollo, Asclepius, Hygieia, and Panacea, and I take to witness all the gods, all the goddesses, to keep according to my ability and my judgment, the following Oath and agreement...

TE
2054

Ben Sira (2nd c. BCE)



- Medicine = lack of faith
- Physicians = idolaters
- “Make friends with the physician”
 - Wisdom from God
 - Medicines from God

Basil of Caesarea (4th century)

- Physical illness is primarily a spiritual event
- Monastic houses of hospitality and medicine



Silvas, Anna. 2005. *The Asketikon of St Basil the Great*, Oxford early Christian studies. Oxford ; New York: Oxford University Press.

John Collins Warren (19th c.)

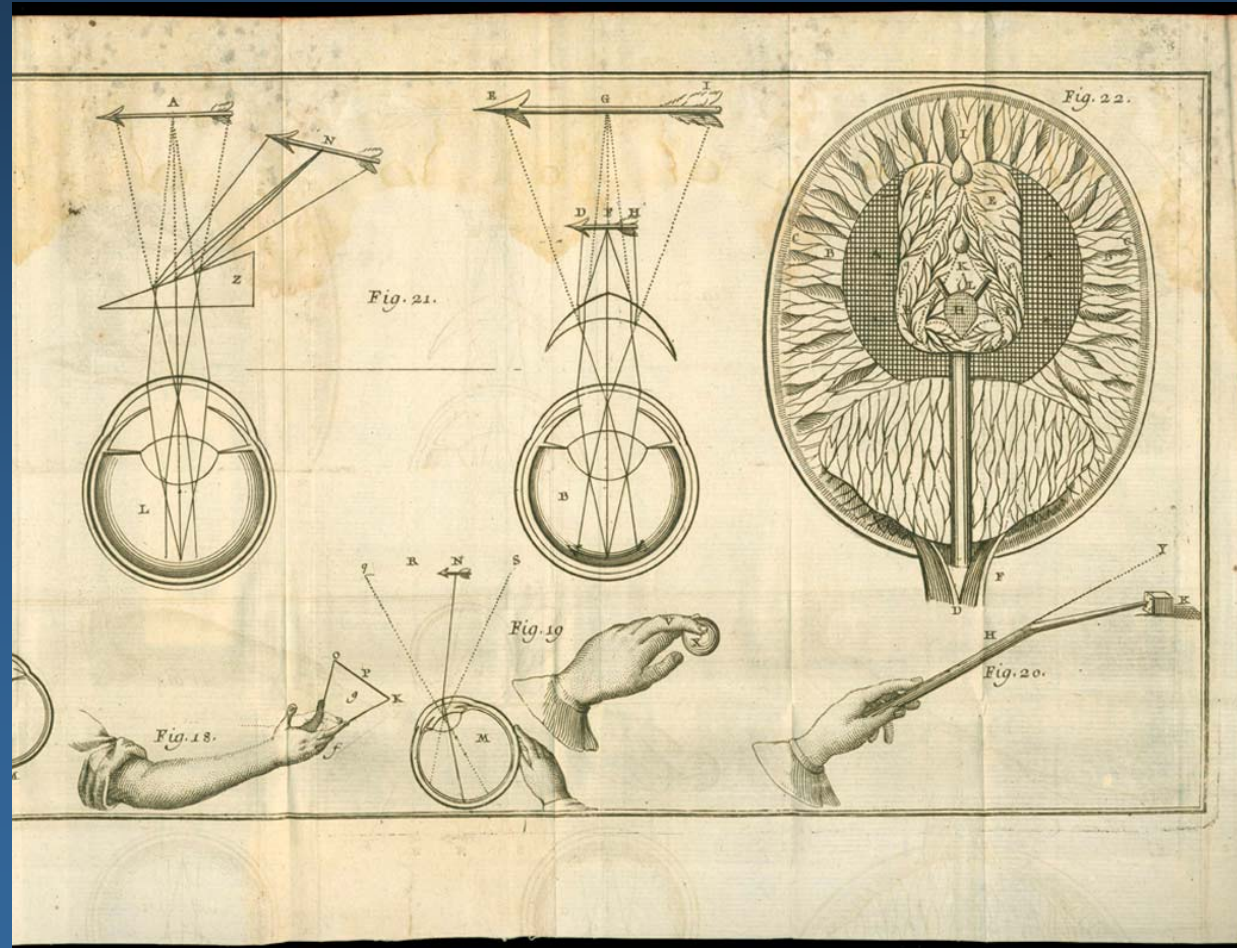


Part II

Spirituality & Medicine: Discord

High Middle Ages to Renaissance

- Rise of empirical inquiry
- Body as Machine



Enlightenment

- Reason against tradition
- Reductionism
- Ascendancy of science



Religious Withdrawal

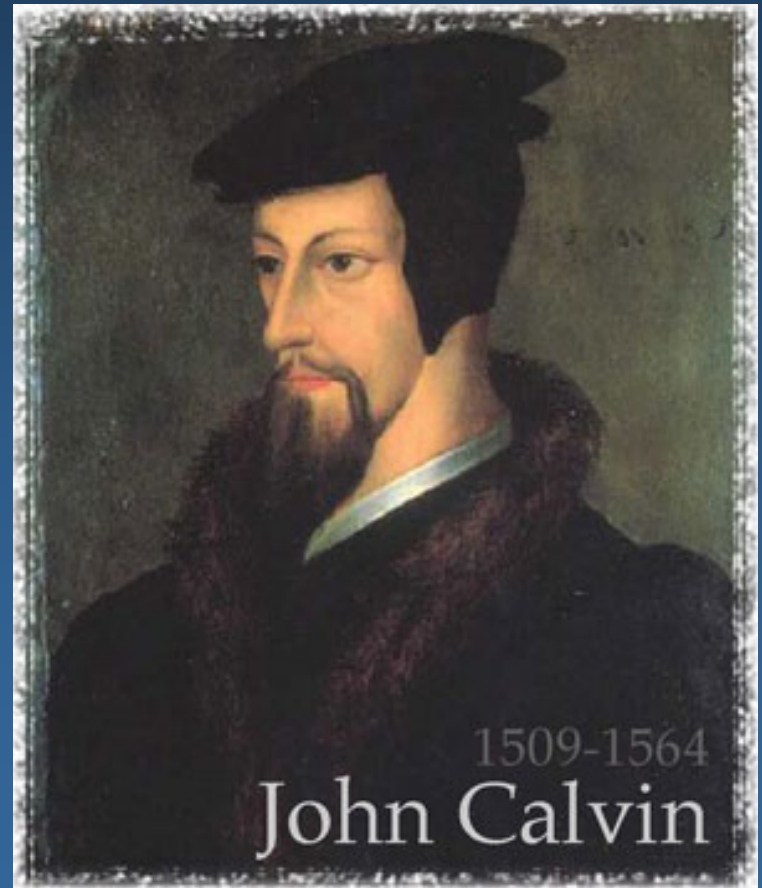
1. Reformation
2. Civil War
3. Religious Hospitals
4. Liberal Protestantism



Religious Withdrawal

Reformation

- Monasticism
- State Governed Hospitals



Religious Withdrawal

Civil War

- 620,000+
- Patriotic death
- Ownership of the body



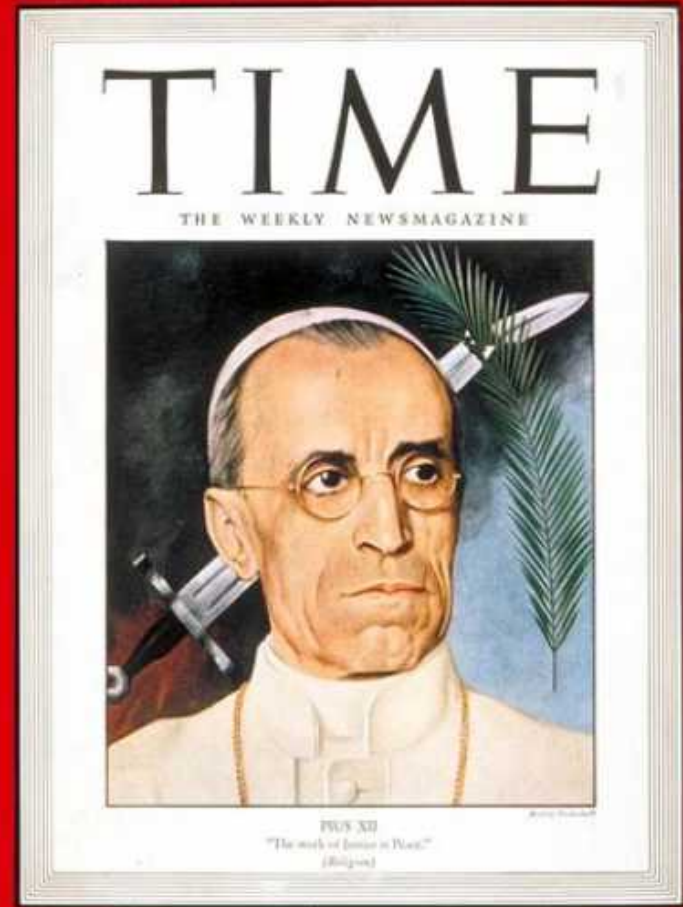
Religious Withdrawal

Jewish Hospitals

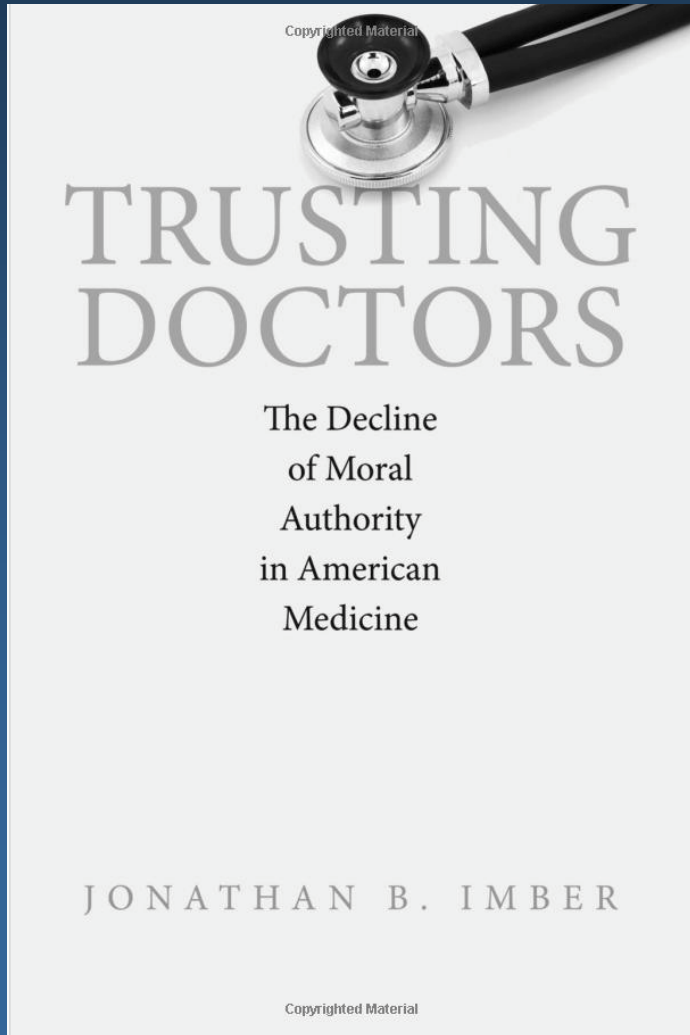
- Discrimination
- Enculturation

Catholic Hospitals

- Vatican II
- Medicare



Religious Withdrawal



- ## Liberal Protestantism
- Common Humanity
 - Social Gospel
 - Secularized Professions

Social Forces Shrinking R/S

Religious Privatization

Universal Reason

Scientific physicians

Rejection of Tradition

American Optimism

Denial of death

Bureaucratization

Medicare

Commodification

Technology Impulse

Pluralism

Social Values Reflect a Spirituality

- Spirituality: life centered in the person(s) and/or object(s) of one's chief love -- however individually understood and pursued.

houses of high technology

+

formation of medical professionals

+

this worldly secular age

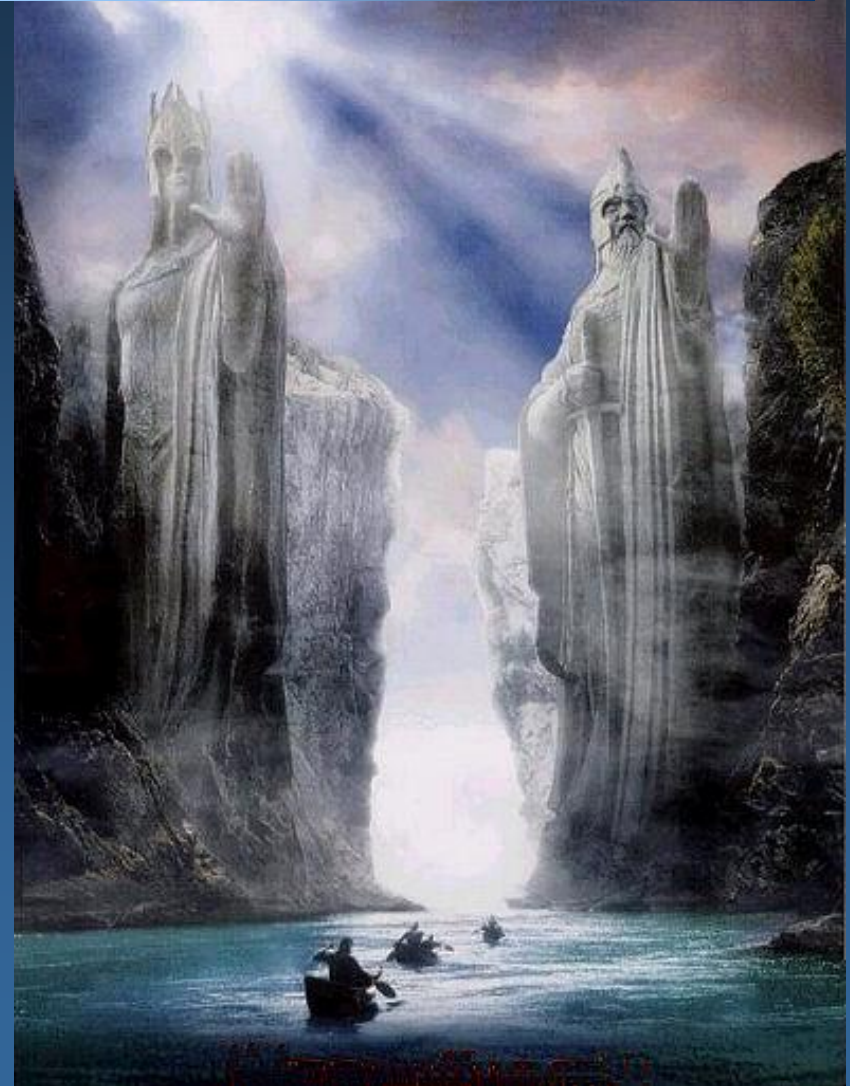
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a society that fears illness/death

= life centered on the physical body as *telos*

Reasons for the Divide?

- Enlightenment
- Religious Withdrawal
- Historical Contingencies
- Socio-Economic factors
- Separation Narrative



Part III

Spirituality & Palliative Care:

A Reunion?



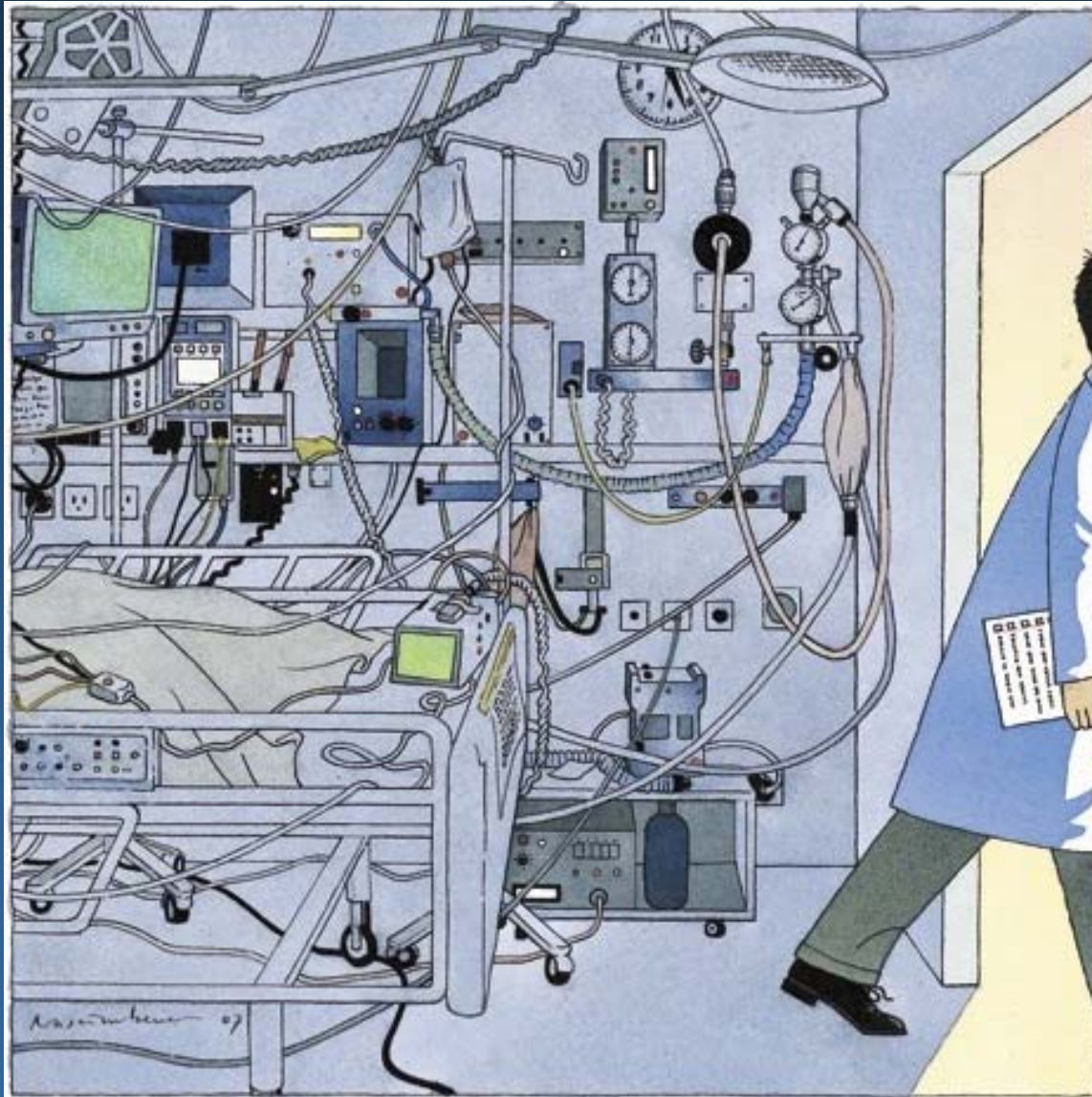
DANA-FARBER
CANCER INSTITUTE

The Soul as Primary



Giotti, Death of St. Francis, c 1320

The Body as Primary



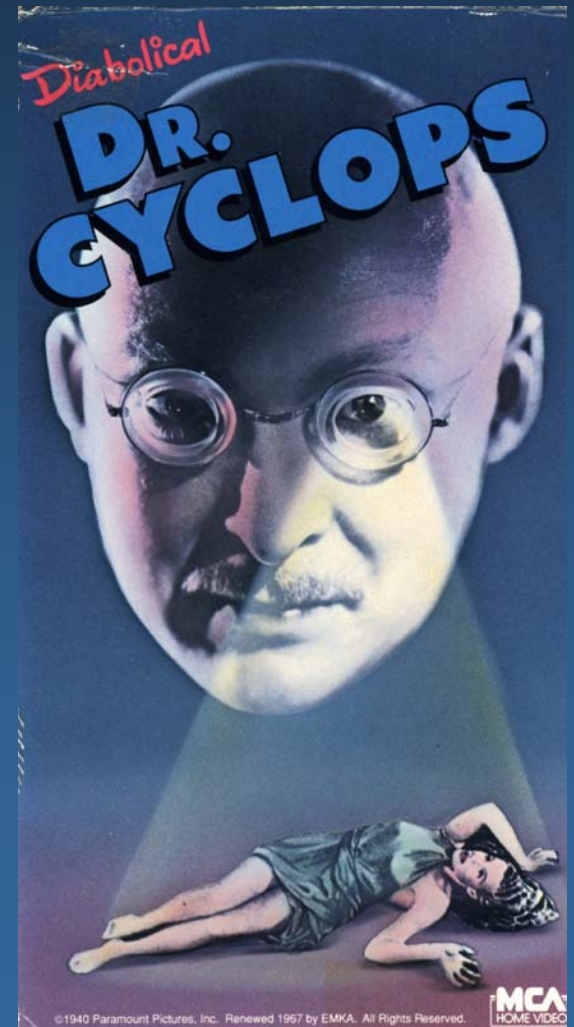
Two Deaths?

Tame Death	Medical Death
Community	Isolation
Spirit Centered	Body Centered
Person focused	Technology focused
Familial death	Institutional death
Priest	Physician
Increased pain	Expert pain mgmt
Anecdotal-Theory	Evidence-base

Biomedicine's Characteristics

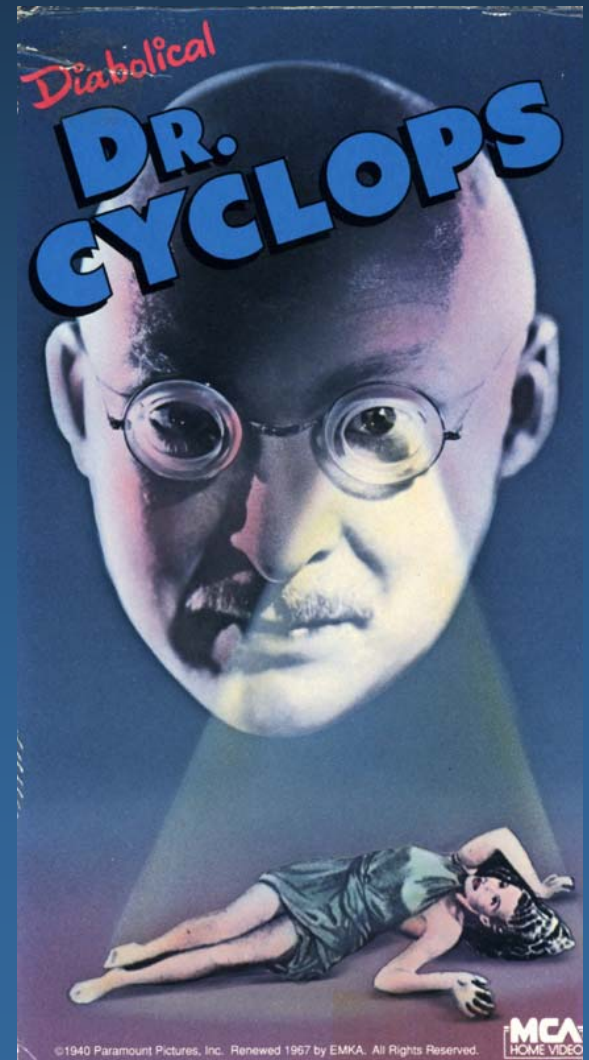
4 Rational Principles

- Materialism
- Reductionism
- Empiricism
- Objectivity of Physicians



Protest Movements

- Paracelsus (16th c)
- Mesmer (18th c.)
- Wesley (18th c)
- Swedenborg (18th c)
- Hahnemann (19th c)
- Eddy (19th c)
- Faith healing (20th c.)
- CAM
- Palliative Medicine



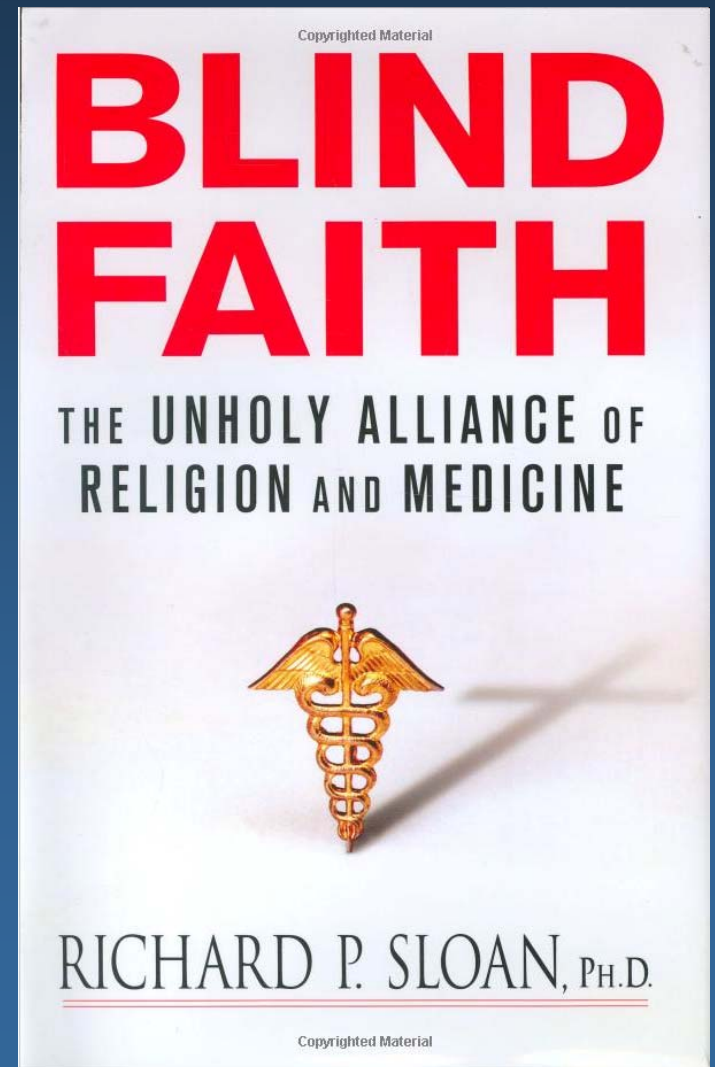
Palliative Medicine

- Religious motivations
- Total Pain
- St. Christopher's Hospice



Beyond Protest

- ↑ Hospice
- ↑ Palliative Med
- Spiritual Care



Location of U.S. Deaths

Year	Inpatient Hospital Deaths	All Institutional Deaths
1949	39.5%	49.5%
1958	47.6%	61%
1980	54-60%	74-76%
1993	57.6%	78.3%
1998	41%	63%

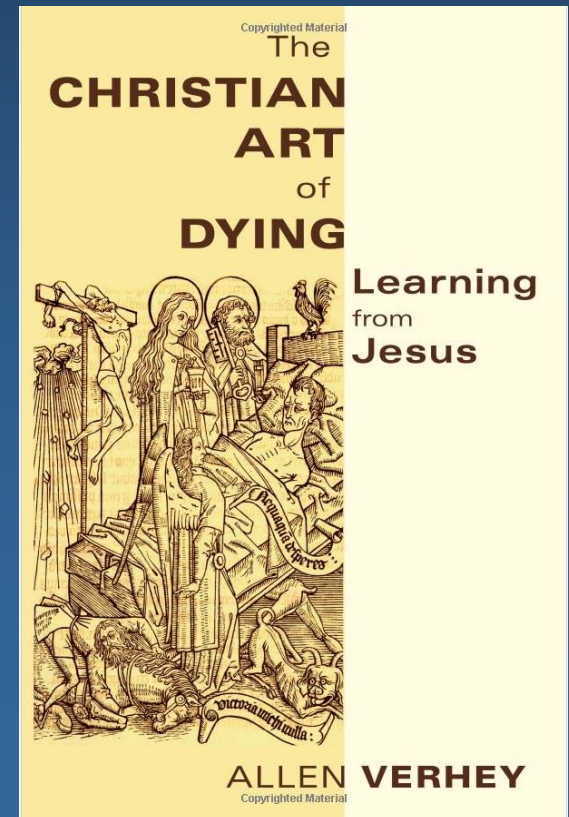
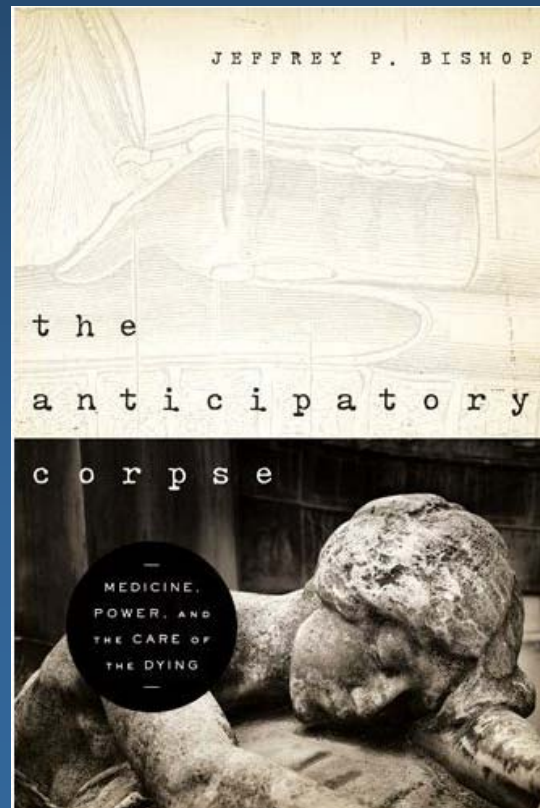
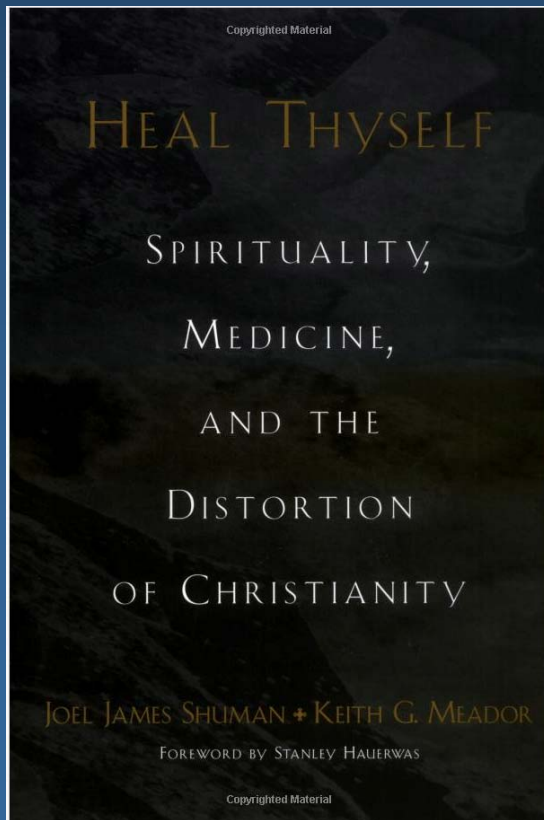
Medicare Deaths in Hospital

2003 = 32%

2007 = 28%

Tensions

- Hospice and Palliative Medicine
- R/S research



Tensions

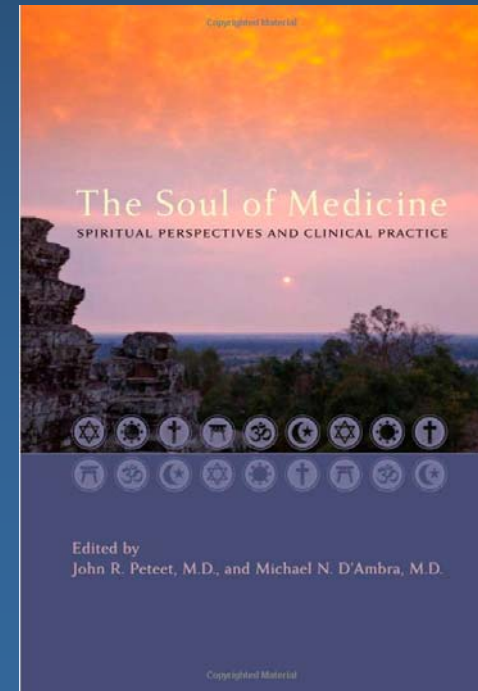
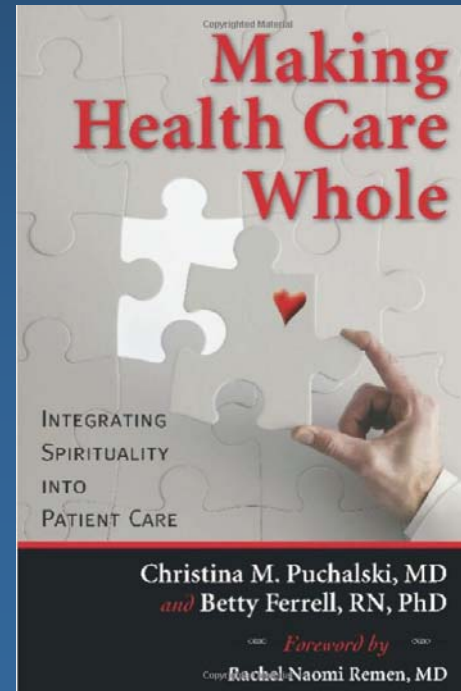
Spiritual Care in Medicine

- 1. Complementary vs. Assimilated**
- 2. Functional vs. Substantive**
- 3. Generic vs. Tradition-constituted**
- 4. Pluralism vs. Particular Communities**

Tensions

Spiritual Care Models

1. Generalist–Specialist
2. Clinical Relevance
3. Open Pluralism



Tensions

Systemic Dualisms

- **Body & Soul**
- **Public & Private**
- **Science & Religion**
- **Fact & Value**
- **State & Church**
- **Secular & Sacred:**
- **Natural & Supernatural**
- **Immanent & Transcendent**

Tensions

An Openly Plural Medicine

“The challenge of pluralism is not to obliterate or erase difference, nor to smooth out differences under a universalizing canopy, but rather to discover ways of living, connecting, relating, arguing, and disagreeing in a society of differences.” (D. Eck)