

THE LIFE WITHOUT DISEASES

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What was the healing method of the ancient people in central Asia?

황제내경(黃帝內經), also known as *The Inner Canon of Huangdi* or *Yellow Emperor's Inner Canon*, is an ancient Chinese medical text that has been treated as the fundamental doctrinal source for Chinese medicine for more than two millennia. In the book, there are two chapters regarding the heavenly truth and the herbal remedies. The book says:

Though the most ancient people made the herbal remedies, they did hardly use it. Because they lived in accordance with the Tao, which means the Word of God, thus they were able to keep their health. Therefore, when they became diseased, they only prayed to God. That was enough to make them well again from being sick. However, the mediate ancient people used not only the prayer but also the herbal remedies. But now even with the prayer, herbal remedies and acupuncture, it is very hard for us to recover from the various diseases. The reason is that we have become too avaricious and anxious to keep the spirit of God rest in our body.

This can be very important information to us. Because it might open a door of living a healthy and spiritual life. When the ancient people became ill, **they prayed to God first, and then they used the herbal remedies and acupuncture as it was necessary.** Their belief was that if they keep their spirit to be good, it might ensure the health of their physical body.

Having this information from the east, now let us study two stories that I found fascinating in the Old Testament: the stories of King Hezekiah and King Asa in the kingdom of Judah.

What is difference between King Hezekiah and King Asa?

About two thousand and six hundred (2600) years ago, King Hezekiah became sick, even to near death. To complete his misfortune, the prophet Isaiah prophesied that he would surely die. But King Hezekiah did not lose his spirit. Instead of giving it up, he started to pray to the Lord with all his heart. And it worked! He was healed by the Lord with a lump of figs.

There is an another similar story. This is about King Asa. He also became diseased in his feet. We might assume that his disease was less serious than that of King Hezekiah. However, King Asa died 2 years later! And this is what the Word says about the reason for the death of King Asa: “*He did not seek the LORD, but the physicians.*” King Asa might have sought the help of many famous physicians, but not the Lord his God.

The difference between the two kings is very obvious. One asked the Lord for cure, while the other sought cure from human physicians. And, the result was that the fatal disease of King Hezekiah was healed with the cheap herb of figs, while relatively mild disease of King Asa was not healed even with the expansive remedies by many famous physicians, but brought the death upon him. According to the Old Testament, it seems to be very clear (that) seeking the Lord first is the key to be healed from diseases.

The undeniable similarity that we find is that the ancient people either they were Chinese or Israelite, when they got diseased, most of them prayed to God first and then used some herbal remedies as secondary treatments.

What is the cause of disease?

Emmanuel Swedenborg says that “diseases correspond to cupidities and passions of the natural mind, in general, the origins of diseases are intemperance, luxuries of various kinds, merely corporeal pleasures, and also envies, hatreds, revenges, and the like, which destroy the interiors of man, on the destruction of which the exteriors suffer, and draw the man into disease and death. (AC 5712)”

Can we live without diseases on earth?

And he also says that “If man had lived a life of good, his interiors would be open into heaven, and through heaven to the Lord; and so also would the very least and most invisible little vessels in the body. In consequence, man would be without disease, and would merely decline to extreme old age, even until he became again a little child, but a wise one; and when the body could no longer minister to his internal man or spirit, he would pass without disease out of his earthly body into a spiritual body such as the angels have, thus out of the world directly into heaven. (AC5726)”

As he said, Swedenborg lived a disease-free life, and knew the time of his death. So, he passed away knowingly and peacefully.

Let us remember when we get sick, we should pray to the Lord first as the most ancient people and King Hezekiah did. Now I would like to explore what is effective prayer that can be answered by the Lord.

What is the Praying in His name?

Our Lord says, "If you ask anything in My name, I will do it." (*John 14:14*)

Yes, the Lord promises ANYTHING,... But there is a condition. It should be "IN MY NAME". The preposition 'in' comes from Greek word ἐν. ἐν means a state of dwelling in something, and 'name' means its quality.

And, also, there is another Greek preposition that is translated as 'in' in English that is ἐπί, which means beside. So, there are two kinds of 'in My name'; one is 'ἐν My name' and the other is ἐπί My name.

"ἐν My name" could mean "in the life of good". So, if we live a life of good, whatever we pray, our Lord will do it for us. There are many verses like this in the Gospel Word. For example;

If you abide in (ἐν) Me, and My words abide in (ἐν) you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. (John 15:7)

Until now you have asked nothing in (ἐν) My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full. (John 16:23)

These 'in' are ἐν in Greek.

What is more interesting is that, according to Swedenborg, if anyone who lives a life of evil, he may say on earth ἐν God's name, but after death, in the world of spirits, he cannot say ἐν God's name. Wow! This is a very shocking revelation;

Thus, in the case of someone who is doing good external only, ἐπί is used instead of ἐν, because ἐπί means beside, thus correlates with external things, while ἐν internal things.

So, if a man is separated from internal good, he is living ἐπί God's name. For example;

Many will come ἐπί My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. (Mat 24:5)

John said, "Master, we saw someone casting out demons ἐπί Your name, and we forbade him because he does not follow with us." (Luke 9:49)

What a detailed and specific spiritual meaning in even one jot or one letter in the Word!

Whenever we say, "in the name of Jesus", at the end of our every prayer, let us check our life whether we live ἐν His name or ἐπί His name. If we say ἐν His name with good conscience, God will grant us ANYTHING that we pray. But sadly most of us are living ἐπί His name or that is where we begin our spiritual journey to God.

Conclusion: The Life without Disease

Though we wish to have the life without disease, we all know that it is an impossible thing. Thus, what we are seeking is the life with a minimum amount of disease and/or the life that is healthy enough to enjoy our life on earth. We can learn a few secrets from the wisdom of the ancient Asians, and King Hezekiah, and our Lord, Jesus Christ.

I would like to emphasize three secrets that I learned from them:

1. The power of healing is essentially from God, and is present in the whole universe. What it means is that if we know how to tap into this power, we may be able to let this power flow into us and bring the healing that we seek.
2. The way to tap into this power is to pray to the Lord with all our heart. In the prayer, we should believe that our life is from God, and God wants us to have the healthy, happy and fulfilling life on earth. In other words, if we truly believe (in) God the Creator, our spirit may be directly connected to the power of God that is constantly creating and nurturing this universe.
3. The last, but the most important secret is revealed by the Lord, Jesus Christ: in order to be connected to the power of God, we must live in His name, not ἐπί His name, meaning in the life of goodness and charity. What it means is that if we live a life of loving and giving, the love and life from God flows into us. The secret is that as much as we love others and willing to share what is ours with them, that much what is from God fills us making us to be healthy and happy spiritually and physically.

May God bless you all. Amen.

This is from 2 Kings 20:1-7,

In those days Hezekiah was sick and near death. And Isaiah the prophet went to him and said to him, "Thus says the LORD: 'Set your house in order, for you shall die, and not live.'" Then he turned his face toward the wall, and prayed to the LORD, saying, "Remember now, O LORD, I pray, how I have walked before You in truth and with a loyal heart, and have done [what was] good in Your sight." And Hezekiah wept bitterly. And it happened, before Isaiah had gone out into the middle court, that the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; surely I will heal you." Then Isaiah said, "Take a lump of figs." So they took and laid [it] on the boil, and he recovered. (2 Kings 20:1-7: NKJV)

And in the thirty-ninth year of his reign, Asa became diseased in his feet, and his malady was severe; yet in his disease he did not seek the LORD, but the physicians. So Asa rested with his fathers; he died in the forty-first year of his reign. (2 Chronicles 16:12-13: NKJV)