



# Medicine in Ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia 1,000-500 BCE (Archaeology of Medicine Series)

*Farhat A. Hussain*

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This work provides the reader with valuable insight into the scope and nature of medicine in ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia in the first half of the first millennium via a number of case studies. The periods of history that this work will consider encompass: Egypt (Third intermediate Period: 21st to 25th dynasties): c.1069-656 BC. Mesopotamia (Neo-Assyrian Empire): 1,000 to 605 BC and (Neo-Babylonian Empire): 625 to 539 BC.

This work is divided into four major sections. The first section provides an introduction to the study and considers the relevance of the second millennium for medicine in the first half of the first millennium. The role of religion in medicine is also considered as is a study of the nature and limitations of medical texts. The presence or absence of institutional medicine is also considered in this section of this work. The second section of this work considers key elements and aspects of medicine in Egypt and Mesopotamia for the first half of the first millennium that provide valuable insight into what medicine comprised and how respective elements of medicine were conceived and applied in areas such as conceptions of the body, divination, magic, fertility and childbirth. This section is also useful for subsequent sections of this work. The third section of this work considers key branches and areas of medicine in Egypt and Mesopotamia in greater detail and comprises studies of three particular areas: disease, anatomy (and surgery) and materia medica. The work draws to a conclusion in the fourth and final section of this work.

This work is a useful introduction to the subject of medicine in two ancient civilizations whose medical heritage is seldom addressed in contrast to other areas such as art and architecture or political history. A unique aspect and strength of this work is the coverage of both ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia within the same cover. In addition to contributing to knowledge of ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia this work provides the reader with knowledge and understanding of medical history and heritage in addition to the archaeology of medicine in the ancient world during the pre-classical Greek and Roman periods. The relevance of beliefs and culture for medicine in both civilizations is considered as are a range of other notable issues.

This work has been written by an archaeologist and historian of civilization who has undertaken scholarship in the archaeology and history of medicine. The writer was educated at various universities in the UK including London Exeter, Cambridge, Edinburgh, Durham and Manchester and is a Fellow of the Royal Asiatic Society.

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